

**Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2001.**

**Present in the meeting were : -**

- |    |                          |   |                  |
|----|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Vibha Parthasarathi | : | Chairperson      |
| 2. | Smt. Vijay Daksh         | : | Member           |
| 3. | Dr. Poornima Advani      | : | Member           |
| 4. | Smt. K. Santha Reddy     | : | Member           |
| 5. | Kum. Anusuiya Uike       | : | Member           |
| 6. | Smt. Nafisa Hussain      | : | Member           |
| 7. | Smt. Reva Nayyar         | : | Member-Secretary |
| 8. | Kum. R. Bhama            | : | Deputy-Secretary |

**Agenda Item No.1**

**Leave of Absence**

All Members were present (though M(Santha Reddy) only arrived when agenda item No.21 was being taken up) hence no leave of absence was required.

**Agenda Item No.2**


**Confirmation of the Minutes of the preceding meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2001.**

Minutes of the preceding meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2001 were approved.

**Agenda Item No.3**

**List of Legal Awareness Programmes recommended by the Screening Committee and approved by Chairperson**

The list of approved legal awareness programmes was noted by the Commission.



The Commission felt that such programmes should be carried out only by competent and committed NGOs; those linked with Law Colleges and Political Science Faculties would be desirable. It was also decided that whenever Members from the Commission attend any such programme, they may indicate the rating given to the NGO.

**Agenda Item No.4**

**The Religious Leaders Meet to mitigate the problem of female foeticide.**

The Commission noted and confirmed its participation in the said meeting in collaboration with IMA. CP informed that the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2001 would be held in the hall of Chinmayananda Society, Lodi Estate, New Delhi, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Agenda Item No.5**

**Inquiry into Alleged Sale of Girls in Andhra Pradesh – Report of the Inquiry Committee for approval and adoption**

The Report and its recommendations were formally adopted by the Commission.

**Agenda Item No.6**

- ) Course Curriculum for Gender Sensitization of Police Officers**
- i) Course Curriculum for Gender Sensitization of Administrative Personnel**
- ii) Reports of the four Regional Workshops on 'Gender and Law Enforcement'**  
**For approval and adoption**

The Commission approved the Course Curriculum for Gender Sensitization of police officers prepared by the National Police Academy.

The Commission also approved the Course Curriculum for Gender Sensitization of Administrative Personnel prepared by the Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration and the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration.

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The Reports of the four regional workshops at Patna and Chandigarh (circulated with agenda papers) and at Bangalore and Bhopal (circulated separately by Member (P. Advani) were formally approved and adopted by the Commission.

**Agenda Item No.7**

**Report of the Workshop on 'Forging Partnership with Law Enforcement Agencies' held on 10-11<sup>th</sup> March, 2001 – for approval and adoption**

The Report and its recommendations were formally adopted by the Commission.

**Agenda Item No.8**

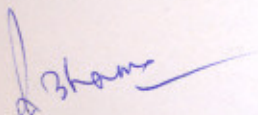
**Proposal for recommending 33 percent reservation for women candidates in employment**

The proposal was approved. It was felt that after receiving feedback from the States which are already implementing reservation for women and employment, a meeting may be fixed with Secretary, DoPT and with the Cabinet Secretary. A letter with appropriate recommendations should also be sent to the Prime Minister.

**Agenda Item No.9**

**United Nations General Assembly resolution 54/133 of 17 December, 1999 on traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls – information relating to implementation of the resolution – Ref from DWCD**

The Commission felt that the practice of female genital mutilation does not apply to India or in most of the countries of the world but this practice is followed in some parts of Africa and Arabic countries. However, since such practices, wherever followed amount to violence on the bodies of the girls, and are often carried out in extremely unhygienic conditions, the Commission should support the resolution. However, the Commission should mention in its reply that there are good traditional and customary practices which positively affect the health of women and girls.



**Agenda Item No.10**

**Documentation of Judicial Pronouncements in the last decade**

The proposal to engage Shri Sadiq Ahmad Jilani, Asstt. Prof., Indian Law Institute for preparing compilation of judicial pronouncements by Supreme court and High Courts, which have promoted gender justice was approved by the Commission.

**Agenda Item No.11**

**Continuance of Shri Rakesh Prasad, Advocate on retainership by NCW**

The Commission decided that :

- (a) The engagement of Shri Rakesh Prasad, be approved.
- (b) The Commission would not like to be represented by an associate of Shri Rakesh Prasad
- (c) Retainership to be enhanced to Rs.15,000/- per month.

However, the conditionalities of the appointment should be spelt out in writing such as modus of communication, case fee etc., before issuing a formal order

**Agenda Item No.12.**

**Request for TA/Contingent Advances be sent to Cash Section at least two days in advance**

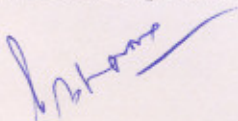
The Commission decided that request for TA/Contingent advances should be received in Cash Section at least 48 hours prior to the day of the tour.

**Agenda Item No.13**

**Allotment of a bigger plot measuring 3080 sq. m. to NCW for office building**

The proposal for additional payment of Rs.27,76,505/- to DDA, for taking the possession of a bigger plot was approved.

By way of information, the Commission was told that Ms. Lily Thomas, Advocate, Supreme Court had informed the Commission that a case is pending





regarding allotment of the land at Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi. On this land, a working women's hostel was earlier existing, the land has now been handed over to Maharashtra State Govt. Ms. Thomas sought the intervention of NCW so that the land can be retained for the use of hostel as well as for a women's complex which can include a short stay home, gender resource centre etc.

**Agenda Item No.14**

**Private Members Bill – The Marriage (Restriction on Expenditure) Bill – Ref from DWCD**

The issue on restriction of expenditure on marriage was discussed in the statewise workshops on laws relating to dowry sponsored by the Commission. The majority of the workshops expressed their reservation on this issue and stated that the imposition of a ceiling would be a future exercise, would also not be capable of easy implementation. The Commission endorsed this view.

**Agenda Item No.15**

**Fifth International Conference on Dowry, Bride Burning and Son preference in India – Report for approval and adoption**

The Report was approved and adopted.

**Agenda Item No.16**

**Campaign against Sexual Harassment at work place – Glimpses April 2000 to March, 2001 – report for Approval**

The Report was found excellent and was adopted by the Commission.

It was also decided that SANHITA could be contacted to find out what could be done on the issue of *female foeticide*. A letter can also be sent to all the Centres for Women's Development Studies to obtain copies of reports of any studies done by their students report of study reports on *female foeticide*.



**Agenda Item No.17**

**Women's Meeting on the problems of prostitution at Sovabazar Calcutta  
Report for approval**

The Report was approved and adopted.

**Agenda Item No.18.**

**Public Hearing on Dalit women at Saharanpur – Report for adoption**

The Report was approved and adopted.

Members felt that a list of the programmes sponsored by the Commission should be circulated among all members so that interested Members could attend the programmes, if they happen to be touring that area.

**Agenda Item No.19**

**Conference on Empowerment of Dalit Women on the International Human Rights Day – Report for adoption**

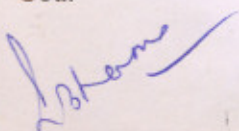
The Report was approved and adopted.

CP and M(P. Advani) desired to have a list of participants.

**Agenda Item No.20**

**Holding of Regional Conference of Women's Commissions at Goa**

It was decided to organise the next Regional meeting of State Commissions for Women at Goa in September, 2001. The Chairperson, Goa Commission would be requested to make necessary arrangements. The programme would be for three days—on the first day, a meeting with the State Commissions for Women in the Southern Region, on the second day, a meeting with NGOs of the concerned states, and on the third day, issue based visits/hearings, would be scheduled. The states invited would be Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry and Goa.





Orissa would not be included as the women of Orissa would have problems different from the problems common to this region.

A separate one day visit to Orissa would be organised to follow up on the post cyclone measures with specific reference to women's problems. This may be scheduled for August, 2001.

At this point, Member (K. S. Reddy) joined the meeting.

**Agenda Item No.21**

**Meeting of South Asian Cooperation Organisation held in Nepal – report reg. sale of girls**

The Report revealing horrible details about prostitutes, was noted by the Commission. It was felt that NCW could draw parallels from this with the issues arising from public hearings of prostitution which could help in formulating recommendations.

**Agenda Item No.22**

**Usage of the term 'Voluntary Organisation' in place of the term 'NGO' – Ref. from DWCD**

It was felt that the subject matter of the reference was beyond the mandate of NCW.

**Agenda Item No.23**

**Any other items with the permission of Chair**

1. **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. Meeting held in WCD on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2001 to discuss the amendments proposed by NCW in ITP Act.**

Member(P. Advani) informed the Commission that in the above said meeting on ITP Act, Secretary, WCD had opined that on the following recommendations, NCW could consider taking action. These recommendations were:-

1. **Make special provisions for appointing an IAS Level officer at the State Levels to exclusively monitor the Juvenile Welfare Boards**

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2. functioning at the district and cities level as well as to work out similar coordination with the Juvenile Welfare Boards of the other States.
3. It should be legally binding for the States to run Night Care Centres and Day Care Centres in all the redlight areas to provide immediate protection to the children who live in or are exposed to the flesh trade.
4. Special research, data bank and social intelligence centre should be set up to help anti trafficking work.

It was felt that since the mandate of NCW does not include specific monitoring, it is outside the purview of NCW. Secondly, the matter is also to be taken up with the Deptt. of Social Justice, since it controls the Juvenile Welfare Boards. However, in specific cases, the Commission, can and would, inspect or cause to be inspected such places of custody as and when need arises.

## 2. Report on "The Making of the National Commission for Women"

Member(P. Advani) stated that she had circulated this report to Members, however comments have been received only from C.P. She requested that all Members may send their comments/approval so that the same could be got printed.

## 3. Increase in funding for Legal Awareness Programmes

In the last Commission meeting, it was approved that NCW would limit its funding for organising legal awareness programems to Rs.10,000/- . Member (K. S. Reddy) proposed that the amount be increased to Rs.20,000/- per programme, releasing 50 percent in advance and 50 percent after completion of the programme on receipt of the report and vouchers. She felt that good quality NGOs may not take up this programme with funding of only Rs.10,000/- per programme.

It was decided that the Commission would abide by its earlier decision limiting the funding of Rs.10,000/- and review the position after 3-4 months. As of now, the target group should be limited from 50 to 60 participants to ensure effective "reaching out" and raising of awareness by the organising agency.

*R. Advani*



4. Website of NCW

Member (V. Daksh) pointed out that the information about Members on the website is uneven. It was decided that all Members may furnish their bio-data within 10 days so that suitable alterations may be made.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

*B. Stone*

