

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 22nd August, 2012

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, commission had taken suo moto cognizance of the alleged incident of a girl who was allegedly cremated by her family in Bhaipur - Brahampur village, P.S. Rabupura, Greater Noida of UP. It was further reported that it is a suspected case of killing in the name of honour. Dr Charu WaliKhanna was the chairperson of the enquiry committee.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE:

- Neither an FIR has been lodged nor a complaint registered in the matter.
- There is nothing honourable in such killings or other atrocities against women, and, in fact, it is nothing but barbaric and shameful murder. However, such crimes are on the increase and the more girls get educated, higher is the risk of their natal family denying them the right to take decisions.
- Media undoubtedly, plays an important role in drawing attention to the shocking violation of constitutional and human rights. However, since the crime is committed by the natal family of the girl within the closed doors of the home, the police finds itself at a loss to collect incriminating evidence and FIR is not registered.
- There is a recent influx of cases and increasing number of couples seeking protection, fearing for their lives on deciding to get married or already married,
- The State Govt. should ensure that **in the present case** a thorough investigation should be conducted properly.
- The State Government organize the District level awareness programme to sensitize the Community in order to prevent occurrence of such heinous crimes. The State to devise ways to adopt appropriate educational measures to modify social and cultural behaviour that sanction such crimes.
- The State Government to encourage reformist agenda at **Panchayat** level and take up gender related socially relevant issues.
- Awareness raising programmes to be conducted, including fundamental rights under the Constitution of India and the right to sexuality and exercising choice in marriage
- Need to remove use of word 'honor' in relation to these crimes - whether in media or in law. The usage of the word has a tendency to rationalize and legitimize the motive of the crime by creating a false notion that the crime has been committed to save the 'honour' of the family. Thus implying society is bound by tradition to protect this violation of tradition.
- Special provisions/Chapter in Indian Penal Code for Violence against women to prevent such crimes.

Due to typographical error, erroneously the line State machinery to launch criminal prosecution against lawyers, who may be even remotely connected with the defence of the accused has been included in the press release issued on 22.8.2012. It may be considered withdrawn