

National Commission for Women

Press Note

Four More Women File Sexual Harassment Complaint Against Mahesh Murthy

23rd February 2018, New Delhi: After the arrest of Mahesh Murthy on 9th February, 2018- based on a complaint filed by a Delhi woman at NCW last year- four more women have come forward with their own accusations against the Mumbai-based angel investor and co-founder of venture capital firm Seedfund.

Following NCW's intervention and the ongoing investigation by Maharashtra Police, more women have felt empowered to speak out and share their own stories with the Commission.

The four women who have come forward this week include a Mumbai-based complainant who visited the Commission and the Chairperson Smt. Rekha Sharma to submit her formal written complaint, a journalist and a senior government officer.

One of the complaints in her petition stated that Murthy, on the eve of Diwali 2016, sent her an offensive and explicit text.

Another complainant detailed an incident in which Murthy molested her in a coffee shop in Taj Land's End, Mumbai. In her petition, she stated the harrowing details of what she experienced which involved unwanted kissing, groping and Murthy offering to buy her lingerie.

Another woman wrote to NCW about an incident wherein Murthy locked himself in his office with the complainant after which he proceeded to molest her. She highlighted in her complaint that the incident occurred even though 4 to 5 young employees of Murthy were present on the opposite side of the door.

Based on all the complaints received so far, NCW has observed a pattern of behavior wherein Mahesh Murthy lures young woman to coffee shops or public spaces under the pretext of a business meeting or promising to fund their start-up projects and makes verbal and physical sexual advances and sexually-coloured remarks. A complainant in her petition stated, "His courage comes from our fear. Fear of calling out a molester, fear of saying NO loud and clear" in a public space.

The Commission is taking this matter very seriously and it is of grave concern that women are not safe because a predator is out at large. The Commission has immediately forwarded all four complaints received this week to DGP, and has instructed the police to press serious charges against Mahesh Murthy if the complaints are true.