

PRESS RELEASE

23rd July, 2014

The National Commission for Women organized a consultation on ways and means to safeguard women from cyber crime in India on 23rd July, 2014 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

The Commission has been receiving various types of complaints from women pertaining to vulgar/obscene messages, hacking of the Facebook account, uploading pornographic videos, morphing pictures etc. The Commission, therefore, felt the need to organize a national consultation with the stakeholders to discuss ways and means to safeguard women from cyber crimes in India.

As the present Information Technology Act 2000 and its amended version (2008) mainly cater to the commercial aspects of use and misuse of technology, the NCW has taken initiatives to take a fresh look into the Act from a wider perspective so that new sections of law could be included in the existing law to cover a wider range of cyber crimes perpetuated against women.

The participants and panelist included various stakeholders / experts from the Department of Information & Technology (DOIT), academicians, National Law School as well as representatives from the social media like Facebook / matrimonial websites, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies and activists.

Some of the important recommendations that emerged at the consultation are as below:-

- Sensitizing of Police regarding cyber crime cases
- Penetration of awareness programs for women at grass root level
- Awareness training program as a part of curriculum in laws
- Proper implementation of IT Act
- Like the right to access internet, there should be right to be forgotten
- There is need to amend IT Act to be more women centric
- Considering the rise in the number of cyber crimes Mahila Adalat / Courts should handles the cases of Cyber Crime against women
- Govt. should provide guidelines for intermediaries to pull down any content offensive to women

The recommendations emerging out of the deliberations would be taken up by NCW with appropriate authority.