

Press Release

NCW organizes seminar on “Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls” to Pay tribute to Nirbhaya

17th December, 2013

The indomitable spirit who fought till her last breath with beastly elements of the society who ashamed the whole mankind with their act of assaulting the dignity of woman. On 16th December, 2012, the unfortunate incident of Nirbhaya happened in the outskirts of capital of India, Delhi. To commemorate her sacrifice which stirred the soul of the nation, National Commission for Women (NCW) today organised a national Seminar on “**Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls**” at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi to pay tribute to the soul of Nirbhaya. **Smt Girija Vyas, Hon’ble Union Minister for Housing and Urban Development** attended the programme as a Chief Guest whereas **Smt. Sheila dixit, former Chief Minister of Delhi** was the Guest of Honour on this occasion.

Hon’ble Union Minister, Smt. Girija Vyas, while addressing the seminar said that although State has made strict laws to punish the perpetrators, cases of incidents of assault and harassment are still rampant at public spaces. No woman and girl is safe here. She pointed out that this in order to tackle the problem, It is necessary to spread public awareness, ensure proper execution of law, constructive role of media, active participation of civil society and gender budgeting.

Smt. Sheila Dixit, ex-chief Minister of Delhi addressed the gathering and said that it is the society which should take care of the freedom and dignity of women. She added that women are still considered as second rate citizens. She stressed that women do not need more laws for the safety of women, but a sense of deterrence in the society needs to be instilled.

Hon’ble Chairperson NCW, Smt Mamta Sharma in her inaugural address, said that there is dire need for change in the mind-set of the people towards women and girls. There is lack of spirit to implement the law and police personnel and other agencies dealing with it should also be sensitized.

In the beginning, Smt. Laldingliani Sailo , Member NCW paid homage to Nirbhaya by lighting the candles and other NCW members- Smt. Nirmala Samant Prabhavalkar, Smt. Charu Wali Khanna, Ms Hemlata Kheria and Smt Shamina Shafiq also addressed the gathering and paid their tribute to Nirbhaya

In another effort of NCW in this direction, the poster for organising a National Essay competition on the subjects—“**Ensuring Safety and Security to Women in Public Space**” or “**Patriarchal Society: changing the mind-set**”---was unveiled by Smt. Mamta sharma, the Honourable Chairperson of NCW during the programme.

Later on the representatives from various State Commissions Women and Child Deptts. and Universities and NGO’s also delivered lectures and made presentations to present their views.

Advocate Kirti Singh spoke and presented her views on the issue and exhorted to bring the marital rape under the preview of other acts on rape. The representatives from South Asian University, Dr. Ramani and from IP University Prof. M. Afzal Wani also spoke on the issue and called for building the character of a person at the school level through religion and good literature

In the end, Smt. Pam Rajput, Chairperson H.L.C addressed the audience and called **for making** a Core group including State women Commissions and Municipal Committees and Village panchayats to spread awareness among the people.

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