

**Minutes of the meeting held under the
chairpersonship of Hon"ble Chief Minister, Delhi
to discuss incidents of crime against women in
Delhi at Conference hall No.2, Delhi Secretariat,
New Delhi on 19.12.2012 at 06.00 PM**

PARTICIPANTS

1. **Smt. Sheila Dikshit**, Hon'ble Chief Minister Delhi
2. **Ms. Syeeda Hamid**, Member Planning Commission, GOI
3. **Smt. Kiran Walia**, Hon'ble Minister of Social Welfare, Delhi
4. **Smt. Barkha Singh**, Chairman, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW)
5. **Shri Rakesh Behari**, Acting Chief Secy
6. **Shri Neeraj Kumar**, Commissioner of Police, Delhi
7. **Shri D. M. Spolia**, Ppl Secy, Finance
8. **Shri A.S. Yadav**, Ppl Secy, Law & Justice
9. **Shri Arvind Ray**, Ppl Secretary, Home
10. **Shri M.M. Kutty**, Ppl Secy to CM
11. **Shri Rajender Kumar**, Secy, Transport
12. **Shri Dharmendra Kumar**, Spl. CP (L&O)
13. **Shri Sudhir Yadav**, Spl. CP (CAW)
14. **Shri Dinesh Singh**, VC Delhi University
15. **Ms. Kiran Vati**, Member DCW
16. **Ms. Bupinder Kaur**, Member DCW
17. **Mrs. Gita Sagar**, Member Secy, DCW
18. **Mrs. Laldingiani Sailo**, DCW
19. **Ms. Suman Nalwa**, Addl. DCP (CAW)
20. **Ms.V. Mohini Giri**, Guild of Service
21. **Ms. Naina Kidwai**, FCCI
22. **Ms. Indira Jaisingh**, Lawyer Collective
23. **Ms. S. Mitra Chaudhary**
24. **Ms. Kamla Bhasin**, Women unlimited
25. **Ms. Sunita Dhar**, Jagori
26. **Ms. Manika**, Indian Women Press Corps
27. **Ms. Vrinda Grover**, Lawyer
28. **Ms. Naseem Khan**
29. **Dr. Rajyalakshmi**
30. **Ms. Kalpana Viswanath**
31. **Ms. Satwante Kapoor**, Proctor
32. **Ms. Juhi Khan**

A list of participants is given in the margin..

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chief Minister welcomed the participants and invited their views on the incidents of rape and violence against women to enable the Government formulate an action plan to effectively cope with the problem.

3. Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development, GNCTD, Ms. Kiran Walia, was of the view that women had no access to police authorities at the operational level. They find the police force apathetic to their problems, and general ambience at police stations, unhelpful and hostile. She wanted accountability of police to be established.

4. Ms. Mohini Giri, a senior citizen, was of the view that the behavior of policemen needed to change so that they were sympathetic to women in distress. She felt that they should be trained to change their mindset and become receptive to the problems of women. Greater awareness should be created to make public also sensitive to molestation of women. Effective campaigns should be taken up against sale of liquor and drugs, which contribute to crimes against women. The laws against rape and other offences against women are antiquated

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and there is lack of an institutional framework to promote a secure environment for women.

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5. Ms. Srirupa Mitra Chowdhury, a social activist, was of the opinion that police were not sympathetic to women in distress and even activists like her got little or no support from the Delhi Police. She felt that Delhi Police needed to sensitize its personnel, especially those dealing with Traffic, on gender issues. She welcomed creation of Fast Track Courts and called for rape being made a non-bailable offence. She felt Police needed training and financial support to put in place relevant programmes for gender sensitization.

6. Ms. Brinda Grover, a lawyer and social activist, was critical of the low conviction rate of people committing offences against women. She felt that the current Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 2012, which was pending in the Ministry of Home Affairs needed to be reviewed in the context of the concerns of several women. She also called for relevant changes in the law relating to women and rape. She called for a competent Public Prosecutor to be appointed who should be sensitive to gender issues. She wanted protocols to be put in place to deal with cases of offences against women. She wanted police and judicial authorities to be accountable for their actions in cases of molestation/crime against women.

7. Ms. Sunita Dhar of JAGORI, was of the view that women were afraid of speaking about incidents of violence against women. She wanted sensitization of police personnel to women issues. She welcomed confidence building measures by way of messages from the Chief Minister and Government Agencies for taking strict action in cases of crime against women.

8. Ms. Indira Jaisingh, the Addl. Solicitor General and an activist of Lawyer's Collective, questioned the credibility of police force in view of the their management of cases of offences against women. She found that FIRs were not being filed as prescribed under Law, as no complaint procedure had been prescribed and responsibility was not being fixed on police officers who did not deal with the cases properly. She was also

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critical of the judiciary who had also not acted against offenders in several cases which were contested by the police. She mentioned that Law & Order is a State subject, but in Delhi Law & Order was being managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, through the Lt. Governor and Commissioner of Police. She wanted a meeting to be arranged where the Chief Minister, the Home Minister and the Commissioner of Police were present. She wanted gender sensitization programs to be institutionalized in police training programmes. She was also critical of the delay in submission of forensic reports and deficiencies in coping with work of forensic evidence. She felt that the quality of public prosecutors left much to be desired. She wanted rigorous procedures of appointment of Public Prosecutors. She felt that the same applies to the police force. She was critical of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2012, which, she felt, needed a second look. She was also critical of honour killings and attitude of people dealing with honour killings.

9. Ms. Kalpana Vishwanath of JAGORI wanted to create safety and security in public spaces for women. She wanted the dignity of women and girls as the core of all campaigns against crime for women.

10. Ms. Naina Kidwai spoke of measures taken in Bombay by citizen groups to support action against perpetrators of crimes against women. As chairperson of FICCI, she could put in place a protocol for corporate to initiate "Go to Groups", to whom women would have access.

11. The Vice chancellor of Delhi University wanted to mobilize students who were members of the National Service Scheme (NSS) to put in place safer neighbourhoods. Should the model work in Delhi, it could be extended to other centres.

12. Ms. Syeda Hameed, Member Planning Commission, called for a multi pronged approach to make the city safe for women. She was critical of the media, as sex and violence being portrayed in the Media was a contributing factor to crimes against

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women. She further mentioned that men should be involved in the issues relating to safety of women.

13. Ms. Naseem Khan of Mission Convergence spoke of the work being done in Gender Resource Centres, which were being run by NGOs. 25 groups were active in mobilizing the community and bringing about an attitudinal change in gender issues.

14. Mrs.Sailo, from Delhi Commission for Women, was critical of Delhi police not following the High Court guidelines on Rape Crisis Cell. She felt there was a need to enhance punishment, expedite work in the forensic labs, and take deterrent measures to control violence against women. The installation of CCTVs, removal of tinted glass and curtains from the vehicles, enhancement of police mobility, increasing manpower and patrolling would help dealing with cases of crime against women. She felt that step should be taken to extend support and protection to people who help the victim of sexual abuse.

15. Ms. Syeda Hameed and Brinda Grover mentioned the Rape Compensation Scheme which had recently been introduced in Government of Delhi. Financial help was being extended through DLSA.

16. Ms. Juhi Khan and Ms. Rupinder called for secrecy and promptness in dealing with cases of rape. They both lamented the easy access of students and criminals to drugs and alcohol and wanted these to be curtailed.

17. Ms. Kiran Walia wanted the deficit in police response to be rectified.

18. After hearing everyone, the Commissioner of Police reiterated that the police had taken prompt action in the recent brutal case of gang rape of a girl in a moving bus, by arresting the culprits, taking the victims to hospitals and tracking the case. He regretted that the police was being given a bad name. He pointed out that most cases of rape were through known people. He called for multi agency action. In particular, he

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mentioned the steps that were being taken by the Transport Commissioner to verify the antecedents of the drivers and staffs, their working conditions and the condition of vehicles. He spoke of the security audit of the guest houses and hotels. He called for self defense training of women, monitoring of placement agencies, improvement of street lighting, programmes for street children such as YUVA, replacement of PCR vans and vehicles of the police. He spoke of 'Parivartan' a programme of Delhi Police dealing with women. He welcomed suggestions on gender sensitization programmes for Delhi Police. He was of the view that rape cases were being registered and more women were coming forward to register cases against offenders. He was of the view that Delhi Police was committed to the cause of safety of women. He felt that it was not fair that the police was being made the target of criticism by activists and others.

19. To conclude, the Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that steps are being taken for proper illumination of roads by eliminating all unlit and unsafe stretches on roads pointed out by police. She called for police to be more visible through more intensive patrolling. She felt that the behavior of the policemen with victims needed to be improved.

20. Hon'ble Chief Minister requested Ms. Indira Jaisingh to submit a draft Bill for making laws on rape deterrent for violence against women. She undertook to present it to the Government of India to be enacted by the Parliament.

21. Hon'ble Chief Minister felt that there was a need for preparation and implementation of a time bound Plan of Action (PoA) covering all facets of the issue of security of women in public spaces, e.g. making laws more deterrent, gender-sensitization of police, infrastructure up gradation, drawing up protocols for various stakeholders, prompt registration and investigation of cases, setting up help lines and help desks for prompt redressal of grievances, awareness creation in schools and colleges towards dignity of women, mobilizing finances for implementing the PoA,

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identifying the implementation machinery for different activities and setting up a coordination and monitoring mechanism. There is also a need to set up a Task Force on the part of the police, more particularly the Crime Against Women Cell of police, which has to play a proactive role.

22. Hon'ble Chief Minister suggested that the group assembled for this meeting should meet at regular intervals to come up with a clear course of action. It was decided to hold such meetings regularly. Hon'ble Chief Minister also desired to set up a small core group to deal with issues as a labour of love
