

# *Roshni*

July - September 2024



**ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**



*New Criminal Laws – Implications and potential impact on Society*



*Roundtable discussion on Women's Safety and Violence against Women*



*Basic Food Safety Training Program at AIWC Mess*



*A meeting on climate change, women, and ESG, organized by the United Lawyers Association, Supreme Court, New Delhi*



## ROSHNI

Journal of the All India Women's Conference

**July-September 2024**

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## *From the Editor's desk...*

*Dear Sisters,*

*This quarter began with the excitement of the Half-Yearly Conference, hosted by our Darjeeling Branch amidst the beautiful hills and greenery. Members from across the country participated enthusiastically, sharing their achievements and new ideas while enjoying the warm hospitality extended by the Darjeeling Branch.*

*In August, we were deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved patron, Mrs. Shobhana Ranade, a renowned social worker and Gandhian.*

*The entire country was shaken by the tragic news of the rape of a young doctor in Kolkata, reigniting concerns over the safety of women. Once again, we are left questioning: how can we better protect our girls?*

*You'll find more on this issue, along with contributions from our members, in this edition. I look forward to your feedback and encourage you all to continue sharing articles and ideas.*

**Sheela Satyanarayan**  
**Editor - Roshni**



## ***Tributes: Mrs. Shobhana Ranade***

*Celebrating the life of our Patron, an extraordinary person, a true social worker and a Gandhian, a Role Model and an Inspiration to all*



**Mrs. Shobhana Ranade**

(26 October 1924 – 4 August 2024)

A social worker and a Gandhian, known for her services towards the cause of destitute women and children, honoured with the Padma Bhushan Award by the Government of India for her services to the society.

“Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime  
And, departing leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time”

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



## *My Memories of Mrs. Shobhana Ranade*

*(By Mrs. Kalyani Raj, President AIWC)*

**Salute to a great human being, a dedicated social worker, and a true leader.**

I met Shobhanaji for the first time in 2000, during her visit to Delhi for an AIWC Conference. Her welcoming approach made a strong impression on me, especially since I was relatively new to the organisation. Our conversation greatly encouraged me, and in the years that followed, she consistently made a point of speaking with me during half-yearly and annual conferences, offering invaluable guidance. Despite her seniority and status as a Patron, she always communicated as an equal, treating me like a colleague.

During the Platinum Jubilee celebration, I was particularly struck by her administrative skills and the genuine leadership she demonstrated throughout the event.

In the later years, I learned more about her remarkable contributions to social work and AIWC. Her work was truly inspiring. She always had an option or solution for any challenge and possessed extraordinary vision. The last time I met her was in 2019 in Poona, when I was Secretary General, she took the time to ask after everyone, displaying her thoughtful nature.



## *My Humble Tribute to The Memory Of Mrs. Shobhana Ranade*

*(By Dr. Manju Kak, Secretary General)*

Dr. Shobhana Ranade was a respected Patron of AIWC, who held many posts aside from AIWC President. However her most outstanding quality was her ability to draw people to herself and create a team twork with shared vision and shared responsibility. This was a unique quality that made her lovable and have many friends.

Shobhana Ranade a social worker and Gandhian, known for her services towards the cause of destitute women and children. The Government of India honoured her with highest civilian award of Padma Bhushan in 2011 for her services to Society.

Her enormous work and service to the Nation will always be a guiding light for all AIWC Members to follow and practice.

## *Humble Tribute to Mrs. Shobhana Ranade*

*(By Mrs. Bina Jain Patron AIWC)*

I would like to share some of my memories of Shobhanaji, she was a true Gandhian and a dedicated Social Worker. Her personality was unique - very soft spoken, firm in her decisions with reason, loving, very hospitable, hard working and down to earth.

I knew her for the last many years. During her tenure as President, I was the member-in-charge of Hostel and Estate and Mess. I have very fond memories of Mrs. Ranade, who was a very simple person and impressed me with her simple living and high thinking. She used to cook her own simple food (Jawar Roti) and used to share it with us during our lunch time. She never made any fuss or put burden on AIWC mess. There was only one Maruti van with AIWC for all to use, and

despite being the President she would travel in an auto rickshaw without a fuss. These actions made me admire her, and I became close to her. It was her encouragement which made me stand for the post of Treasurer. When she was awarded the Padma Bhushan only her family was invited to Rashtrapati Bhawan but she included me as her family member, so that I could attend the Award function

I have so many memories of her that a small note is not enough to cover all of it. I can only say that the time I spent with her meant gaining knowledge. It is very hard to say goodbye to her. But she lived a full life with so many achievements and we have to celebrate her life.



## *Homage and tribute to Shobhana Ranade*

*(By Mrs. Chandraprabha Pandey, Member AIWC)*

Shobhana Ranade, an unforgettable President of AIWC, a great social worker and a greater human being. It is impossible to encapsulate what all contributions she had made to society and empowerment of women and children. She worked with Vinobha Bhave ji in Bhoodan movement, and with Gandhi ji in Indian freedom movement.

One other dream project of hers was literacy and adult education in villages among marginalised and neglected people. A visionary that she was, she knew it was villages that needed attention of social

workers and activists. She was a graduate from Bombay university and was a diploma holder in social work.

She is no more and we miss her vibrant luminous personality. Her enormous work and contribution remains with us and the world. Shobhana di was the most decorated social worker with many awards including the Padma Bhushan.

On behalf of All India Women's Conference and all the members, I pay our homage and tribute to her

*"Reflecting on the wonderful memories with Shobhana Di."*

*(By Mrs. Shika Mitra – MIC)*



In 1972, the AIWC East Calcutta Constituent branch was established, and I had the privilege of becoming a member of this esteemed organization in Lake Town just a year later, in 1973. It was in 1976 that Geeti Sen, a remarkable individual, joined the AIWC ECC (Lake Town) Branch and initiated a series of impactful social service programs aimed at fostering trust within the Lake Town community. Her efforts primarily focused on empowering marginalized individuals, particularly women, by providing support in the areas of education, healthcare, and economic independence. What's truly remarkable is that our branch managed to organize these programs and projects without any assistance from the AIWC's head office in New Delhi, relying solely on self-funding or support from private and state government sources.

Fast forward to 1994, when Reba Roy served as the Zonal Organizer of the AIWC Eastern

Zone and Shobhana di held the esteemed position of National President of AIWC. It was during this time that Shobhana di made a special visit to Kolkata to attend the Zonal Conference, providing me with the opportunity to meet her in person for the very first time. Her strong, determined, and yet soft-spoken leadership style left a lasting impression on me.

Impressed by her remarkable personality, I extended an invitation for her to visit our branch, which she graciously accepted. Before she departed for Delhi, she, accompanied by Reba Roy, the Zonal Organizer, visited our branch. Their visit served as a source of encouragement for all our members, as they expressed their pleasure with the work we were doing. This visit represented the first time a National President of AIWC had visited our constituent branch, and the valuable suggestions provided during this visit served to motivate all of us in a multitude of ways.



One of the highlights of the meeting was when Shobhana Di expressed her wish for the best-performing branch of AIWC to be rewarded by the AIWC central office, a gesture aimed at incentivizing branches to redouble their efforts and continue their valuable work within their communities.

Even though Shobhanadi had originally proposed the idea, her term had concluded by the time the next president assumed office in 1996. Late Kunti Paul became the president following Shobhanadi's tenure. At that time, the newly elected administration of the AIWC head office sent out a circular and a form to all AIWC branches and constituent branches across India. The purpose was to request that each branch fill out the form, providing comprehensive details of their activities, and then send the completed form to the head office in Delhi. The administration at the AIWC head office notified us that a trophy would be awarded to the best branch based on the performance and activities of the branches, as suggested by Shobhanadi.

Our AIWC East Calcutta constituent branch is a part of the main AIWC Calcutta North East Suburban branch. During that period, Smt. Manjula Ghosh held the position of General Secretary of AIWC Calcutta North East Suburban branch, while I was the Joint Secretary. Upon receiving the form, we promptly commenced the task of collecting activity reports from all the constituent branches under the AIWC NES branch and diligently completed the form. Subsequently,

we submitted it to the head office. Finally, at the 1997 annual conference of AIWC, it was officially announced that the AIWC Calcutta North East Suburban branch had been honored as the best branch in the AIWC Eastern Region and was presented with a well-deserved trophy.

In 2012, I was honored to serve as the Zonal Organizer of the Eastern Zone at the request of President Mrs. Bina Jain the Annual Conference of AIWC was held in Kolkata, where we paid tribute to the late Ashoka Gupta on her birth centenary. During the conference, I had the privilege of meeting Shobhana di, who later sent me a touching handwritten letter. Her heartfelt gesture deeply moved me, and I am fortunate to have such wonderful people in my life. At the conference, Shobhanadi presented me with a pen featuring Gandhiji's picture, which holds significant sentimental value for me.

Throughout my 52 years of involvement with AIWC, I have had the privilege of interacting with a wide array of individuals. The guidance and blessings I received from the elders, the unwavering support from my peers, and the affection and encouragement from the younger members of the organization all played a pivotal role in making my journey incredibly fulfilling. Among these remarkable individuals, I would like to particularly highlight the significant impact of Shobhanadi, whose contributions have been truly noteworthy and inspiring.



## *Shobhaniya Shobhana Ranade*

*(By Mrs. Mythily Jagannathan – MIC Events & Documents)*

When in 1940, Shobhana was married into the progressive, enlightened Ranade family, no one would have foreseen that the quiet, slim girl, would one day bring a silent revolution into the homes of the poor and downtrodden, that her S.O.S. homes would shelter and transform the lives of millions of abandoned children, that the Gandhi National Memorial Society and National Institute for Training women, set up in Aga Khan Palace in Pune, would open doors to freedom and self-reliance to thousands of girls and women, that as Trustee, Kasturba Trust for Destitute Women and Widows Homes, thousands of women would emerge from darkness and sorrow, into hope and light. Nor that one day a grateful nation would award her with the highest honour of Padma Bhushan.

It was a time when Mahatma Gandhi gave the call for nationwide satyagraha against foreign rule. Thousands followed national leaders who gave the call for “Jail Bharo”, braving lathi charges. In Maharashtra, Poona was one of the centres of the movement. Annasaheb Sahasrabuddhe and Vinoba Bhave had shown how non-violent and passive resistance could overcome aggression. Shobhana’s sister-in-law, Tara Sathe (who was for some years, a Member of Parliament), was a staunch follower

of Mahatma Gandhi, and soon Shobhana joined her in the call to “Quit India”.

Within a year of marriage, Shobhana’s husband, Balasaheb Sitaram Ranade, was posted in the tea estates of Digboi Oil Refinery, in Assam, and the family travelled across the country to reach the eastern borders of the country. Shobhana travelled to tribal villages on the borders, and was struck by the poverty, and destitution. In later years she recollected that only when she travelled into the interior tribal villages on the borders, she realized the agony of an existence in dire poverty. She decided then to try and alleviate the sufferings of women by organizing services for women.

At that time, she was a A.I.W.C Branch Representative in Assam, and later became a member of the Assam Mahila Samiti. In later years, she would describe the shock of seeing entire villages in the grip of extreme poverty and want. For her, to think was to act. She opened an ashram where women could gather for literacy classes, and learn crafts. Maitri sabhas were started for girls to learn stitching & tailoring, candle-making and crafts, along with continuing their studies. Montessori schools were opened taking primary education to small children.

In later years she said that joy she received

on opening the first Mahila Samiti (Khomiti in Assamese), was unmatched by any achievement in her later life, even when she headed large national and inter-national institutions. Her work was later taken up by the government, and institutions like the Adim Jati Sewa Sangh were set up in tribal areas. For women, spinning and weaving centres came up, giving women a steady income through sale of textiles.

Wherever she went, in towns, hamlets and village homes, Shobhana carried a dictionary, paper and a pen. She would note down useful words and phrases. She was soon in fair command of Assamese, Bengali, and Naga dialects. All her life, having a flair for languages was a great help in her work.

Her big moment came when Vinoba Bhave's padayatra for Bhoodan and gram daan, (which had started in Telengana in 1951), brought him to Assam in 1955. He along with Veer Savarkar were Shobhana's childhood heroes. Shobhana became his captain, heading his mission of collection and distribution of land. By the late '60's, thousands of acres of land were received and redistributed in 9 districts of Assam. Following this, the Government of Assam enacted the Assam Gramdan Act in 1961, regulating the distribution and re-settlement of Bhoodan land.

Balgrihas were set up in villages where girls could learn weaving, jewellery making,

tailoring and other crafts. Shobhana's Maitree Ashram and Shishu Niketan, were the first woman and child welfare centres set up in the State, and had a great impact on the health and well-being of women and children. For some time, Shobhana was a member of the Assam Mahila Samiti, which administered women and child welfare programs in the State. She was elected unopposed to the Assam Legislative Assembly, giving a boost to women's welfare in the state.

The north-eastern region became Shobhana's karmabhoomi. Her outreach extended to women in towns as well as villages and remote tribal hamlets. Through mahila ashrams, women were made aware of nutrition, child care and prevention of diseases. Education of girls through the Montessori system, helped to spread literacy.

In 1971, her husband completed his tenure with the Assam Oil Company, and the family returned to Poona. Her work in the North-east had widened the dimensions of Shobhana's work. But she felt it was still not sufficient. In one of her speeches she expressed her conviction that the social imbalance against women, could only be set right through addressing the human rights aspect.

Her return from Assam to Poona was the signal for Shobhana to emerge into the limelight as a dedicated social worker on the national stage.



## *A Tribute to Shobhana Ranade: A Beacon of Compassion and Service*

*(By Mrs. Nirmal Padha, President, J&K Women Society)*

The All India Women Conference (J&K) mourns the profound personal loss of Shobhana Ranade, who passed away on August 4, 2024. Her departure marks the end of an era characterized by selfless service and unwavering dedication to the welfare of society's most vulnerable. The void left by her passing is irreplaceable, and we deeply grieve the loss of this true humanitarian.

Shobhana Ranade devoted her life to uplifting destitute women and children, serving as a living testament to Mahatma Gandhi's principles of social justice and compassion. Throughout her life, she championed numerous causes, including the empowerment of women, the protection and education of underprivileged children, and the promotion of ethical values in social work. Her tireless efforts earned her widespread recognition for her significant contributions to Indian society, particularly in the areas of women's rights and welfare.

Her influence reached far beyond India's borders, touching countless lives and inspiring generations of social workers and activists. Ranade's unwavering commitment to the rights of the marginalized, coupled with her great sense of humanity, made her a beacon of hope for many. Her work



with the All India Women Conference was particularly impactful, leaving an indelible mark on our organization and its mission.

As we bid farewell to this remarkable soul, we extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and the countless lives she touched. Though her passing leaves a void in the hearts of many, her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. Her life reminds us that one person's dedication can indeed change the world.

In these challenging times, let us honor her memory by carrying forward her mission of compassion, service, and social justice. May her soul rest in peace, and may her ideals continue to guide us towards a more equitable and compassionate society. We at the All India Women Conference (J&K) feel this profound loss personally and commit ourselves to keeping her vision alive through our continued work and dedication.



## Half Yearly Conference - July 2024



After a long interval of 48 years, the Annual Half Yearly meeting was held in Darjeeling this year. Amidst the beautiful Hills, surrounded by Tea Gardens the rain added to the beauty of the place. 120 members from different parts of India attended the meeting, with excellent arrangements starting from arrival of the members at the Railway Station or Airport, and wonderful hospitality extended to all by the cheerful Members of Darjeeling.

During the inauguration, members from different states of India enjoyed the short cultural program organized by Darjeeling Branch. It included Sarwa Dharma Prayer by young school children which was such a delight, and Maruni Dance.

Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, the recently retired Foreign Secretary of India graced the inaugural function as the Chief Guest. In his



speech he suggested AIWC to celebrate its Centenary celebration in Darjeeling again.

It is worth mentioning that the AIWC Darjeeling was started in 1946 and it has completed 78 years successfully. The Golden Jubilee session of AIWC was held at Darjeeling from 8th May to 11th May 1976.

The members discussed and reviewed different programs being carried out by the branches. The stay in Darjeeling for the half yearly meeting was enjoyed by all the members and it was a resounding success.



## *New Criminal Laws – Implications and potential impact on Society*

*(From Secretary General's Desk)*



On July 25, 2024, the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) organized a round table discussion to address the newly introduced criminal laws aimed at replacing outdated colonial-era legal frameworks. These reforms are designed to improve women's protection and strengthen their rights in India. The event brought together a panel of legal experts, law enforcement officials, and social advocates to analyze the implications of these changes and their potential impact on society, particularly in enhancing women's safety.

AIWC President, Mrs. Kalyani Raj, opened the event by emphasizing the organization's long-standing commitment to empowering women and the significance of these legal reforms in advancing gender equality. She expressed hope that the discussion would shed light on how these new laws could safeguard women's rights and contribute to a more equitable society. Following this,

Dr. Manju Kak, AIWC's Secretary General and moderator for the event, provided an overview of the legislative amendments. She explained that the updates to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Indian Evidence Act were critical for ensuring modern legal protections for women, marking a shift from colonial laws to a framework better suited to contemporary challenges.

The first speaker, journalist and filmmaker Mr. Gyaneshwar Dayal, offered an analysis of the new laws, emphasizing the importance of public awareness for their effective implementation. He highlighted key amendments, such as those concerning compensation for wrongful arrests and changes to the Indian Evidence Act, noting that these reforms aim to provide justice for women facing harassment and violence. Mr. Dayal pointed out that while these changes are essential, proper communication about the laws is crucial so that they can

be properly enforced and utilized by the public.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Arti Sharma addressed the role of law enforcement in applying these laws, discussing the challenges the police face, particularly in cases involving women. She highlighted the introduction of "zero FIR" provisions, which allow complaints to be filed online from anywhere, and emphasized the need for timely police action to ensure justice is served promptly. ACP Sharma also stressed the importance of privacy and confidentiality in cases involving women, advocating for workshops to improve police-public relations, especially in sensitive cases involving women's safety.

Next, Supreme Court lawyer Ms. Priyadarshini Rahul provided a legal perspective on the reforms, discussing the importance of anonymity for women filing complaints and the growing role of digital evidence in prosecutions. She explained that the legal system is undergoing a transition, with new laws bringing in stricter penalties for crimes such as rape and gang rape, including the death penalty, as a deterrent. Ms. Rahul also emphasized the need for mental health support for victims, especially in cases involving minors under the POCSO Act, and advised women to be well-versed in the legal process and their rights when filing cases.

The discussion was followed by an interactive Q&A session where attendees voiced their concerns about the challenges in implementing these new laws. Key issues raised included the importance of video recording in domestic violence cases, the need for simplified legal information for women unaware of their rights, and the power dynamics between police and rural women. Suggestions were made for awareness programs targeting different age groups, with participants emphasizing the need for continued public education and online case filing to ensure transparency and accountability in law enforcement.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from AIWC Treasurer Dr. Upasana Singh, who praised the dialogue for addressing the complexities of implementing the new laws and the need to ensure their positive impact on society. She expressed gratitude to the panelists and participants, acknowledging the valuable insights shared throughout the discussion.

Overall, the round table discussion highlighted the importance of these new criminal laws in advancing women's rights and safety. The panelists underscored the necessity of public awareness, efficient law enforcement, and a supportive legal framework to ensure these reforms have a lasting and meaningful impact on women in India. The event reaffirmed AIWC's commitment to promoting gender equality through legal reforms and community engagement.



## *Independence Day Celebrations at Head Office*

*(By Mrs. Mythily Jagannathan, MIC H.O. Events/Documentation)*



The 78th anniversary of Indian Independence was celebrated with great enthusiasm at AIWC Head Office this year. A large gathering of members, staff, students, guests, and children, assembled in the premises around the National Flag. Bright sunshine (unusual in a rainy month), sparkled on the costumes in national colours of Orange, White, and Green worn by all. The colours were repeated in the flags and streamers all around the venue. The air above was filled with melodious patriotic songs.

The celebrations started with a vigorous march past around the campus by the assembled group. Then came the ceremonial hoisting of the National Flag, followed by cultural program featuring talks, songs and dances with a focus on patriotic themes. A special feature this year was the lively participation of young members of the AIWC family, starting with a junior student group from Shahdara colony to children from Bapnu Ghar, and students of AVI.





## *Sustainability Live Week 2024*



The Sustainability Live Week 2024, on the theme - We the Responsible People - was held at India International Centre, New Delhi, on 30th September.

Numerous distinguished dignitaries from various sectors were invited to share their expertise. These discussions were centered around key topics such as sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) Standards, and Climate Action, with a focus on fostering meaningful dialogue



and actionable insights.

One of the highlights of the event was the Women Leaders on Stage, where President Mrs. Kalyani Raj emerged as a key speaker. Her Leadership and expertise made her one of the most influential voices in the session, contributing to the broader conversation on empowering women in sustainability and driving positive change.

Secretary General Dr Manju kak and MICs Head Office were also present in the event.



## *Climate Change – Women and ESG*

A meeting on climate change, women, and ESG, organized by the United Lawyers Association, Supreme Court, New Delhi,

was held on September 6, 2024, at the AV Hall, AIWC. President, Kalyani Raj was the keynote speaker at the event.



## *Roundtable discussion on Women's Safety and Violence against Women*

*(From Secretary General's Desk)*



**On August 28, 2024, at 11:30 AM, a meeting was held at the library for all Delhi branches to discuss women's safety issues.** In light of the recent brutal murder and rape of a young intern at R.G.Kar Hospital in Kolkata on August 9, 2024, the head office of the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) sent letters to higher authorities expressing concerns and suggesting effective measures to address such cases. AIWC convened a meeting of all members in charge of Delhi and its branches to discuss the matter, gather suggestions, and understand different perspectives. The objective was to share these insights at a national level and suggest appropriate actions for the future.

**AIWC President Kalyani Raj** shared AIWC's ongoing efforts following the Kathua case, various programs addressing sexual harassment and also the different initiatives that Members are actively working on. **Secretary-General Dr. Manju** highlighted the need to prepare the country

for future challenges, referencing the shocking behavior in the Nirbhaya case and noting India's rank of 128 in the Women, Peace, and Security Index.

Besides education, AIWC sensitizes the community through community awareness programs on various social issues relating to women's safety, gender sensitization, adolescent life skills training, and prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace. AIWC plans to propose further awareness initiatives, targeting the government, corporate sectors, and schools.

### **Branch members suggested the following actions:**

1. Approach students in schools & colleges to take their opinion and suggestions. Based on these insights, prepare the module to conduct awareness program for boys & girls.
2. The 33% women representation bill has been passed, which means 1/3 of

members can be women in parliament. It was proposed that members be trained and encouraged to participate as candidates against the 33% quota.

3. As the instances of women facing sexual harassment at the workplace is high, AIWC must explore having representatives as external members of the PoSH Committee in large number of organization. Towards this, PoSH programme/training must be conducted
4. Explore means of stopping the use of abusive language on OTT.
5. Impart Moral education at the school level.
6. Prepare and conduct awareness programmes for children, boys & girls, parents, and community members. The programme must also touch upon the importance of mental health.
7. Restriction on social media by adding women's issues.
8. Develop a robust system of investigation that safeguards the evidence, including increasing the number of forensic labs.
9. AIWC must work at grass-root levels and extend maximum help for the victims of rape and sexual assault. It was also suggested that a separate department be set up to handle violence against women.
10. AIWC should open a helpline and also introduce a complaint box.
11. AIWC must do regular research as to how many organizations have formed internal complaint committee under POSH and how active they are as per the act.
12. It was suggested that pre- and post-planning must be done for the prevention of such incidents, it should be a regular program not when a heinous crime takes place.
13. Self-defence training for young girls.
14. To determine the moral character of a candidate, conduct and share the background check of candidates with voters to ensure that they make an informed choice while voting.
15. NGOs to play an active role and intervene in cases of violence and crime against women.

Dr. Upasana Singh, in her vote of thanks expressed gratitude for the productive discussion that generated many ideas and suggestions. She also reiterated that AIWC Head Office is working on an idea/project on educating and creating awareness and assistance for girls in schools, colleges and workplace. Aim is to guide them and support them so that they are aware of their rights.



## *Women's safety - Laws are important, Prevention is critical*

*(By Mrs. Kuljit Kaur MIC, Women Safety and Rights)*

Women's safety and security remains a significant concern all over the world. At the international level, the UN is deeply concerned about the safety and protection of women against different types of violence. But a lot remains to be achieved.

Multiple crimes are committed against women at every level whether it is the home, the marketplace, schools and universities or at the workplace. How can we ever forget the crimes committed against young girls when they get married. The latest addition is cybercrime used for exploitation of women. Women face crime from “womb to tomb”.

One in three women experiences physical or sexual violence (WHO). Nearly 71% of human trafficking victims are women and girls (UNDC).

Cities change. Perpetrators change. Circumstances also may change. But the victims remain the same. It does not matter what time of the day it is or what dress she is wearing. The woman is marked unsafe the moment she comes into view of a man with predatory instinct. (TOI)

We failed a young doctor in Kolkata. We failed women in Manipur, in Raigarh. We failed a 15-year-old in Jodhpur, a 7-year-old in Delhi, two 4-year-olds in Badlapur, female friends of Army Officers... We often want to make sexual abuse a women's issue.

In fact, it is equally a male issue. This is about men when they behave inhuman. It is time to take steps to prevent it and turn words into action.

Condoning any act of violence against women or diluting its severity reinforces a culture where men are emboldened that they can get away with anything. For example, of the 3449 cases of dowry death, 64% were disposed off without trial and only 35% of the tried cases resulted in conviction. Out of 8,52,598 cases of cruelty by the husband, a mere 7.7% were disposed off. What message does this give? And then we wonder why perpetrators are not afraid of the law.

There is a dire need to develop a criminal justice system equipped to investigate cases of crime against women in a fast track mode. This is the only available tool to instill fear of the law.

The courts must crack down heavily on extra judicial compromises forced upon the victim by the judiciary or the family. Or, we will continue to harbor and embolden abusers. A rapist is asked by the court to get a *Rakhi* tied by the victim and gift her Rs 1100 (Madhya Pradesh). Elsewhere, the culprit is asked to marry the victim.

West Bengal government has passed anti-rape law (“Aparajita Law”) laying down harsher punishment including death penalty.

The question is: do stringent laws act as a deterrent to sexual violence or are harsher laws only a political response to public outrage.

It is certainly the implementation of the punishment, and not its severity that deters crime. There are 86 to 90 rape cases taking place every day. But seven of every 10 rape accused are acquitted. Unreported cases are definitely more than reported ones. Courts are required to conduct a fair trial without delay. Their failure to do so is an impediment to accountability for sexual violence.

Political, legal and social order that tolerates women's sexual assault and violence reveals the sexual impunity in our functioning. There is something fundamentally wrong with the way our society is functioning. Rapists rape because they have been taught they are stronger and more important than others.

Unless we dig deep to root out the cause, nothing is going to change. The monsters are amongst us. But we shield and protect them. A raped woman is not viewed as victim but the one who has brought shame to the family. Traditionally, the woman is treated as a commodity. A raped woman is viewed as "damaged" commodity.

The JS Verma Committee noted that the world over, stiffer penalties were not the key to deterrence. Rather it was the promise of sympathy at the police station and quick assured conviction that was critical. Indian police has hardly any sympathy for the

victim and on occasions, rape the victim again at the police station. Cases drag for years and the conviction rate is 30%. Society ostracizes the victim rather than the rapist.

Tough rape laws can mean more victims are killed. The Supreme Court says death penalty must be in the rarest of rare cases. But rape is not rare. India had 32000 pending rape cases in 2022. Rape is the commonest of common crimes.

Laws are framed by men with a masculine perspective. This results in patriarchal laws. Challenging patriarchal mindset cannot succeed without involving men to redraw the notions of gender role and stereotypes. If we are to succeed, we need to actively involve men in conversations.

The ugly realities in the recent shocking Hema Committee report relating to the Malayalam film industry. As reported, there were late night knocks on the door and demand for sexual favours in exchange for work from female workers.

There is a culture of silence that has allowed misogyny to grow. In schools, we must talk about uncomfortable, unsavoury and horrendous realities to promote dialogue and inspire change in mindsets. Girls will not be safe if we do not protect our boys.

Most parents are in denial and refuse to believe their sons are capable of ever assaulting or harassing a woman. They believe not to discuss such topics with their children especially sons.

***We know the rapist caused the rape. But what caused the rapist?*** We need to have a safety conversation with boys as we have with girls. “Sirf Beti mat bachao. Bete ko bhi sikhao” should be the slogan (It is not enough to protect girls. Teach the boys to behave). We need to teach our boys to respect the other gender. It should start at an early age. Do not over pamper or be lenient with their actions.

Nearly 75% of child abusers have early exposure to porn or violence. The reality is that the physical assault on women is glorified for mass entertainment. Parents must monitor the content that children watch.

Children must be taught about the word “CONSENT” which is the foundation of all healthy relationships and empowerment. We must teach our boys about respecting

boundaries, to be sensitive and kind to fellow beings. Men and boys must be taught to handle “No” and “REJECTION”. They have never heard of it from their parents while growing up. It hurts their ego if a girl rejects them. They end up raping or assaulting her or throwing acid at her.

How women are treated in the family, whether men are using sexy language and lewd jokes, all of that impacts the psyche of boys. If children ask about sexual violence or rape, be a trusted adult. Answer their questions. Do not brush them off.

Does the justice system do justice to women? There is a difference between reality and rhetoric. By one estimate, it may take 100-300 years to empower women. Creating a safer and more equitable world for women requires collective effort and awareness. Every discussion, action and conversation counts.



## *Dignity of Women still at stake*

*(By Mrs. Asha Gambhir – MIC)*

Another day, another horrific rape—yet another brutal act of violence against women. A young life, full of potential, is extinguished, either maimed or left scarred for life. The incident makes headlines, causing public uproar. Candlelight marches are held, and voices grow hoarse as people chant, “We want justice.” Amidst this clamor is the hollow echo of the slogan, “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child).

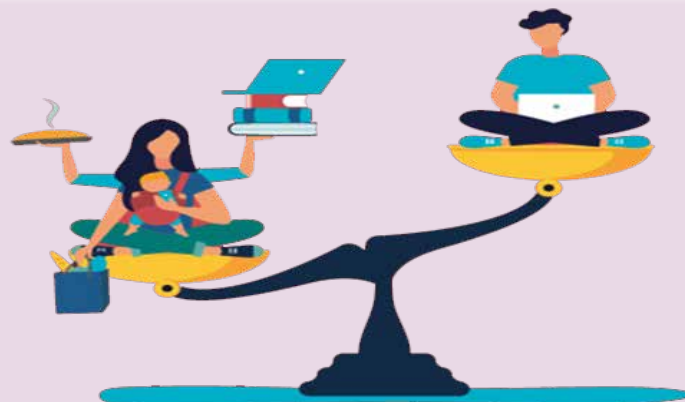
Who is to blame? Is it society, the government, the judiciary, or individuals? There are many reasons and even more arguments. My call to the young women of our country is to be prepared for any eventuality. It doesn't matter whether you are a professional—because to the perpetrator, you are simply a woman, an object to satisfy his lust and a means to assert his dominance.

While the outcry for justice continues, yet another attempted rape is reported. In this case, the victim, in a desperate bid to save herself, took an extreme step. While tragic, it forces us to consider whether, in that brutal moment, it was the right choice.

Despite efforts to protect women, it is clear that what has been done so far is not enough. More must be done to ensure their safety. There are countries where rape cases are not as rampant. In those places, punishment for such crimes is swift and severe, instilling fear in potential offenders.

One thought that continually comes to my mind is the concept of **gender sensitization**. Our organization has been working for over a century toward the empowerment of women and children. However, perhaps it is time to change our mindset and policies. Women have made remarkable progress, excelling in all walks of life. Yet, we have failed to focus on men and boys. Neither families nor society have engaged in meaningful programs that teach them to respect women as equals.

Men and women are the two wheels of society, and for a healthy, progressive future, both must work in alignment. It's time to include men in women's development programs and sensitize them to the value of equality. Only then can we hope to create a society that is safe and respectful for all.



## *Women's Safety: A National Challenge*

*(By Dr. K G Vijeyalakshmi, MIC)*

### **Introduction**

Women's safety is a fundamental pillar of a just and equitable society. It encompasses the right of women to live free from violence, harassment, and discrimination, both in public and private spaces. Despite significant strides in gender equality, women across the globe continue to face various forms of violence and insecurity. Ensuring women's safety is not merely about protecting individuals; it is about fostering an environment where women can thrive, contribute, and lead without fear. The urgency of addressing this issue has never been greater, as it is intertwined with broader societal well-being and development.

### **Women's Safety – A Global Overview**

Women's safety is a critical issue globally, cutting across geographical, cultural, and socio-economic boundaries. While progress has been made towards gender equality, violence against women remains widespread, affecting millions of women and girls around the world. The United Nations reports that **35% of women globally have experienced physical or sexual violence**, often at the hands of an intimate partner. Sexual harassment, human trafficking, domestic violence, and limited access to justice continue to undermine women's rights and well-being. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these issues, with

a sharp rise in domestic violence cases during lockdowns, as noted by UN Women. Despite international agreements such as the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which aim to eliminate violence against women, the global response remains inconsistent and underfunded.

Efforts to enhance women's safety on a global scale must be multi-faceted, addressing systemic issues such as weak legal frameworks, social norms that perpetuate gender inequality, and insufficient support systems for victims. Global movements like #MeToo and **UN Women's HeForShe** have brought attention to the issue, but a sustained and coordinated effort is essential to ensure meaningful change. From stronger legal protection to better education on gender equality, a global commitment is needed to ensure that women can live free from fear and violence.

### **Women's Safety in India: A National Challenge**

In India, women's safety is a pressing and complex issue. The country has seen rapid socio-economic growth, yet **gender-based violence (GBV)** remains a persistent challenge. According to the **National Crime**



**Records Bureau (NCRB)**, crimes against women increased by 7.3% from 2018 to 2019 , with over **400,000 cases** of violence reported annually. Incidents such as the 2012 Delhi gang rape shocked the nation and sparked widespread protests, leading to legislative changes like the **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013**, which introduced stricter penalties for sexual violence .

### **Strategies for Addressing Women's Issues**

To effectively address women's safety, we must adopt a multi-faceted approach that combines prevention, protection, and empowerment. Here are some strategies that can be implemented:

- 1. Community-Centered Awareness Campaigns**
- 2. Technology-Driven Solutions:**
- 3. Safe Spaces and Infrastructure Development**
- 4. Education and Empowerment Programs:**
- 5. Inclusive Law Enforcement Training:**
- 6. Economic Empowerment Initiatives:**

### **Proposed Policies for Enhancing Women's Safety**

- 1. Comprehensive Anti-Harassment Legislation:**
- 2. Mandatory Gender Sensitization in Schools:**
- 3. Corporate Responsibility and Safe Workplaces:**

- 4. Integrated Support Services: .**
- 5. National Women's Safety Helpline: .**
- 6. Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms:**
7. The inclusion of women's safety in school and college curricula is essential for building a safer and more equitable society. Tailoring the content to be age-appropriate allows students to progressively develop an understanding of key issues such as personal safety, respectful behavior, and legal protections. Younger students can start by learning about boundaries, consent, and recognizing unsafe situations, while older students should be introduced to more complex subjects like sexual harassment, online safety, and gender-based violence.

The integration of women's safety education into the school and college curricula is not just a necessity but an ethical responsibility. This inclusion should be tailored to be age-appropriate, ensuring that young girls and boys are educated about personal safety, respectful interactions, and the dynamics of gender-based violence from an early age. At each stage of their educational journey, students should be introduced to concepts that are relevant to their developmental stage, gradually building a comprehensive understanding of both physical and emotional safety.

For younger students, the focus can be on basic personal boundaries, understanding

consent in simple terms, and recognizing unsafe situations. As they progress through their education, the curriculum should expand to cover more complex issues such as online safety, sexual harassment, and legal protections available to women. By the time students reach higher education, they should be well-versed in the social, legal, and ethical dimensions of gender-based violence, equipped with the knowledge to not only protect themselves but also advocate for the safety of others.

Educating students on these issues is fundamental to fostering a culture of respect, equality, and awareness. This initiative is not limited to protecting girls and women but also in reshaping societal attitudes, ensuring that both genders are informed and active participants in the conversation about safety and equality.

### **Campaigning for Policy Adoption**

Beyond the inclusion in educational curricula, it is essential that we campaign to influence policymakers to adopt these measures as formal policy. The task of educating young minds about women's safety should not be left to the discretion of individual institutions but must be standardized at the national and global levels. Policymakers must recognize that the education system is a powerful tool in shaping future generations' attitudes toward gender and safety.

To achieve this, there needs to be a concerted effort from advocacy groups, educators, and

civil society to lobby for the formalization of these curricula. This means working with government bodies, educational boards, and international organizations to draft policies that mandate the inclusion of comprehensive women's safety education across all levels of schooling. We must call for policies that are not only inclusive but also adaptive, considering the evolving nature of threats such as cyber crime and online harassment, which disproportionately affect women.

A robust policy framework, informed by research, cultural sensitivities, and practical concerns, will ensure that these lessons reach every student, creating a safer and more equitable society. The pursuit of such policies is not just a step toward greater safety for women but a crucial aspect of global human rights, where education becomes the frontline of defence in the fight for gender equality and security.

Research shows that gender-responsive education, including comprehensive safety and sexuality education, significantly improves students' social behaviors, reduces negative behaviours, and fosters respect and inclusivity

Beyond educational integration, it's vital to advocate for policymakers to formalize this inclusion as part of the national curriculum. Policy adoption at the governmental level ensures that these critical lessons are standardized across all institutions, ensuring every student, regardless of their location, benefits from these teachings.

This dual approach—curriculum inclusion and policy advocacy—ensures that students are not only educated but also protected, fostering a safer future for women.

### Conclusion

Addressing women's safety requires a holistic approach that combines innovative strategies, community engagement, and strong policy frameworks. By prioritizing prevention, protection, and empowerment, we can create a society where women feel safe, respected, and valued. The proposed strategies and policies aim to foster an environment where women can live without fear, contribute to society, and reach their

full potential. Women's safety is not just a women's issue; it is a societal imperative that demands collective action.

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*Vita est Proelium ! Fortis est Veritas !*

*Life is a battle but the truth always prevails !*

*(By Mrs. Shevata Rai Talwar) Joint Secretary AIWC .*

India woke up once again , to an uproar and the burning issue of “The Safety of Women“, may it be in public, the work place or her ‘Haven’ her home .The rage, the on-cry after Nirbhaya had barely subsided with the government offering special funds to be used for the said matter, and a change in law for serious offenders who were minors.

The outrage knew no bound as people-doctors, Women, NGOs took to the roads in protest as the Kolkata Rape and Murder case unfurled its gory details on social media .Was it ‘one‘ person or were there more - did this in any way change her suffering while undergoing such brutality ? My hackles rose to her pain and helplessness.

Parents of girls were dismayed and shuddered at the thought of minuscule protection to their young daughters, even in their own familiar work environment .

Fear set in - fear as a woman, fear for the unknown, hapless at the mercy of the perpetrators .

The new anti rape bill introduced by the West Bengal government asks for capital punishment for rape, if the victim dies or is left in a vegetative state. Does this really acts as a deterrent ? Does this address the power balance of Patriarchy ?

Does this provide adequate safety and respect to Women who are biologically at a disadvantage! Motherhood weeps and demands equality from her sons. From conception to, adolescence, to womanhood, the girl child struggles for her Human rights. Her Basic Right to Life is questioned even before she is born .Rape, forced prostitution, demeaning pornography, dowry deaths, Honour killings, glass ceiling follow.

At all levels of governance, organizations and institutes a special need and focus on Women’s safety has to be developed. Sensitizing boys and males towards the dignity of women should be the priority. Young boys and Youth of today are to cherish and value of girls as individuals and equal partners in all walks of life from family to work force.



## *Interactive Workshop on “Women’s Safety” with JNU Students*

*(AIWC Head Office)*



On 26th September 2024, AIWC’s Head Office, in collaboration with the Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), organized an interactive workshop on "Women’s Safety." The session, held from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, was attended by around 80 students, both young men and women.

Addressing the sensitive minds of college students should be the first step in tackling the issue of women’s safety in India. Recent incidents of crimes against women have once again shaken the conscience of the nation. Although several laws and the active involvement of the police and judiciary have been proposed, the effectiveness of these measures remains in question.

For several decades, branches of the All India Women’s Conference (AIWC) have

conducted numerous programs aimed at addressing gender-based violence. These initiatives include self-defense training for girls, awareness campaigns on women’s safety, and the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace, commonly referred to as POSH. Despite these efforts, crimes against women have continued to rise, leaving citizens with a lingering sense of frustration. This situation prompts us to reconsider our approach to combating violence against women and explore new strategies, beyond the traditional ones, to prevent such incidents.

Engaging with the youth could offer fresh perspectives, as young men and women frequently navigate public spaces and use public transportation, making them acutely aware of safety concerns. Their perceptions

and ideas might provide innovative solutions to address this pressing issue.

### **Workshop Highlights:**

Dr. Jyoti Atwal, Associate Professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, introduced the topic and presented data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) regarding crimes against women in India. She welcomed the AIWC team to the session.

Smt. Kalyani Raj, President of AIWC, introduced the team, which included Secretary General Dr. Manju Kak, Treasurer Dr. Upasana Singh, MIC Women's Safety Ms. Kuljit Kaur, MIC Mess Sapana Acharya, Assistant Program Manager Ritu, and their assistant Mr. Salim. After introducing AIWC and its mission, she addressed the session's primary concern: "How can we prevent crimes against women despite the existence of stringent laws?" She urged students to actively participate and share their suggestions on what steps could be taken to reduce such crimes. She also emphasized AIWC's ongoing work in this field but expressed a need for fresh ideas and innovative approaches to tackle the issue effectively.

During the session, several prepared questions were posed to the students. A few participants opened up about their personal experiences, discussing issues such as eve-teasing, sexual assault, staring, cyber harassment, societal perceptions, and fear. Their openness provided valuable insights

into the challenges young women face in public spaces.

### **Key Suggestions from the Session:**

1. **Sensitizing Boys and Men:** Programs should be implemented to change attitudes and behaviors toward women.
2. **Gender Sensitization in Education:** Gender sensitization should be incorporated into school and college curricula. Role-playing exercises between boys and girls could help both genders understand and empathize with each other's emotions and challenges.
3. **Training for Law Enforcement:** Law enforcement officers need training to handle cases involving women sensitively and effectively.
4. **Awareness Campaigns:** More campaigns are needed to raise awareness about how societal attitudes toward women contribute to an unsafe environment. For example, boys should be taught that persistent staring and stalking make women feel uncomfortable.
5. **Creating Safe Spaces:** Safe spaces should be established where women can share their experiences without fear of judgment.
6. **Counseling Services:** Counseling services for survivors of violence are crucial. In cases of rape, mental health support should accompany police and

medical assistance. Both survivors and their families must receive counseling to help them cope with trauma.

7. **Gender Sensitivity Training for Police:** Police officers should undergo gender sensitivity training to improve

their responses to cases of violence against women.

The workshop concluded with a lively discussion, and many valuable suggestions were made. The session reaffirmed the need for innovative approaches to ensure the safety and security of women in India.



## *Basic Food Safety Training Program*



On August 2nd, 2024, The Red Carpet Ventures (TRCV) organized a FoSTaC Basic Catering Training Program at the All India Women's Conference (AIWC), in collaboration with FSSAI. It was a valuable opportunity for the staff to receive training supported by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The event was conducted by  
Aditi Kulshreshtha, Project Manager;  
Ajay Singh Kataria, Technical Officer;

and Sarika, Project Coordinator from FSSAI. Nine mess staff members, including MIC Sapna Acharya, attended.

The Project Manager emphasized the importance of regulating food safety to prevent food poisoning and provided detailed explanations on food safety protocols. After the successful completion of the training, certificates were awarded to the mess staff by AIWC office bearers.



## *“A breath of fresh air, Good Samaritans in the UP Police”*

*(By Mrs. Rajani Saseendran, AIWC Palakkad Branch)*

My daughter was selected for an interview. (SSB). Looking at the safety aspect, I decided to accompany her in her travel from Kerala to Prayagraj (Allahabad) in Uttar Pradesh. Little did we know that this trip would become a memorable adventure, leaving us with a story to tell for years to come.

After completing our interview, we decided to seize the opportunity to explore one of Allahabad's most renowned landmarks: the Triveni Sangam. Known as the confluence of three sacred rivers—the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati—Triveni Sangam holds a special place in the hearts of many, drawing visitors from all corners of the world. To make the most out of our visit, we planned to reach Triveni Sangam early in the morning, at around 5:30 AM, to experience the serene beauty and spiritual ambience at dawn. We hailed an auto-rickshaw from our accommodation and set off towards the Sangam, filled with excitement and anticipation.

At Triveni Sangam, we were mesmerized by the peaceful confluence of the rivers and the ethereal morning light casting a golden glow over the water. The local nav walas (boatmen) gathered around us to take their nav (boat). However, our tranquility was short-lived as we suddenly realized that our

bag was missing. In the hustle and bustle, we had forgotten to take it with us, while de-boarding the auto-rickshaw and the auto-rickshaw had already driven away. Panic set in as we comprehended the gravity of the situation. The bag contained not only our personal belongings but also crucial documents, including, interview papers, identification, and travel essentials. Without it, our journey back to Kerala would be fraught with difficulties.

Determined to recover our bag, we hurried to the nearest police station to report the incident. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by the sub-inspector, who listened attentively to our predicament. Our request to him was to access the Allahabad CCTV, which was not possible from that police station. He guided us to civil lines police station. The Sub-Inspector's dedication is worth talking about. When we reached civil lines police station by 9:30 a.m and lodged our complaint, they told us to wait there till SI Rajesh Kumar Singh comes. Even though it was a Sunday, SI reached on time and read our case thoroughly. With a calm and pleasant face he asked our requirement and said he will do his best to get our things. I still remember his words, he said, "It will be a shame for UP Government, if they fail



to return your valuable things". True to his word, the sub-inspector immediately sprang into action. He took us to the Prayagraj CCTV office and after an hour of effort we successfully spotted the rickshaw from the footage and collected the information about the rickshaw. Then with a positive attitude, we left the office with the SI and reached the Police station for remaining procedures. As the search intensified, the sub-inspector stayed by our side, offering words of comfort and encouragement. As he was aware that we had not eaten anything since morning he arranged lunch for us.

I must say a ‘a Complex Web Unraveled’ after the first lead. the registered owner, revealed that he had sold the auto-rickshaw five years ago to an individual named Chotu. Further inquiry revealed that Chotu had also sold the auto-rickshaw to another person, who was the current driver and the one in possession of our bag.

Sub-Inspector Rajesh tracked down the current driver and summoned him to the Civil Lines police station. The man, however, denied any knowledge of our bag, complicating the investigation. undeterred, Sub-Inspector Rajesh continued his investigation. He received a crucial call from the CCTV office, providing additional evidence implicating the driver. Confronted with this new information, the driver was

forced to confess. The bag was recovered with all its contents intact, thanks to the relentless effort and sharp investigative skills of Sub-Inspector Rajesh.

Our gratitude is beyond words for the efforts of SI Rajesh, who stood by us throughout this ordeal, demonstrating unwavering commitment and support. His dedication not only resolved our issue but also left a lasting impression on us. His tireless work and perseverance turned what could have been a disastrous experience into a story of hope and gratitude.

As we boarded our train back to Kerala, we reflected on the events that had transpired. Our visit to Triveni Sangam, initially marked by a distressing loss, had ultimately showcased the power of community, the effectiveness of modern technology, and the profound dedication of the Allahabad police force. Sub-Inspector Rajesh's assistance transformed our experience, reminding us of the remarkable acts of kindness and professionalism that can arise in times of need.

This journey became more than just a trip for an interview; it turned into a testament to the goodwill of strangers and the incredible humanity that binds us all. We are forever grateful to Sub-Inspector Rajesh and the Allahabad police for their unwavering support and dedication.



## Branch Activities

### *Systematic Reforms on Women's Safety at the Workplace Seminar by the Ujjawal Women's Association*

*(By Mrs. Kuljit Kaur, Advisor, UWA)*



In response to the tragic rape and murder of a young doctor at Kar Hospital in Kolkata, the Ujjawal Women's Association held a seminar on September 8, titled "Systematic Reforms on Women's Safety at the Workplace." The event highlighted the urgent need for reforms aimed at preventing and addressing gender-based violence in workplaces.

Ms. Bina Jain, Chairperson of the Ujjawal Women's Association, opened the seminar by speaking on the recent case, noting the disturbing reality that even within hospital walls, young doctors are not safe.

Mrs. Kuljit Kaur, Advisor to UWA, introduced the topic and emphasized the importance of reforms despite existing laws, stressing, "We must take proactive steps to prevent crime."

Ms. Jyotika Kalra, a senior advocate at the

Supreme Court, suggested incorporating gender sensitization training into the orientation programs for all new employees across organizations. She pointed out that rape is often not about sexual gratification but is rather an extreme act of violence against women.

The seminar featured a range of distinguished speakers, including Dr. Sangeeta, Prof. OHBAS, Dr. Neelam Lekhi (Consultant Radiologist), Dr. Anamika Wadhera, Ms. Pratibha (Nursing Officer), Ms. Laxmi Dubey (Inspector, Delhi Police), Dr. Jyoti Chug, and Dr. Shankar Choudhary. Each expressed concern over workplace safety for women and provided various recommendations for improvement. The audience included young college students, who contributed their perspectives to the discussion.

*Sanskriti Sannivesh – Grand Cultural Event  
by AIWC Greater Noida Branch*



AIWC Greater Noida Branch organised a grand cultural event, under its ‘Sanskriti Sannivesh’ series, featuring a Natya-Katha titled ‘Krshna’ presented by none other than the world renowned Odissi dancer Dr. Sonal Mansingh (Padma Vibhushan awardee) at the prestigious ‘India Habitat Centre on 3rd of September . The audience was spellbound by the mesmerising performance of Dr. Sonal Mansingh. The audience included former President of India, Hon’ble Shri Ramnath Kovind ji as the Chief Guest, Smt. Savita Kovind, Ms. Swati Kovind, Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee, President of the India Habitat Centre, renowned Odissi dancer Sharon Lowen, Smt. Neelam Pratap Rudy,

Smt. Asha Dalmiya, Smt. Ranjita Kant, Shri Kamal Modi and many more respected dignitaries.

Shri Ramnath Kovind ji appreciated the various endeavors of ‘Human Touch Foundation’ and heartily congratulated Dr. Upasana Singh, the renowned social worker and the President of the Foundation. He lauded the performance of Dr. Mansingh and her co-artists for an impressive presentation.. Dr Upasana Singh while thanking and appreciating the presence of the dignitaries and guests, said that many more such events, featuring Hindustani Classical music also, shall be organised by the Foundation in near future...



## Celebration of 34th Foundation Day of Vikas Mahila Sangam

(By Mrs. Sapna Acharya, President VMS)



The 34th Foundation Day Celebration of Vikas Mahila Sangam (VMS) took place on 19th July at VMS Center. The event was graced by the presence of several distinguished guests, including AIWC President Mrs. Kalyani Raj, Treasurer Dr. Upasana Singh, North Zone Organizer Mrs. Sumi Chopra,

The celebration began with a warm welcome by Manorama Negi, Neelum Gupta, and Anubha Mondal, accompanied by the lively beats of the Dhol. Renu Dhaniwal presented the NSK report, followed by a Q&A session with the mothers of the students, highlighting

their close-knit community bond. A brochure detailing the work of VMS was unveiled by the dignitaries, and Papri Goswami narrated the journey of VMS, while Anita Ahuja shared a success story. Motivational speeches were given by AIWC President Mrs. Kalyani Raj, Treasurer Dr. Upasana Singh, and North Zone Organizer Mrs. Sumi Chopra.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Joint Secretary Mrs. Meera Trikha, followed by a photo session with all guests. The celebration was a memorable occasion, thanks to the support of everyone involved.

## Family Wellness Centre – A Success Story

(Sthree Sakthi Mahilasamajam, Trivandrum)

Family Wellness Centre, was started in 2016 funded by AIWC Head Office. This innovative program was a huge success. Today it is a self sustainable programme, running as a Holistic Wellness Centre “Life Manthra” providing Yoga, Meditation, Energy Healing treatments (online and offline) and various kinds of Therapies.



## SUVARNA @75 - A PROGRESSIVE MISSION

(By Smt. Sasikala Thampan, Secretary and SCM, Kozhikode branch)



SUVARNA celebrates its Platinum Jubilee this year. With this in mind, we embarked on a mission to create awareness on maintaining a Clean Environment, Hygiene, Energy Conservation, Tree Planting, Waste Management, Ozone Layer Depletion & Green Initiatives among the public and school children. A brief note of the activities conducted, as part of our objectives and in tune with the Government's mission of creating a Clean India is narrated below:

As a prelude to our mission, we started with an Awareness Drive at the Kozhikode Beach. Article 21 deals with Right to life which includes living with dignity. The Directive principles also imposes certain duties of the Citizen. Unless citizens, play their role the State alone cannot provide a decent living. NGOs like SUVARNA can play a role to create such awareness. We honoured two citizens of Kozhikode, who are trend setters, cleaning the beach during their morning walk every day from 6 to 8 AM for more than 10 years. A Street play 'Hug a Tree' and a theme song with lyrics by one of our members in



the regional language were performed and saplings were distributed to winners of the Quiz conducted. Public participation was good and we received great appreciation.

Our next project was to create awareness among School students and we chose 5 Government Schools whose resources are low. In all those Schools, we approached the Principals/Headmasters and with their consent conducted similar sessions. Poster Painting/Reel making/Painting Competitions/Quiz were held and prizes distributed. To inspire and educate the children, the awareness sessions by way of Power Point Presentations/ story telling etc. were made. The children too showcased their talents with skits, songs, dance, short

speeches etc. In all the 5 Schools we donated towards their requirements to maintain Cleaner, Hygienic and Greener environment from our own funds . The awareness sessions at the Govt. Ganpat GHSS and Govt. GHSS, Parayancherry were funded by AIWC.

A brief note on the same is outlined below:

July 12th 2024 -Govt. Ganpat Girls Higher Secondary School was the first. We donated 10 Waste bins to the school for collection of solid waste and 10 pen disposal boxes. We honoured 4 Sanitation Workers of Kozhikode Corporation who spoke and shared their experiences, giving us a clear perspective about their occupation and difficulties faced. Through an interactive presentation/ Quiz the students were familiarized on the objectives and activities of AIWC in general and Environment and Climate Change related areas thereby encouraging them to maintain clean environment by following healthy practices of waste management, to mitigate the impact of Climate Change.

July 27th 2024-- Next we selected the Govt. UP school at Civil Station, Kozhikode where two sets of bins (4), as per request from School Authorities were donated .

July 29th, 2024- - Our next beneficiary was the Govt. L P School, Chevayur. Two Bokashi bins were handed over to the School as per their request to manage their kitchen waste and 15 grow bags that were scientifically prepared in which vegetable saplings were planted.

August 9th, 2024— The HM of LP School, Vengeri made a very different request. Their kitchen needed a coat of paint and some tile work. Though convinced we did contemplate on the same and donated for the refurbishment .

August 16th, 2024— At the Parayancherry Govt. Girls HSS as per their request we donated a Napkin Vending Machine and impressed by the School's neat surroundings we honoured their only Lady Cleaning Staff with a token of appreciation for her dedicated and long service. A similar awareness programme as held in Ganpat GHSS was conducted with Power Point presentation and Quiz.

The Complete project ended in a very fulfilling experience with good team work. All our efforts did not go in vain as we received genuine appreciation and gratitude. Though it was the rainy season and our region witnessed two land slide disasters, which were heart rending we could complete all the programmes more or less on time as planned.

10th September – As part of our Platinum Jubilee Celebrations we released our Brochure and as per our tradition honoured our Senior most teacher.

Our strength is our team work and the members and benefactors who stand by our side applauding our initiatives, ever ready to pool in their resources and man power in all our activities.

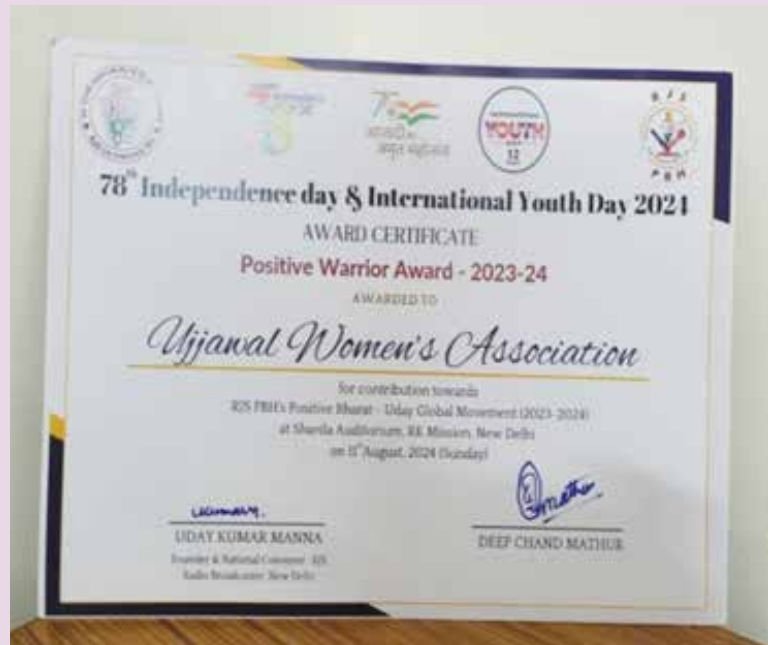


## Financial Planning for Women – Ujjawal Women's Association



A session on Financial Planning was held by Ujjawal Women's Association (East Delhi) in collaboration with SEBI & NSE at the head office on 21st August 2024. Various aspects of investment and financial planning

were explained by the Deputy Manager of NSE. There was a large gathering of interested ladies & youngsters who asked questions about financial investment and processes and were happy with the answers.



Ram Janaki Sansthan Positive Broadcasting House (RJS PBH) felicitated Mrs Bina Jain, Chairperson and Founder member of Ujjawal Women's Association for the distinguished social work done by her and her team for the welfare of women and women empowerment.

## *Zonal Conference 2024 Eastern Zone-B*

*(By Mrs. Dr Jyotsna Kumar, Zonal Organizer )*



The Zonal Conference of Eastern Zone-B was organized at Amaltash Banquet Hall, Ashok Nagar Ranchi Jharkhand on 20 September 2024 under the chairmanship of Dr. Jyotsna Kumar, Zonal Organizer & was hosted by Smt Shail Jha, President, AIWC Ashok Nagar Main Branch Ranchi Jharkhand. The conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, our dynamic National President Smt Kalyani Raj by lighting of lamp followed by short cultural program.

AIWC Eastern Zone-B consists of Bihar and Jharkhand state and has 4 Main branches and 19 Constituent branches. About 90 delegates from Bihar and Jharkhand participated in this function and won prizes for best branch performances.

Bihar State Branch Patna – Mansi Pandey Treasurer and Chandra Rao, Jt. secretary presented the PPT. Their main focus was for the upliftment of women and children in the society. They are encouraging educational priorities by giving scholarship to the needy

girls of higher studies.

Gaya Branch – Geeta Devi and Vandana Devi presented PPT and making production of dried vegetable chunks, papad to make the needy women capable to earn their own livelihood.

Ramani Samiti (Vaishali, Bihar)–Smt. Ragini Verma presented PPT and encouraged on uses of Millets in day to day life. She makes production of various types of Millets and helps women to make by products to sell them to earn their livelihood.

Jamshedpur Main branch – Parul Mangal, President, had come down to the conference to present the PPT along with Indu Gandhi. They run an orphanage established since 1949 and run 3 schools also for needy children.

Ashok Nagar Main Branch – Shalini Singh presented PPT. Initially, the members were involved in the adult education program for the needy women of the society. They have



adopted 2 Schools and conducted health checkup camps. They have taken up Udaan projects for skill development.

Lakshyam- It is basically involved in 3 projects in Jharkhand. 1) Butterfly project, 2) Rooh (to provide education to rag picker children), 3) Toy Library & run many projects to enable the needy women capable of earning their own living.

JAWA (Jharkhandies Adivasi Women Association) – This organization is basically involved in the women against crime and works on millets production in villages and

prepare millets products like ladoos and other sweet items to make the women to earn their own living.

Bariyatu Branch - This branch is involved in making the needy girls and women capable of earning their own living.

The conference was highly informative, and all the delegates were enlightened by the AIWC culture narrated by Smt Kalyani Raj. The branches were encouraged for short-term and long-term programs and to make more branches and activate the inactive branches.



## *Zonal Meeting – South Zone A*



Zonal Conference – South Zone A, was held on September 28, 2024, in Kakinada, and it was a privilege for the AIWC Kakinada branch to host the event. The conference was attended by Mrs. Kalyani Raj, President of AIWC, New Delhi, and Smt. Manju Kak, General Secretary of AIWC, New Delhi. A

tree plantation program was organized on September 27, 2024, Distributed 20 large dustbins at Andhra Polytechnic College under Swatchatha hi Seva programme..

Distinguished Guests: Smt. Bhavana I.A.S., Commissioner of Kakinada Municipal



Corporation, and Raja Yogini Rajani Didi of Brahma Kumari attended as chief and distinguished guests.

President Kalyani Ji's speech was truly inspiring, emphasizing the importance of various initiatives for women's empowerment. She acknowledged the remarkable work done by the late Kalpakam Ji, who had adopted a village and done



extensive work in Kakinada. She also highlighted key areas to focus on like Life Skill Development, Menstrual Hygiene, Cyber Security and Climate Change

Secretary General Manju Kak, focused on various initiatives for women's empowerment and community development. like Udaan, dispensaries, one-day awareness programs, and need-based initiatives.



## *Zonal Conference - Prayagraj*

(सचिव ज्योति श्रीवास्तव, अखिल भारतीय महिला परिषद, प्रयागराज)



अखिल भारतीय महिला परिषद सिटी ब्रांच प्रयागराज की जोनल कॉन्फ्रेंस 8 अगस्त को होटल ब्लेसिंग में सम्पन्न हुई। दीप प्रज्ज्वलन के साथ जोनल मीट का शुभारंभ हुआ। अध्यक्षता श्रीमती रचना अग्रवाल जी ने की। सोवेनियर का विमोचन डॉ शांति जी के हाथों करवाया गया। महिला स्वास्थ्य नामक किताब का भी विमोचन किया गया। मुख्य अतिथि श्रीमती नीलम सरन जी थी। जोनल हेड विजया रॉय ने नारी



सशाक्तिकरण की बात की। राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष कल्याणी राज जी, सेक्रेटरी मंजू काक, समेत कई अधिकारी कार्यक्रम में शामिल हुए। अखिल भारतीय महिला परिषद प्रयागराज की संरक्षिका श्रीमती जामनोत्री गुप्ता जी, किरण चावला, गीता कौरा, पदमा टंडन, साधना अग्रवाल, प्रिया नारायण, समेत संस्था के तमाम सदस्य शामिल हुए। धन्यवाद ज्ञापन सचिव ज्योति श्रीवास्तव ने दिया

## *AIWC Health Trust at a glance*

*(By Mrs. Rakesh Dhawan-Managing Trustee)  
Vijaya Bhasin – Coordinator Trust*



Health Care is the major issue in our country especially in areas that lack health care facilities due to many reasons varying from awareness to outreach to limited resources.

AIWC Health Trust has taken a step to contribute in the health care sector by strengthening our branches at local level, who in turn look into the health care needs of their area and accordingly conduct need based health programs .

Health Trust through its programs of Swasth Sudhar Village and Child Health program has been doing very well. Through these programs, we are meeting the objective of creating a village free of diseases by providing preventive and curative services. The program's outreach is in areas where there are no or negligible health care services. We have been able to do so because of the dedicated efforts of our branches.

Health Trust is providing support to AIWC branches through the following programs-

### **Child Health Program**

The basic objective is to bring awareness of health & hygiene among children living in the slum areas especially girls who are in their adolescence and are often neglected. Schools in such areas are identified for implementation of the program. A panel of doctors comprising of a Pediatrician, ENT Surgeon, Dentist, Ophthalmologist, Dietician, Skin Specialist and a Pathologist pay a visit to the area and undertake a complete health check up of the children. Based on the diagnosis medicines are provided, if needed further tests are done. If problem with eyesight is identified, spectacles are provided. A general talk by an expert on personal hygiene and the importance of cleanliness in life is arranged to bring about change in the habits of

cleanliness and personal hygiene. A Health kit is also distributed to the children

### **Swasth Sudhar Village program**

Swasth Sudhar Village is a comprehensive program that emphasizes issues related to health. It is a step to provide basic health care services in those villages. Basic health survey is done in the village/community. Based on the findings, programs are planned and implemented. A team of doctors is identified for general health checkup and diagnosis of diseases. Medicines are provided, patients requiring further treatment are referred to hospitals. Besides health camps, awareness programs are also conducted and supplementary nutrition is provided during the camps. The beneficiaries are encouraged to use herbal medicines, eat locally available food that is nutritious and practice yoga so that they can lead a healthy life.

Both the programs are of one year duration

### **Child Health program is being implemed by the following branches-**

1. Bardoli branch
2. Vadodara branch
3. Bhopal branch-
4. Vishakha Vanitha Samaj, ishakhapatnam

### **Swasth Village Sudhar Program is being implemed by the following branches**

1. Nathencode branch
2. Thitthamangam Vanitha Samithi -
3. Sahaspur rural branch
4. Pathankot Kandi branch
5. Rimbick branch constituent branch of Darjeeling
6. Sthree Shakti Mahila Samajam
7. South East Delhi Women's Association

The effectiveness of this program can be improved through volunteer services, assessing difficulties faced in meeting the objectives of the program and suggesting ways and means to overcome these hindrances/difficulties.



## हिंदी जगत सदस्यों द्वारा हिंदी में लेखन

### महिला सुरक्षा और इन्साफ की दौड़

(श्वेता राय तलवार, ज्वाइंट सेक्रेटरी, ऑल इंडिया वीमेन कॉन्फ्रेंस)

हाय—री बिटिया ये क्या हुआ,  
तेरे साथ ये क्या खिलवाड़ हुआ,  
हाथ तोड़ा, आँखों को फोड़ा,  
देह तेरी को कुचल —कुचलकर कर,  
ये शैतानों ने क्या किया।

पूज्य दुर्गा, तू माँ काली,  
कालीघाट के काली क्षेत्र में प्रहार हुआ,  
अंबा, जगदंबा तेरा क्या हाल हुआ।

भड़का भारत, सडको पर उतरा,  
भूकंप सा आया,  
हर माता को तेरे में अपनी 'मिशठी'  
(स्वीट), झूमपा (चारमिंग) दिखी।

खाली ना जाए, यह बलिदान तेरा,  
कानून बदलो, न्याय दिलाओ,  
स्त्री—पुरुष में बचपन से ही समानता लाओ,  
बेटियों की रक्षा की कसम खाओ,  
व्यवसाय पर निकली नारी की  
सुरक्षा कवच की ढाल बनो।

मुझे अपना हक दिलाओ,  
पीड़िता को इन्साफ दिलाओ,  
महिला को मान, मर्यादा, सुरक्षा प्रदान कराओ,  
जग बदलो, सोच बदलो,  
समाज में बदलाव लाओ।



## ‘एक पेड़ माँ के नाम’

जागरूकता कार्यक्रम में आख्या : “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम” माटी का लाल अभियान आज दिनांक 5 अगस्त 2024 को जागृति वूमैन्स कॉन्फ्रेंस उपशाखा रुड़की के सौजन्य से शिवालिक पब्लिक स्कूल ढंढेरे में माननीय प्रधान मंत्री मोदी जी के आवाहन पर एक पेड़ माँ के

नाम: माटी का लाल कैपेन का आयोजन सफलता पूर्वक किया गया। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में श्रीमती वंदना मोहन जी, प्रबंधक अणु विद्युत औद्योगिक संस्थान ने विद्यार्थियों का मनोबल अपनी गरिमामयी उपस्थिति व संबोधन से बढ़ाया।



‘ए. आई. डब्ल्यू. सी. हेड ऑफिस द्वारा प्राप्त उड़ान प्रोजेक्ट के तहत कटिंग एवं टेलरिंग प्रोग्राम महिला संघ द्वारा आयोजित 6 माह के निशुल्क प्रशिक्षण के

समापन की झलकियां बालिकाओं को प्रमाण पत्र वितरण के पश्चात स्वल्पाहार एवं गिफ्ट देकर उनके उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना की गई।’





*Zonal Conference 2024 Eastern Zone-B*



*Anemia Detection Camp Fresh Programme organised by Tripura Adibashi Mahila Samity.*



*Community Feeding programme Vikas Mahila Sangam*



*विकासपुरी शाखा : प्रेरणा और स्वास्थ्य स्वच्छता पर एक वार्ता*



*Day Care Centre For Women Senior Citizens by AIWC OLD AGE TRUST, NEW at Kangri Gram, by Jagriti Women's Conference, Haridwar*



*Senior Women Day Care Centre, Pakuria, Howrah*



*Energy Efficiency Workshop by Gurugram Mahila Mandal*



*Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene by Gurugram Mahila Mandal*



*Stree Shakti Mahila Samajam - implementing Udaan Project*