

PRESS RELEASE

The NCW has taken cognizance of the unfortunate incident (of 6th December 2014), wherein a lady was raped by a cab driver of UBER cab service.

The NCW would like to state that we laud the courage and presence of mind of the victim, who despite the trauma she was subjected to, reported the matter to the police in a manner that helped them to expedite action against the perpetrator.

The NCW would also like to acknowledge the prompt action of the Delhi Police and the state government in apprehending the cab driver and initiating proceedings against him.

The NCW has thus far taken the following action:

1. Issued a suo-moto notice to UBER cabs.
2. Issued a time bound suo-moto notice to Delhi police seeking ATR.
3. Spoken to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi in an attempt to coordinate and come together for a joint consultation-cum-response to address the safety of women and girls in public spaces in India.
4. Issued time bound suo-moto notices to major cab service providers pan India on safeguards provided for passengers, especially women.
5. Issued time bound suo-moto notice to all state governments on safeguards provided for passengers, especially women.

As a preventive measure the NCW is also initiating discussions with the Ministries of Transport, Home, Railways, HRD, WCD, Skill Development, Labour and Law to revive, and restructure / augment existing legal instruments and safeguards in Delhi and across the country. We will offer to act as the hub of a coordinated future response.

Furthermore, as part of a larger sustained response NCW is part of a concerted effort to provide back-end services for emergency /SOS apps on all mobiles, jointly with the Ministries of WCD, IT and the PMO.

We have also conveyed to the victim that the NCW will support in any which way she needs our assistance.

However, we also feel that we should all now move beyond the syndrome of fault-finding and competing with one another to claim credit. Violence against women is both systemic and almost customary in India even in today's age of supercomputers and flights to Mars. As has been often pointed out, several laws already exist as a deterrent to crimes against women. It is in their implementation that we jointly fail. Centuries of endemic gender prejudice still continues, lack of coordination amongst implementing departments and states leads to loopholes in prevention of such crimes. NCW will work towards improving safeguards and prevent future occurrence of similar incidents.