

## National Commission for Women

### Press Note

#### **NCW Strongly Condemns the Rape Cases in Kathua and Unnao, Calls for Justice**

**New Delhi, 13 April 2018:** The National Commission for Women strongly condemns the brutal gang-rape and murder of an 8-year-old girl in Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir and the rape case in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. The Commission calls for action against the perpetrators.

While we strongly condemn the heinous crimes, the Commission in its mandate cannot act or take action in both cases as they involve victims who are minors. The Delhi Edition of Times of India dated 12/03/2018 has reported that the Unnao rape survivor's mother had moved an application before a local court in February declaring the latter as a minor.

Keeping in mind the urgency in all child related crimes, there is a separate statutory body formed, under an Act of Parliament, to address crimes against all children in the 0 to 18 years age group, known as the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. The Kathua and Unnao cases fall under their purview. NCPCR also possesses the expertise to investigate the matter with a sense of urgency as also to protect the interests of the child and show sensitivity while dealing with such cases.

In addition, the Courts have stepped in and taken cognizance of the Unnao rape case.

With regards to the comments made by Shri Surendra Singh, BJP MLA from Bairia in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh on 11 April, 2018, the Commission has sent a notice to Mr. Singh.

\*\*\*\*\*