



## **National Commission for Women**

### **Background Note:** **Interactive Meeting with State Commissions for Women**

**25<sup>th</sup> May, 2017**  
**India Habitat Centre**

The National Commission for Women (NCW) conducts interactive meetings with State Commissions of Women (SCW), thereby strengthening the process of NCW's networking with State Commissions and to gain from each other's experiences. Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women in its 12<sup>th</sup> Report on Working of NCW and SCW recommended **'the meetings with the State Commissions and the National Commission for Women should be made mandatory and be held at least once in 6 months. This would help NCW and State Commissions to work and strive together as one individual entity for the well being of women.'** The State Commissions for Women are independent statutory bodies.

The primary mandate of the National Commission for Women and State Commissions for Women Commission is to safeguard and protect the interests of women. It has wide responsibility covering almost all aspects of women development.

During the meeting State Commissions for Women would make a presentation on the following issues:-

- Safeguards provided for women under various statutes working in the States.
- Recommendations for effective implementation of safeguards for improving the condition of women in States.

- Issues and challenges before the State Commissions for Women
- Suggestions on how to strengthen convergence between the Commissions.
- How the respective State Commissions for Women would like to advice on improvements in the planning process for socio-economic development of women in the state

The National Commission for Women and State Commissions for Women as per the mandate looks into complaints relating to deprivation of women's rights, non-implementation of laws for the protection of women, non compliance of policy decisions etc. women's rights. Fulfilment of this mandate requires constant interaction with State Governments throughout the country and State Commissions for Women provide a forum for grievance redressal at the State level. The National Commission for Women from time to time has been coordinating with State Women Commissions to effectively handle these complaints. Therefore, status/feedback of the complaints forwarded to State Women Commissions may also be shared by the State Commissions for Women

The NCW in collaboration BPRD, Ministry of Home Affairs conducts **Capacity Building and Sensitization of Police Personnel** through various Police Training Academies. The programmes are organised with an objective to create awareness and prevention of gender based violence and also to provide an opportunity to work together on gender issues.

The Commission is also organising ***Mahilla Jan Sunwai*** in various parts of the country in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

The Commission is implementing the project 'Violence free Home- A Woman's Right' (Special Cell for Women) in collaboration with Delhi Police (SPUWAC) and Tata Institute of Social Sciences(TISS). **The services of trained social workers are available in all districts of Delhi. The initiative has been extended to 22 district across 7 states -Assam,**

**Meghalaya, Bihar, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh , Tamil Nadu and Odisha.**

**Acid attacks** have been increasing in the recent past. These attacks permanently disfigure the victims and harm them physically as well as psychologically. Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013, specifically criminalized the acts of throwing/attempting to throw acids by introducing Sections 326A and 326B in the Indian Penal Code. In the case of **Parivartan Kendra v. Union of India and Ors**, the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the State Governments to take steps to include victims of Acid Attack under the Disability List.

Despite the ban of un-regulated sale of acid by the Supreme Court acids are still available on the counters.

The State Commissions may share the steps taken by the State governments on the issue.

The NCW in collaboration with TISS developed a training module for capacity building of Elected Women Representatives(EWRs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions and a Training Programme for Trainers of women panchayat leaders. **The comprehensive module was launched on 17<sup>th</sup> April,2017** by Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development and Hon'ble Minister of Panchayati Raj and the training of trainers were started at SIRD, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

It has been observed that one of the reasons for less participation of women in the workforce is lack of safe, secure and affordable accommodation. The SCWs may take up the initiative of setting up of hostels for girl student and working women for their security especially in respective states which would lead to empowerment of women.

NCW aims to expand collaboration with SCWs particularly through these interactive meetings. The Commission would be organizing regional interactive meetings which would be culminated by a national level meeting. These meetings will enable the Commissions to effectively function as per their mandates and lessen pressure on resources and avoid duplicacy .

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