

PRESS RELEASE

9th August, 2012

The National Commission for Women, in exercise of its powers conferred under Sections 8 (1), read with Sections 10 (1) and 10 (4) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, constituted an "Inquiry Committee" to inquire into the incident of **killling by natal family** in Outer District of Delhi.

The observations and recommendations are as follows:

- For generations, the community elders have dominated life, exerting social control through edicts that govern everything from marriage to property disputes.
- The law of the land has to be obeyed and giving recognition to such collective social control, viewed within the context of patriarchal structures of family and marriage encourages forms of oppression for women. This incident represents the brutal method of controlling and subordinating women within male-dominated 'Honour and shame' societies.
- The underlying purpose of 'honour crimes' is to maintain men's power in families and communities by denying women basic rights to make autonomous decisions about issues such as marriage, divorce, and whether and with whom to have relations
- The investigation should be thorough and should be conducted properly.
- The case should be strictly monitored till charge-sheet is submitted before the concerned Court. The status reports from the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, be sought to ascertain the progress of investigation after the visit of the Inquiry Committee.
- As per the report submitted by the police, the investigation is still in progress, hence efforts be made by police to collect more evidence so that the prosecution case is made strong and to ensure that the defense does not take advantage of any lapses / lacunae on the part of the investigation done in the case ;
- Effort should be made by Police to ensure that proper & adequate patrolling is carried out in remote areas and places which are vulnerable to such incidents ;
- Seminars be held in vulnerable areas specially Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, in which participation of community leaders be encouraged, in order to sensitise them. Also State govt. be directed to constitute a committee to make recommendations for better and more effective enforcement of law of land ;
- So entrenched are inequalities, deeply engrained and nurtured over several generations that there is an urgent need for State governments **should send the clear message that the Constitution and India's commitment to dignity, and equality for all**, especially when it is presumed to go against the majority public **opinion is non negotiable**;
- Local leaders and politicians be sensitized to gender issues so that they raise their voice against injustice.