



NCW ORGANIZES CONSULTATION ON FAMILY COUNSELLING CENTRES



The National Commission for Women organized a Consultation on August 22 on Family Counselling Centres (FCCs) to discuss the existing model of FCCs and to deliberate upon ways for better coordination between NCW and FCCs. In her address, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCW, Ms Rekha Sharma said that it was very important to discuss the objectives and efficient working of the Family Counselling Centres at present and deliberate upon the changes required for better functioning of FCCs.

The Consultation deliberated on development of a mechanism for better monitoring and evaluation system of FCCs and to dwell upon the way forward for strengthening the FCCs and making them more effective. It was also aimed at addressing the challenges being encountered while furthering the centres' collaboration with the local administration, police, courts, free legal aid cells, medical and psychiatric institutions, etc. The Commission will undertake training and capacity building of Counsellors for efficient functioning of FCCs. NCW will also coordinate legal awareness of Counsellors, development of SOPs for FCCs, initial inspection of the Centres, ensuring sanitary and other facilities at the Centre, providing educational material, among other initiatives.

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NCW organizes Consultation on Conditions Conducive to Sex Workers to Live with Dignity

The National Commission for Women organized a Consultation on the topic ‘Conditions Conducive to Sex Workers to Live with Dignity’ on August 5 to understand the issues faced by sex workers and to take recommendations to attempt mainstreaming of their rights.

Through this Consultation, the Commission sought to discuss topics such as educating marginalised sex workers about the recent Supreme Court ruling and how to use it for their protection, human and fundamental rights of sex workers, as well as sensitization of the masses to protect dignity of sex workers and their children.

The participants stressed on the need to sensitize police officers as major violence/misuse of power is observed in their conduct while dealing with sex workers, and that social security schemes and benefits to be made easier to access for sex workers and their children. Physical, mental and social well-being of sex workers and media sensitization on sharing pictures without consent of these workers were also discussed by the participants. Additionally, the experts also discussed monitoring shelter homes since they may lead to further harassment, ensuring that rehabilitation is not forced, and providing educational and skill development opportunities for sex workers and their children.



NCW organizes Regional Consultation Meet at University of Lucknow

NCW along with the Institute of Women’s Studies, University of Lucknow, organized a one-day Regional Consultation on August 25 with representatives from SCWs, WCD/ Social Welfare Departments and NGOs working on Swadhar Greh, Ujjwala and One Stop Centres for discussing the synergy for stronger implementation of government schemes for protection of women’s rights. The Consultation focused on meeting with different stakeholders on the achievements of the Commission since 2014 and an interactive session with NGOs on the working of Swadhar Greh, Ujjwala and One Stop Centres.



DEVIS WITH TEN HANDS

BY REKHA SHARMA

Recently I was invited to an event organised by an organisation of home makers. They all come together every year and celebrate their lives, which is wonderful. I believe homemakers have the toughest job and it doesn't get the recognition and respect which it deserves. Having said that, I believe that women homemakers should never be projected as martyrs because at the end of it, what it boils down to - is a woman's CHOICE. When I reached the venue, the program had already commenced. There was an interview going on with the wife of a renowned publisher. After her husband's death, she took on the reins of his business, which is amazing. I keenly started listening because life stories always interest me and I try to learn from others journey. Slowly, the conversation started making me restless. The lady was asked 'how was your childhood?' She replied "It was very good, we were 6 sisters and my father RAISED US LIKE SONS. He gave us education and people used to say Mr so and so has 6 sons'.

I was aghast. Mr whatever produced 6 daughters because he wanted a son and when he didn't get one he treated his daughters as sons and that is called empowering daughters?!? She was repeatedly talking about her beauty, and glorifying women in their role as Chandi, Durga and other goddesses.

On the other hand, when I was questioned on whether I felt guilty when I started working in politics and had to leave children at home? I said no because I made my children self reliant and my family understood my need to go and pursue my dreams. I didn't project myself as a BECHARI neither did I ever believe that have 10 hands to work and mange everything. I stressed that our our sons should also know how to do some domestic work as we teach our daughters to pursue a profession so that the society moves towards gender equality.

Why do women have to leave their jobs when they have babies? And why do we have to show ourselves as DEVI KA ROOP and suffer? We are as human as men are. We are as good or bad as men are. Let's not portray ourselves as Devis or Devils. Its OK to not get married, it's OK to not produce a child, it's OK to work or not work. Its OK to be stay at home mom or hire nannies and go out to work. Its OK to be a single mom or adopt one. I really wanted to go on and on but I think I was not speaking what they wanted to hear. A young girl expressed that she wanted a career and doest want to get married and I said then don't. Marriage is not the ultimate goal of life and it didn't go well with the mothers around who themselves were cribbing about being homemakers but still wanted their daughters to get married.

Women who have the funds to organise the event at a five star hotel, women who were in their dazzling diamonds, women who have cooks, maids, drivers, nannies, can contribute so much to society and many really do. But those that still crib or project themselves as Goddess Durga are beyond my understanding.

Let's give the other half of the population, the MEN, their due and let them also have a chance to sit at home, take care of kids, go to kitty parties and have designer clothes and let them also project themselves as Lord Krishna (sarv gun sampoorn God)

Chairperson's Engagements



Chairperson meets Hon'ble Uttar Pradesh CM
 Chairperson Ms Rekha Sharma met Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on August 24 and discussed several topics of women safety including Mission Shakti, a Scheme run by the state Government for empowering women of the State.

1st Advisory Committee Meeting

The National Commission for Women organised the First Interactive Meeting with the new batch of Advisory Committee on August 23 under the chair of Ms Rekha Sharma. The Commission apprised the Committee Members about NCW's working and sought suggestions from them towards strengthening the work of the Commission.



Chairperson meets Hon'ble Maharashtra Deputy CM
 Chairperson Ms Rekha Sharma met Hon'ble Deputy CM of Maharashtra Shri Devendra Fadnavis on August 21 and discussed issues related to women safety and effective redressal of problems of women in the State.

State Convening on Anti-Human Trafficking

Chairperson Ms Rekha Sharma participated as Chief Guest and shared her insights at the State Convening on Use & Abuse of Technology in Human Trafficking organized by Maharashtra State Commission for Women on August 14 in association with Alliance against Centres of Trafficking and The Counter Trafficking Group.

