



Editor's Column

It is heartening to note the overwhelming public response of shame, sympathy and outrage after the unspeakable treatment of a young Tanzanian student in Bangaluru, who was stripped and beaten by a raging mob. Strongly condemning the heinous incident, NCW has taken suo-motu cognizance of the incident, seeking action-taken report from the police.

The Prime Minister's office also made direct intervention by asking the Ministry of External Affairs to work in tandem with the Tanzanian High Commission and take all possible steps to ensure that the aggrieved gets justice. Since then, five men have been arrested. It is hoped that others, who were equally

responsible for this dastardly act, would be promptly brought to book.

It is indeed a matter of shame that attacks like this on African students have become frequent. However, the Karnataka Home Minister has trivialized the incident by calling it an incident of road-rage, set off by the death of a local woman, who had been earlier run over by a

FOCUS

Combating Racism

Sudanese driver and hence it had nothing to do with racism. If that is so, then why would a mob attack the occupants of a car that came upon the scene much later? Is it not because the occupants had dark skin? If this is not racism? What is? There is no

denying that we look down upon people with dark complexion; we look askance at our brothers and sisters from the North East because they look different; we comment on the dark skin of women from Kerala; we defend midnight raid carried out on Nigerian and Ugandan women by a minister.

These are nothing but shameful acts of racism and violence against different communities and races. Unless we are able to curb this scourge of racism, particularly, contempt for black people, and mete out severe punishment to the perpetrators, such recurring incidents of racism will adversely affect our relationship with African countries and tarnish India's image globally.

Important Decisions

- The Bombay High Court has enhanced punishment of a Pune youth, who threw acid on a BPO employee for rejecting his marriage proposal. A two-judge division bench held that the seven-year prison term given to the accused in the 2005 acid attack on a 21-year-old girl was not deterrent enough and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The HC has ordered the police to trace the accused, who is absconding after jumping furlough in 2007. The court said that he has endangered her life and left her incapable to marry any other person. The punishment of merely seven years imprisonment for this inhuman and cruel act is definitely a miscarriage of justice and sentenced him to life imprisonment.
- The Karnataka High Court has dismissed a District Judge, who was serving in Belagavi district and terminated his services on charges of sexually harassing women employees, after an enquiry that, took nearly four years to complete.

From the Legal Cell

The National Commission for Women organized an Interactive Meeting with Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh State Commissions for Women at Ahmedabad.

The objective of the meeting was to strengthen linkages with the State Commissions and discuss actions taken on the recommendations of the earlier interactive meetings, as well as various problems faced by women in different spheres of their lives such as trafficking, female infanticide, desertion in NRI marriages, violence against women, deprivation of women's rights, unregulated sale of acids, etc. The meeting also tried to find solutions to avoid repetition of complaints before the State Commissions as well as NCW.

From the Public Relations Cell

From 22nd February, 2016, the National Commission for Women is telecasting 60 second spots on domestic violence, eve-teasing and NRI marriages on national network such as DD1, DD News of Doordarshan and North East channels of Doordarshan. The publicity campaign will continue for a month.

Meeting on Social, Economic and Political Empowerment of Women in North-East States

The Sub-Committee meeting on 'Social, Economic and Political Empowerment of Women in North-East States' was held on 19th February, 2016, in New Delhi. The meeting, chaired by NCW Chairperson Lalitha Kumaramangalam, was attended by Chairpersons, Member Secretaries, resource persons of all the eight North-East States and a team from TISS headed by its Director, Dr Parusuraman.

In her inaugural address, the Chairperson set the tone by emphasizing that the primary agenda of the meeting was not just to identify problems faced by women of N-E

states but more importantly to ascertain appropriate sustainable and action able solutions, which can be incorporated in the policy recommendations of the Commission for the development and empowerment of women of the North-East States.

She observed that the women of North-East States face varied challenges depending on the environment they live in. She stated that there was a genuine vacuum of primary data on the actual condition of women of the North-East and that was the reason for the extensive research study undertaken by NCW. She reiterated that the central

government was now determined to include the States that had been left out of the purview of general development and the Prime Minister has emphasized that women must be included in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Mudra Bank and Jan Dhan initiatives. The findings, she hoped, would give an overall picture as well as highlight the specifics particular to individual States. Among the issues, which warrant special attention, are natural calamities such as earthquakes, ethnic strifes as well as the issue of single women. She asked the participating States to identify and share their best practices so that they could be replicated by other states.

The inaugural session was followed by State-wise presentations on the findings of the study and proposed recommendations. What emerged from the presentations was a certain commonalty in the challenges faced by women and the strategies to be adopted to combat problems faced by each State. The issues discussed by the States comprised women's social status in the society, economic position, position in politics, health and violence against women.



At the sub committee meeting (from left) Member Secretary Preeti Madan, Member Sushma Sahu, Member Laldingliani Sailo, Chairperson Lalitha Kumaramangalam, Member Rekha Sharma and Member Alok Rawat.

Legal Awareness Programme

Chairperson Lalitha Kumaramangalam attended as the chief guest a three-day orientation and legal awareness programme under the aegis of Prime Minister Sansad Adash Gram Yojana (PMSAGY) organized by the State Resource Centre (SRC) Chennai at Manapakkam. More than 200 participants, comprising block-coordinators and women beneficiaries of SAGY villages participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairperson expressed her happiness that (SRC) had organized such a useful programme to create awareness of legal literacy, especially, for women. She said that violence against women generally occurred in families due to the drunken behaviour of the husbands. She urged the participants to immediately dial 100 and register their complaints in police stations.

Later, the Chairperson released two video documentaries titled "Developing India" and "Path of Success" and 11 booklets on legal literacy and flash cards on electoral literacy.



Chairperson Lalitha Kumaramangalam releasing books.

Seminar on “Diversity and Inclusion Initiative”

NCW Chairperson Lalitha Kumaramangalam attended a seminar on “Diversity and Inclusion Initiative”, organized by NASSCOM at Chennai. The objective of NASSCOM is to contribute to India’s emergence as a global “soft power”, through partnering with Govt, industry and non-governmental bodies, to include hitherto marginalized diverse groups into the mainstream of national development.

Addressing the seminar leaders, occupying pivotal roles in the IT and ITES sector, the Chairperson spoke on “Leadership – A journey of transformation”. She also spoke of the shining stars – the role models, who are making a difference in the society, in spite of challenging situations. Ms. Kumaramangalam urged the participants to create a societal and cultural milieu that encouraged respect for women and gender equality. The children must be educated on gender-related issues, while fostering gender-inclusivity at all levels. In response to a question, she explained how individuals and organizations can contribute in spreading awareness about curbing domestic violence and the resources available for the same.



Chairperson addressing the NASSCOM consultation

DELEGATION VISITS

- A thirty-member delegation comprising students and professors of Faculty of Law from the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in Gujarat visited NCW to learn about the work and the role of the Commission.
- The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, New Delhi, had organized an Orientation Programme on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women from 11th – 15th January, 2016. As part of the training programme, 30 participants visited NCW on 14th February, 2016 to learn about the functioning of the Commission and the methods adopted in addressing issues related to women.
- A three-member delegation, comprising students and faculty in charge of the National Law Institute University, Bhopal, visited NCW on 21st January, 2016, to apprise themselves of the functional modalities and role of the Commission.

ATTENTION

The office of the National Commission for Women has been shifted from 4, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002 to Plot No. 21, Jasola Institutional Area, New Delhi-110025 Nearest Metro Station – Jasola – Apollo Exit from Apollo Hospital side (Violet Line (Line-6) ITO-Escorts Mujesar)
 Nearest bus stand: Apollo Hospital, K Block, Sarita Vihar,
 Nearest Landmark: Opposite – Asia Pacific Management Institute
 Website: www.ncw.nic.in
 EPABX No: 011-26942369, 26944740, 26944754, 26944805, 26944809

Complaints received for the month of February, 2016

Month	Complaints received	Number of complaints on which action taken	Closed
February, 2016	1591	1306	694

The Commission had taken suo motu cognizance of 9 cases in February, 2016

Making a Difference

A 104-year-old woman, from a village in Chhattisgarh's Dhamtari district, who sold off her goats for Rs. 22,000, for constructing two toilets at her home, came in for special praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said it is a big sign of changing India. The Prime Minister felicitated Kunwar Bai from Kotabharri village of Dhamtari for her efforts to make her village open defecation free.

He said he was amazed that the idea of building toilets under the "Clear India Mission", somehow reached an elderly woman of 104 years, who stays in a remote village, and does not watch TV or read papers.

Profile in Courage

A woman in Firozabad in UP sent her bridegroom packing when he reached the venue of their wedding totally drunk. Community elders held a Panchayats to find a way out but at the end, the groom's side had to return embarrassed as the woman allegedly threatened to end her life if she was forced to marry him.

Seeing him in such a state, the woman told her parents and siblings that she would not marry him. When they tried to force her, she threatened to end her life. Thereafter, the elders from both sides unanimously decided to call off the wedding.

Members' Visits

- Member Sushma Sahu, attended an interactive meeting with the State Commissions for Women on 16th February, 2016 at Shahibaug in Ahmedabad.
- Ms. Sahu, along with Member Rekha Sharma, visited Nalanda in Patna on 17th February, 2016 to inquire into a media report titled "Bihar MLA accused of rape on the run", published in "The Hindu".
- Ms. Sahu attended a meeting of the Sub-Committee on "Social, Economic and Political Empowerment of Women in North-Eastern states" organized by NCW in New Delhi.



Member Sushma Sahu at Nalanda for an enquiry .

- Member Rekha Sharma visited the Institute of Mental Health (Govt. Mental Hospital) at Amritsar in Punjab to enquire into the wellbeing of the patients and examine the facilities provided to them.
- The Member visited Punjab and had a meeting with the officers of TISS, Chairperson of the State Commission for Women, officers of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, and police officials to discuss the NCW project, "violence free homes". Later, she conducted a hearing of a case submitted by a woman complainant.



Member Rekha Sharma addressing the seminar on trafficking

- Ms. Sharma visited Chennai to enquire into the suicide of 3 girl students of SVS Yoga Medical College at Kallakurichi and met the ADGP Chennai as well as the parents of the victims.
- The Member visited Siliguri to attend a seminar on "Trafficking in Persons", organised by Shaktivahini.
- Ms. Sharma attended an interactive meeting with the State commissions for Women organized by NCW at Shahibaug in Ahmedabad.
- The Member visited Nalanda in Patna as Chairperson of an Inquiry committee. She met the victim, DGP, Bihar, Nalanda SP, and the doctor, who did the medical examination of the victim.

SELF DEFENCE TRAINING PROGRAMME

The discom BSES organized self-defence training programmes for over 3,000 girls from schools across the city in association with the Delhi Police special unit for women and children. The programme, spread over 15 days, tried to educate the participants on the importance of speaking out, raising alarm and handling tricky situations. The participants were made aware of possible threats to them in their day to day situations along with situational analysis and suggested precautions. They were also told to share the knowledge with their friends, neighbours and family members.

for further information visit our website at : www.ncw.nic.in