



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Thirty-third session

Agenda item 9

**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related  
forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation  
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Prahar, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 August 2016]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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## Women need Justice

Women play a vital role in human lives. But in the Indian society women have always been considered and treated as the things of enjoyment for a long time. They have been constantly became victims of humiliation, exploitation and torture. The real eye witness of all the sufferings (like exploitation, domination, sex discrimination, oppression, degradation etc.) bear by the helpless women is 'Time'. Women of Indian society are so helpless where many female goddesses are worshipped. In the patriarchal society they have found themselves suppressed and vanquished by the men. In India, ancient texts describe women as POWER which rules over's God's creation. But current scenario shows a contrasting picture. The demand for the Dowry became most essential condition of the marriage settlement. Middle class people became the main target of these attacks. The huge Dowry demand has led to female infanticides and selective abortions. This inhuman practice can be seen in places like Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar etc. Dowry system was absent in North East Region in India, but it has become a curse in recent times especially in Assam. Recently, a government report revealed that "from 2012 to 2014....within these two years more than 25,000 women has lost their lives. Either they have committed suicide or murdered because of this evil practice". It poses a challenge which seems difficult to meet. Dowry as part of marriage consideration is prohibited by law in India. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was enacted to help the women who are victim of Dowry System but Government has even failed to check its growth.

India became the most transit Country for women trafficking in the World. The purpose of human trafficking includes forced prostitution, marriage, domestic labour, bonded labour, begging, drugs smuggling and peddling and organ transplantation. Most common trafficking routes in India are Assam, Goa, Mumbai, Haryana, Delhi, Bihar, Punjab etc.

For a long time women have to face violation and discrimination in India as a traditional male- dominated country. As the world is leading in the technological improvement, advancement of material prosperity etc. the rate of unnatural sex and discrimination with women is also on the way.

Here we would like to mention the shocking mother- daughter rape case of Bulandshahar district of Uttar Pradesh state of India. A 35 year women and her 14 years old daughter were allegedly gang raped by a group of robbers in Bulandshahar district on National Highway no- 91 on late night of 29<sup>th</sup> of Aug, 2016. They were raped in front of their family- in front of father, in front of husband, in front of brother. Culprits also snatched money and jewellery from them. A mother has lost her existence; a child has lost her childhood, her dignity. They have become silent and now are in trauma. The child has barely spoken since attack.

Significantly this tragic incident was happened on NH- 91. Shockingly there was no street light on the dangerous road for miles. It has become more shameful when some so called politicians of India has kicked up a controversy by suggesting that the Bulandshahar gang rape could be an outcome of a "Political conspiracy" against the ruling party, drawing condemnation from rival parties. Journalist who were going to collected reports also been assaulted.

With the increasing level of violence against women they started losing their educational, social, political, economic and cultural opportunities in the society. In this paragraph we would like to draw a picture of a crucial situation faced by working women in India. Sexual harassment in general and sexual harassment at workplace in particular is the hard reality which is facing by working girls and women in day to day life.

Bhanwri Devi, an Indian Dalit social worker from Bhateri, Rajasthan, was gang raped by five miscreants in 1992. In 1985 she was working as a grassroots worker as part of the Women Developments Project. In her job, she took issues related to child marriage, land, water, literacy, health etc. She took professional charges reporting on upcoming child marriage to her senior. And it has become the biggest mistake in eyes of her villagers. She was raped by some so called upper class culprits. Her medical examination was conducted 52 hours after the rape; two years later the trial began in a lower court; five judges were mysteriously changed, the sixth found the accused not guilty in 1995. The state's politician organized a victory rally in Jaipur and other politicians also attended it to call Bhanwri as liar. Within this 24 years many changes has came to this country, but this women still waiting for justice.

These are not the story of one or two women but the story of crores of women who have been constantly facing discrimination on day to day basis and also lost their lives. At this stage of 21<sup>st</sup> century, people proud and rejoice in celebration when a Boy is born and if it is a girl, a muted or no celebration is the norm.

The root cause of gender inequality in Indian society lies in its patriarchal system. Gender inequality is also reflected India's poor ranking in various global indices.

UNDP's Gender inequality Index- 2014- India's ranking is 127 out of 152 countries in the list.

World's Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index-2014- India's ranks at 114 in the list of 142 countries of the world.

Most of the case, it is seen that administration become inactive in the primary stage and unwanted presence of so called politicians. They are the representatives of people, so they have to prefer in solving people's issues rather than establishing their own agenda.

Indian women have had an extremely difficult time developing under the oppression of a male-dominated society, class and religion. Women's place in society has been extremely fixed in nature, and has kept women at a low rung on the status ladder. Many societies and non-governmental organizations have helped but there is still scope for enhancement. Let us strengthen the development of women in the contemporary world.

Therefore we request that the International community ask the Government of India and request and pressure them so women of India can live a meaningful and respected life.

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