



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

PRESS NOTE

"Appoint State Women's Commission Chief Immediately" - NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma tells Telangana Government.

New Delhi, 27 February, 2020: The Chairperson of the National Commission for Women met with Ms. SpurthiKolipaka at NCW Headquarter on 26th February. The matters discussed were, the Telangana State Commission for Women office have not appointed a Chairperson and been vacant since TripuranaVenkataratnam, the last chairperson of the Telangana State Women's Commission, demitted office in July 2018. According to media reports, 46 complaints had been filed with the State Women's Commission in 2018, and several more have been recorded in 2019, but the absence of a Chairperson meant these complaints remained unaddressed.

It was Ms. SpurthiKolipaka who started the public petition, and collectively joined by many women from Hyderabad on tech platform Change.org. which appealed, "Make Telangana Women's Commission fully functional before International Women's Day 2020".

The Chairperson of National Commission for Women Rekha Sharma said, *"that it is shocking that the state of Telangana which recently saw one of the most horrific crimes against women in recent times, does not have a fully functional State Commission for Women. Hyderabad saw the horrific assault of women just recently and it is unacceptable that a State Women's Commission has remained virtually nonfunctional for nearly 2 years."*

After receiving Spurthi's appeal, the NCW Chairperson, Smt. Rekha Sharma spoke to the Chief Secretary of Telangana and requested him to take up this matter with the Telangana Chief Minister urgently, and had written to Chief Minister of Telangana to appoint the State's Chairperson and take all steps for women of their state to feel supported and heard. There is no website for women in need of help to gather information from.

Women citizens of Telangana have been appealing for urgent intervention into this matter. SpurthiKolipaka, who started this campaign for a fully functional Women's Commission said, "Telangana is the youngest state in India and it is establishing its identity as an IT Hub. It is therefore shocking to see that we have no website for our State Commission for Women. The state should make a commitment towards women's safety starting with increased visibility, transparency and accountability of the State Commission for Women.