## CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Message from the Chairperson</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message from the President</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPC Activities</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Activities</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documents Prepared</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Featuring WPC Partner</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obituary for Advocate Vasundhra Dhagamwar</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important News This Quarter</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper Cuttings</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Values</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Form</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Message from the Chairperson

**Dear Friends,**

Greetings from WomenPowerConnect!!

On the completion of another successful quarter of WPC, we are pleased to share with you our experiences in this
edition of Connect. These months have been eventful and we thank all our partners for making them successful by ensuring participation and fulfilling the tasks promised.

WPC is continuously working on Women issues such as, Child Marriage, Land Rights for Women, access of the Mobile population to HIV & AIDS services’ information & support Migrants and other women. Other than this one of our long standing issues is the ever evasive 33 per cent Women’s Reservation Bill. After years of struggle women won just half the battle, when the bill was passed in Rajya Sabha. But once again the government backtracked on its promise of tabling the bill in the Lok Sabha this monsoon session. This indicates that the struggle has to be kept alive with greater vigour and unity, till the Bill becomes law of the land and women get their right to represent and participate in the decision making process of this important institution of democracy.

WPC has been working on all its priority issues with much fervour in this quarter, and it has been extremely rewarding to the entire team to witness the beautiful culmination of the past year’s efforts at the Convention.

In next five years WPC would be keen to work on Political empowerment Political empowerment, Reproductive and Sexual Health, Economic Empowerment and Violence against women (at workplace and in public spaces).

I once again thank you for the support and faith you have bestowed on us. We need your support and guidance in taking the WPC agenda forward.

**Dr. Ranjana Kumari**

**Message from the President**

Dear Friends,

Greetings!!

It is once again time to reflect on WomenPowerConnect’s work and achievements over the last three months. WPC has continued to develop and expand its advocacy agenda and targeted concern for women on child marriage supported by Ford Foundation, Women’s land rights and property supported by Oxfam India, and Enhancing access of the Mobile population to HIV & AIDS services’ information & support in collaboration with Care India.

The projects in hand are progressing well along with other activities. Many achievements have been made in advocacy and networking while many new highs have to be touched in the coming months.

Apart from the ongoing projects WPC has been involved in various advocacy and campaign related activities demanding the passage of the Women Reservation Bill, awareness on The Hindu Succession Amendment Act 2006, For close to 6 months, the organization and its network partners across the country are making efforts to get gender concerns reflected in the manifestos of different political parties for the 16th Lok Sabha Election.
As you all know WPC also alerts the political parties about the need for affirmative action for women in economic services, welfare services and social defense as well as translation of gender commitments to financial commitment, with the help of gender budgeting. WPC also organized innumerable issue-based workshops in Delhi and the rest of India involving women activists, elected representatives and office-bearers of Indian National Congress (INC), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Janata Dal (JD), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Socialist Party(SP), and Communist Party of India(CPI) and others.

People associated with WPC are its strength. It is the involvement and contributions from all the members and donors that has made WPC travel this far. The onus is on all of us to keep the spirit of unity and togetherness bright and burning. We need to reach out to one and all who can partner with us in our endeavour.

Dr. Vibhuti Patel

WPC ACTIVITIES

(EMPHASIS) CARE India - Enhancing access of the Mobile population to HIV & AIDS services’ information & support

SAP-EMPHASIS Project Consultation and Advisory Committee Meeting: “An Enabling Environment for Migration: Perspectives and Approaches”

The theme of the second Advocacy Consultation organized jointly by WomenPowerConnect (WPC) and CARE EMPHASIS was “An Enabling Environment for Migration: Perspectives and Approaches” which was held on 4 February 2014 at the Willow Hall, India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The main objective of this half day Consultation was to identify practical approaches in promoting an enabling environment for migration. Given the gaps both at the policy and implementation level, this Consultation focused on highlighting the strategies that could be adopted for addressing the issues related to identity, social security and safety of migrant population.

The Consultation was also an opportunity to share and discuss the recommendations that had emerged during the last Consultation with Member of Parliament and relevant stakeholders held on 11th December 2013 that focused on the vulnerabilities of Migrant Labour: the
challenges and the way forward to brainstorm on concrete action points for effective advocacy.

“Empowering girls by addressing child marriage” with support from FORD Foundation

According to UNICEF, 47% of girls are married by 18 years of age, and 18% are married by 15 years of age. These marriages are often performed without the consent of the girls involved in the marriage. Indian law has made child marriage illegal, but it is still widely practiced across the nation. The highest rates are seen particularly in the rural states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. It affects both boys and girls, but statistics show that girls are far more likely to be forced into a child marriage than boys; however the percentage of girls forced into child marriage in India has declined in recent years.

The activities undertaken by WPC and its partners this quarter are as follows:

1. Community Awareness and Mobilization:

(a) Reselected Task Force Member- WPC Project Partner, Chetna Vikas, Jharkhand reselected the Task Force Member this quarter. From six villages of Sahankari Panchyat in Deoghar district total 14 new task force members were selected. A further orientation program was organized on 25th February, 2104 at Naiyadih village. During the orientation the issues of child marriage and its cause and effect were discussed. They were also informed about the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act-2006 and its provisions.

(b) Writing Slogans on Wall – This activity was undertaken in the 7 villages of Sehore District by Mahila Chetna Manch, WPC Project
Partner in Madhya Pradesh. Various slogans were written in walls of Anganwadi center, Chopal, Schools, Panchayat Bhawan, health Care Center, etc.

(c) Block Level Meeting with Adolescent Girls – On 27th March, 2014 a block level meeting was organized in Chandari block of Deoghar District in Jharkhand. Around 35 Adolescent girls from 5 villages attended the meeting. Smt. Prabha Paliwal from women and child development department of the state also attended the meeting. She discussed about child marriage, causes and consequences of child marriage and how to curb child marriage. The meeting with the Adolescent girls of other 5 villages was held on 30th March, 2014.

(d) Resource Hub – There are 4 new Resource Hub establishes in Shankari panchayat in Deoghar District. The Villages are Siyatar, Pandanbehra, Bishnpura and Naiyadih. Regular sports activity takes place in the Resource Hub along with the discussion on gender perspective as well as on child protection issues. Task force members are also present during the discussion.

2. Advocacy:
(a) **Meeting with Various Government Bodies – in Bhopal, MP** – As part of the advocacy strategies the project partner met up with various government officials in Women Development Department. The aim of the meeting was to develop strategies to prevent child marriages on Akshaya Tritiya.

(b) A letter was written on 7th January 2014 to Ms. Loretta Mary Vas, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj on Preventing Child Marriage through Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(c) On 27th March 2014 Letters were written to the candidates contesting for the election in Jharkhand, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh requesting them to address ending child marriage as one of the issues they would take up if they won the 2014 LokSabha Elections.

**‘Ensuring women’s access to control over land’ with support from OXFAM India**

In continuation to the second year of WPC signed MOU with Oxfam India for the third year, the first quarter was started with a pilot campaign on women property rights.

A land of my own – a campaign women’s property rights, which consisted of a series of public events was concluded in Jan 14. These events were a space to connect, share and energize the movement to build a world where women enjoy equal rights. Not only a notional, conceptual one in abstraction, but own where the ownership is legitimately shared equally. It celebrates the rights of women to inherit and own property – with a clear focus on the 2005 amendments. The campaign for women’s property right was the part of the ongoing campaign’s of Oxfam India “GROW” and “Close the Gap”. This campaign was piloted by OXFA M India and Women Power Connect in Delhi and NCR. The partnership was initially to work on the women farmer’s access to land rights, for which a play had been, created which was performed in the felicitation of women farmer leaders in Feb 2013. However this was subsequently revised to include a campaign for urban women and property rights.

- A series of Public events in diverse public places was conducted between October 2013 and January 2014. 11 such events were held in educational institutions, corporate offices, different market places, religious congregations etc
- The audience included young people and adolescents, middle aged and elderly. It reached to people from resettlement colonies, middle income localities as well as affluent areas. It included those working in corporate sector, students in colleges & universities and trainee teachers, people in Pooja Pandals
- The total outreach was – indirect 20000, direct 4000, involved around 900 and engaged 400. It also generated around 20 volunteers for the cause
- Different forms of acts were used such as forum play, magic show, art etc. extensively used and adapted according each specific location
• Each performance or act was followed with an open discussion cum feedback from the audience, were many important points came to light

**Highlights of the campaign**

• Eagerness of the audience to know and interact about the issue. More than expected people came and participated in each act of the campaign.

• Most of the people were willing to give their daughters, wives and sisters the share of the property.

• Few were reluctant about the fact what will be left out for the sons, husbands and brothers.

• There were cases were sisters have been fighting the property dispute cases from more than 10 years. Few judgments were against the provisions under HSAA 2005

• Mostly people think property legitimate son and daughter over it,
daughters are educated and married off. After knowing about the HSAA 2005 they came to know that both have equal rights over it

- Men, mostly in corporate houses asked about the false cases that women lodge against them and keep men at bay. They challenged that such laws give a women unnecessary power that goes against the men.
- We felt there is very least awareness of this legislation among people even educated class of Delhi are unaware about the legalities and provision of HSAA 2005. The condition is worse among the uneducated and backward class people

**Chart of the activities done under this campaign**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/ Day/ Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Profile and background</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>11th October 2013, Friday from 11 am – 1pm</td>
<td>B, Block, Chittranjan Park Durga Puja Pandal</td>
<td>Ashtami and Dussehra South Delhi, Pooja Pandal, Bengali crowd mainly but some others too South Delhi</td>
<td>FP Signature Campaign &amp; Interactive session</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th October 2013, Sunday from 11am-1pm</td>
<td>K block Chittranjan Park, Durga Puja Pandal</td>
<td>South Delhi Cross - cultural society, upper middle class visitor, farmers, craftsmen from all over India</td>
<td>FP, Magic Show, Poster Making &amp; Interactive session</td>
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<td>26th October, 2013, Friday from 2.45pm - 5 pm</td>
<td>Kissan Haat, Chhattarpur</td>
<td>Central Delhi -Girls College, Middle Class belonging to Punjabi / Jat/ North Indian community.</td>
<td>Forum Play, Play on conflict and peace by theatre group from Assam &amp; Interactive session &amp; Magic Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th November, 2013, Saturday from 12 pm-2.30pm</td>
<td>Dept. of Elementary education, Mata Sundari College, Delhi University</td>
<td>North West Delhi Cross Cultural and middle class community, all age groups, business community</td>
<td>Forum Play, Interactive show, Magic Show and Poster Making</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th November, 2013, Sunday from 1.30p.m -3.30p.m</td>
<td>Vatsalya Mela, Dilli Haat, Pitampura</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th November, 2013</td>
<td>Vatsalya Mela Dilli Haat INA South Delhi Diverse socio-eco communities, Upper Middle Class forming most of the visitors, Govt. &amp; Public school groups, craftsmen, Forum Play Magic Show, T Shirt Painting, Interactive Session</td>
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<td>26th November, 2013</td>
<td>Corporate in Gurgaon Forum Play Magic Show Interactive Session Pledge</td>
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<td>16th December, 2013</td>
<td>Metro Walk Rithala North Delhi Forum Play Magic Show Interactive Session</td>
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<td>16th December, 2013</td>
<td>Jalebi Chowk, Kalyanpuri East Delhi Lower Middle Class, Mixed group of all ages. Forum Play Magic Show and interactive session Drawing</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd January, 2014</td>
<td>Opp. Cafeteria, Ambedkar University, Kashmere Gate Youth –(60% Girls) Forum Play, Magic Show, Individual and Group interaction</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th January, 2014</td>
<td>Agilent Technologies, Manesar Young working women Forum Play Magic Show</td>
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**Other Activities**

Campaign for the passage of the Women Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha
Indian Women’s struggle for fair representation in the Parliament is perhaps the longest struggle in the history of democratic India! After 65 years of freedom and democracy Indian women still fail to enjoy full and equal citizenship and make up only 11% of elected representatives across the country. This remains a major challenge to our realisation of true democratic governance. Women’s full and equal political participation is also essential to the achievement of gender equality. Women have a fundamental right to participate in politics, to contend elections and to take up leadership positions in local, state or national governments. Gender equality cannot be achieved until women have the opportunity to participate equally in all spheres of society – including the political arena.

The Women’s Reservation Bill was developed in order to facilitate women’s political participation by reserving 33% of seats for women in state and national level governing bodies. This Bill expands our current political reservations for women, which are limited to Panchayati Raj Institutions and which have skyrocketed women’s participation in local self-governance across the country. The Bill has the ability to significantly alter India’s political landscape by ensuring women’s active participation in all level of governance.

WomenPowerConnect has been working with many women’s organisations across the country to advocate for the passage of the Women’s Reservation Bill. After being tabled several times in the late 1990’s the reformed Bill was finally re-introduced in March 2008. We also overcame significant opposition to the Bill within Parliament and our lobbying and advocacy efforts were successful in getting the Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha. In spite of these successes the Bill is currently awaiting approval in the Lok Sabha and has now been pending for 17 years.

WPC was part of the 33% Now Alliance where women’s rights groups, civil society organisations, concerned citizens demanded that the 33% Women Reservation Bill shall be passed in the Lower House during the last Parliament Session of the 15th Lok Sabha for positive democratic impact on communities, legislatures and for better lives of women in India.
The 33% Now of Alliance in order on the parliamentarians, carried out various strategies which included One to one meetings, Public meeting, Rallies and Press Conference. Advocacy letters to all the Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha were sent requesting them to take up this issue in the Lok Sabha. The Women’s groups also met various Member of Parliament such as Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Dr. Prabha Thakur, Shri. Sudhakar Reddy, Shri. Prakash Karat, Smt. Brinda Karat to discuss on 33% reservation Bill.

**Gender Manifesto**

Calling for addressing women’s issues, needs and concerns by decision-making bodies at all levels of governance, WomenPowerConnect and Center for Social Research released a gender manifesto with a hope that political parties would consider it for the upcoming general elections. Demanding inclusion of development of legal frameworks that ensure gender equality within political parties, development and effective implementation of women-friendly legislation, implementation of all of Justice Verma Committee recommendations and effective utilisation of the Nirbhaya Fund, the gender manifesto also calls for the immediate passage of the Women’s Reservation Bill. The key demands outlined within the manifesto include addressing issues related to the girl child, elderly women and women who face multiple forms of discrimination. It
also recommends that political parties ensure the establishment and inclusion of women's wings in the party structure, and assess the level of gender equality within the party. Steps should be taken to ensure women's participation on governing boards by including internal quotas.

**Commemoration of International Women's Day on 13th March 2014**

WPC and CARE India came together to execute an event to mark International Women’s Day 2014 on 13th March 2014. The event looked at Violence against Women at home and at the workplace. The event was to commemorate the struggles of women worldwide by sending the message of gender equality, women empowerment and women as inspiring and change agents. This was an occasion to review how far women have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development. This year’s theme for International Women’s Day was ‘Inspiring Change’. The event saw the inaugural session by Ms. Shamina Shafiq, Member, National Commission for Women, Dr. Ranjana Kumari, Chairperson, WomenPowerConnect, Ms. Gouri Chowdhury, Governing Body Member, WomenPowerConnect, Mr. Kamal Sharma, CARE India. This session was followed by the panel discussion where panelists talked about: Challenges and way forward in preventing violence against women and girls in urban spaces (including workplace). The panelists were Ms. Kamla Bhasin, Advisor, Sangat – a South Asian Feminist Network, Ms. Amarjeet Kaur, General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress and Ms. Julie Thekkudan, Lead Specialist, Gender Justice at Oxfam India and Ms. Madhubala Nath. The event also saw the performance of Ms. Maya Krishna Rao, famous theatre personality who presented her much talked theater “Walk” to depict the rise in the cases of violence against women in India especially in cities like Delhi with focus on the Nirbhaya Rape Case in Delhi. Followed by this, there were testimonies of Alok Dixit and Ms. Sapna from Stop Acid Attack (SAA) who talked about the campaign and about ‘acid attacks’ a horrendous form of violence that women and girls face. Along with that there were testimonies by Ms. Nayantara and Ms. Geeta, Sakha Consulting Wings Pvt. Ltd. where Ms. Nayantara and Ms. Geeta shared their experiences being women drivers and the challenges faced with Sakha Consulting Wings Pvt. Ltd which is the cab service by women and for women in Delhi NCR. The event ended with the performances by Magician Ishamudin where he amused the crowd by his magic skills and subtly
conveyed the message of gender inequality in India. Followed by this Mr. Ashish Dha, musician who kept the audience mesmerizing with some of his songs on women’s issues. Right outside the location hall, a video corner was set up to get impressions from panelists and guests as well as a banner, to collect pledges for a gender equal society from the participants.

**DOCUMENTS PREPARED**

Under (EMPHASIS) CARE India - Enhancing access of the Mobile population to HIV & AIDS services’ information & support : SAP developed the advocacy briefs on the following issues identified under SAP-CARE EMPHASIS project:
• HIV/AIDS and access to health by migrant workers.
• Labour and livelihood rights of migrant workers including social security and Economic Security of the migrant workers
• Violence and harassment: Stopping violence and harassment of migrants during travel, at the workplace, health centers and in public spaces
• Remittances and financial inclusion: Ensuring migrant friendly money transfer and banking mechanisms at source and destination.
• Safety and dignity: Ensuring safety and dignity of migrants at source, transit and destination.

Out of the above five, SAP successfully developed the briefs on HIV/AIDS and access to health by migrant workers and Labour and livelihood rights of migrant workers including social security and Economic Security of the migrant workers in the month of January 2014 and February 2014.

FEATURING WPC PARTNER
BADLAO FOUNDATION

Badlao Foundation is committed to bring socio-economic changes in the lives of the excluded people like Dalits, OBC, Minorities and Tribals and other backward community people of SanthalPragana region.

Badlao Foundation is spread over more than 900 villages in 21 blocks of 6 districts of SanthalPargana Region and works for around 10000 families. Badlao owes its birth to the displaced tribal’s agitation against the hegemony of the state and it basically questions the qualitative and ethical approach and concept of the development. When Maithon dam was constructed over river
Barakar the uprooted tribals of 39 villages were marginalized and turned paupers. In fact formation, functioning and development of Badlao Foundation owes to its commitment to bring change in society that stands for socially transformed qualitative state of self reliance, based on equality and justice. For Badlao Foundation, equality is a belief in “equality of opportunity” and “dignity of every individual”, irrespective of caste, gender, birth etc.

**Mission** – Badlao Foundation endeavors to empower people for social transformation to achieve self reliance and gender justice through participatory efforts and to ensure ecological balance. It strives to uphold human dignity, work for equitable social structure and enable women and socially disadvantaged to claim their rights.


**Badlao Foundation works on Activities such as:**
- Women Empowerment and Gender Justice
- Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Programme
- Agriculture
- Health, Nutrition and Sanitation
- Advocacy and Lobby
- Education Building Institutions
- Human Resource Development Strategy
- Child Development

For further details you can visit [http://www.badlao.org.in](http://www.badlao.org.in)

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**CHETNA VIKAS**

Chetna Vikas was founded in 1985 by a group of activists from the 1980 political movement of reform. The organization works for empowerment and overall development of the disadvantaged section of society in the Santhal Pargana (tribal) region of Jharkhand. Chetna Vikas particularly focuses on scheduled tribes (ST), scheduled castes (SC) and other indigenous communities.

The organizational objective is to strengthen people's organization, advocacy and awareness, and to equip them with adequate infrastructure and technical knowledge to undertake and sustain their own development initiatives.

The motivating force behind all Chetna Vikas activities is Gandhian ideology as it pertains to the alleviation of
human suffering and injustice, and the development of vulnerable people.

Mission:
Chetna Vikas' mission is to empower the poor, disabled and disenfranchised in rural regions of Jharkhand State to achieve the Gandhian principle of "sarvodaya" (universal uplift). To this end, Chetna Vikas employs rights-based, people-centered, grassroots and participatory methods: to eliminate socio-economic inequality; to promote health, nutrition and well-being; to facilitate self-reliance; to enable local self-governance; to ensure natural resource management; and to promote people's advocacy.

Vision:
Chetna Vikas envisions a progressive and sustainable rural India, wherein all people live peacefully and with dignity, enjoying social, political and economic equality as well as the right to livelihood, to freedom of expression, and to equal opportunity for public participation.

Objectives:
- To promote awareness of health, hygiene and nutrition among rural masses.
- To facilitate holistic well-being and development of women and children.
- To educate women about their rights and reduce gender inequalities.
- To promote agriculture activities for food and livelihood security.
- To develop entrepreneurial skills for youth self-employment.
- To create awareness of pro-poor, rights-focused government programs and policies and to ensure benefit of these.
- To enable local self-governance and active participation of all stakeholders.
- To empower NGOs and CBOs to undertake development initiatives.
- To organize and assist people's organization and advocacy.

For more details you can visit [http://www.chetnavikas.in](http://www.chetnavikas.in)

OBITUARY
Obituary for Advocate Vasudha Dhagamwar (1940-2014)

Prof. Vibhuti Patel

Vasudha Dhagamwar, legal activist and academician, passed away on February 10, in Pune of multiple organ failure. Vasudha’s mother Geeta Sane was a well-known Marathi writer and feminist and her father, Advocate Narasimha Dhagamwar active in the Indian freedom movement. Vasudha studied at the Indian Law Society's Law College in Pune and taught at the Department of Law of University of Pune.

As a young lawyer, she fought case of a teenage tribal girl Mathura who was gang-raped by two policemen in uniform at the police station in 1972. In this case, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court acquitted the accused and stated that the sexual intercourse was voluntary, since the onus of proving that the act was one of coercion, rested on the victim. After 8 years of legal battle from 1972-1979 when the Supreme Court of India gave misogynist judgment in the year 1979, Vasudha along with three law professors from Delhi University — Prof. Upendra Baxi, Prof. Raghunath Kelkar and Prof. Lotika Sarkar wrote an open letter to the Supreme Court challenging the judgment as well as demanding reopening of Mathura Rape Case and urging the court to bring about a change in the Rape Law. This sparked nationwide anti rape movement and influenced heated debates and became the rallying point of an active campaign on the issue of gender-based violence.

Vasudha was awarded coveted Ashoka fellowship in 1982 for her courageous and consistent work for the rights of displaced people.

Contribution through MARG
In 1985, she set up the MARG (Multiple Action Research Group) Delhi, which took up the most challenging issues of land acquisition and displacement arising out of the Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat. Under her leadership, MARG produced the following valuable publications:

1. The Law of Resettlement of Project Displaced Persons in Madhya Pradesh
2. Land Acquisition Act and You- A Manual
3. 
4. Law, Power and Justice: The Protection of Personal Rights in the Indian Penal Code, 1993
5. Our Laws/ Hamare Kanoon (a set of 10 manuals in Hindi and English)
7. Women and Divorce, Somaiya Publications, Delhi, 1987
8. Reading on Uniform Civil Code and Gender and Child Just Laws
9. Role and Image of Law in India – The Tribal Experience, 2006

Through her activist use of the law, she influenced two generations of feminists and activists of social movements of the marginalised communities. Vasudha’s legal activism was tremendous Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat. She demystified draconian Land Acquisition Act.

**Path-breaking Contribution Towards Legal Reforms**

During last 4 decades, innumerable of legal reforms with respect to women’s issues were put in place in India due to pressure from women’s movement. Vasudha played important role in this process thro’ her writings, speeches, training programmes and debates on the laws concerning rape, domestic violence, discriminatory family laws with respect to marriage, divorce, maintenance, alimony, custody and guardianship, land and housing rights of women. Vasudha worked closely with the National Commission of Women as a legal expert. She was also a member of the Executive Body of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Delhi NGO working to protect human rights in the Commonwealth countries.

Because of her down to earth approach towards legal matters, practical suggestions and solution seeking approach, Vasudha was a much sought after legal luminary. She was an excellent communicator, spoke logically and convincingly. Her stand on Muslim personal law and Common Civil Code angered many fellow feminists. But no one doubted her integrity as a defender of women’s right to dignified life.

From 1980 to 2006, Vasudha worked in Delhi. She moved to Pune in 2007.

Vasudha was suffering from cancer. In spite of painful existence during last couple of years, she was translating the memoirs of her mother, Geeta Sane from Marathi into English. Vasudha was
highly respected in Maharashtra. She has left her permanent mark as a sincere, committed, honest and pro people lawyer of our country.

**IMPORTANT NEWS THIS QUARTER**

Lack of clarity on 'early marriage' cause for India not sponsoring UN child marriage

resolution: MEA

PTI : New Delhi, Tue Jan 07 2014, 17:25 hrs

India stopped short of co-sponsoring a first-of-its-kind United Nations resolution on eliminating "early marriage" due to a lack of greater legal clarity, the External Affairs Ministry said in a reply to an RTI application.

The Resolution on 'Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: Challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps', was adopted by consensus at the 24th Session of the Human Rights Council held between September 9-27, 2013, in Geneva, Switzerland.

India supported the resolution, and even made a strong statement in its favour, but refused to join it as a co-sponsor.

"The resolution calls for preventing and eliminating child and forced marriages since their existence goes against the principles of human rights. India has been completely supportive of this call. However, the resolution also calls for preventing and eliminating 'early marriage'.

"The concept of 'early marriage' is nowhere defined and it is debatable whether early marriages can be 'eliminated' if such a marriage is above the legal age for marriage as per the law of the land, i.e. 18 years in the case of India.

"Consequently, there was need for greater legal clarity for such a term and its usage before it could be co-sponsored by India," the MEA said in its response to an RTI query.

Co-sponsoring would have meant endorsement of certain terms, on the legal implications of which there was no clarity and which may well have contradicted our own laws, the Ministry said in explanation for its stand.

The RTI petitioner, Venkatesh Nayak, who works for Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), had sought information on how MEA had arrived at the decision to not co-sponsor the resolution.

"Co-sponsorship would normally mean that we endorse all aspects of the resolution without reservation," the reply said.
India co-sponsored three resolutions - on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal, local government and human rights, and equal political participation - at the September, 2013, meeting of the UN Human Rights Council.


**Concern Over Land Ownership by Women**

*By Express News Service – BHUBANESWAR, Published: 12th January 2014 10:28 AM*

Experts lamented the fact that only ten per cent of women own land in the country despite numerous policies and amendment in Hindu Succession Act in 2005 that provides inheritance rights to women on their parental agricultural land.

They were participating in a State level media workshop titled ‘A Land of my Own - A campaign for women’s right over property’ organised by Landesa in partnership with Oxfam India. “There is a need to recognise women as farmers and their entitlements as agricultural producers,” said regional manager of Oxfam AK Biswal. State Director, Landesa, Sanjoy Patnaik spoke about implementation gaps and barriers to women’s access to land.

http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/Concern-Over-Land-Ownership-by-Women/2014/01/12/article1996154.ece#.UweytvIdWqQ

**‘ONLY TEN PER CENT INDIAN WOMEN OWN LAND’**

*The pioneer Saturday, 11 January 2014 | SNIGDHA NANDA | BHUBANESWAR*

Despite numerous policies and amendment in Hindu Succession Act, 2005 that provides inheritance rights to the Indian women on their parental agricultural land, the law has remained a non-starter with just 10 per cent of women having been able to own land in the country.

Aimed at elevating the land rights issue of rural women, Landesa in partnership with Oxfam India organised a State level media workshop titled, ‘A land of my own at Bhubaneswar’ on January 10.

The workshop discussed about a campaign for women’s right over property and issue of recognition of women farmers in official policy and women’s inheritance rights.

“Intervention is necessary to improve the situation for women. There’s a need to recognise women as farmers and their entitlements as agricultural producers,” said Oxfam India regional manager Akshaya Kumar Biswal.

Speaking on the occasion, noted journalist Manipadma Jena highlighted the role of media in elevating the issue of women’s land rights which serve as foundation to address family’s food security and nutrition. She mentioned that land titles enable women access social security and welfare entitlements, particularly those who become de-facto household heads due to male
migration, abandonment and divorce. She discussed about the importance of land rights for women who live in disaster-prone coastal areas of Odisha.

Participating in the discussion, Doordarshan Director Jayanti Rath discussed about importance of women’s land rights and women collectives’ asset management.

Landesea State director Sanjoy Patnaik elaborately discussed about the implementation of the law and the gaps and barriers to women’s access to land.

Eminent journalists and feature writers participated in the discussion to reinforce the issue of women land rights and women farmers.


Radio-over-phone 'Gramvani' aims to eliminate child marriage

Deccan Herald, New Delhi, Jan 9, 2014, (PTI)

'Gramvani' - a radio-over-phone platform in rural hinterland of Bihar and Jharkhand aims to set a perfect example of technology leading to social change, more specifically eliminate the social evil of child marriage.

Breakthrough, a global human rights organisation came up with the project as part of its 'Nation Against Child Marriage' campaign in August 2013. Encouraged by the response during its pilot stage running, the organisation has reintroduced the popular radio-tie up in Jharkhand and Bihar from January to March this year.

Built on an interactive voice response system, 'Gramvani' allows people to call into a number and leave a message about their community or listen to messages left by others.

Shobha S V, the project's multimedia manager says the project is aimed at involving the people in a dialogue that is crucial for bringing in any social change. "In tune with how technology can be used to bring about social change by reaching wide sections of people, we have designed the mobile radio Gramvani that caters to the rural populace of Jharkhand, Bihar and other areas. "It is important to engage people to bring about any real change. Through this start up, they listen to the various audio interviews, radio drama and discussion programs related to child marriage. They can also record their suggestions and queries and get back to us, thus making the conversation two-way and more effective," she explains.

Such a program comes in the wake of a recent report by Unicef stating that in South Asia, nearly half the number of girls who married early belonged to India. The figures claim that twenty-three million girls in India face the imminent threat of child marriage. Child marriage in the country has been estimated to be decreasing at less than one per cent a year. Working on a range of issues like health, infant mortality agriculture, domestic violence
and gender issue, 'Jharkhand Mobile Vani' or 'Gramvani' aims to expand its ambit of broadcast and is currently working on a mechanism that allows the system to report cases of child marriage to the authority.

Meghna Rao, Campaign Manager of the project says they aim to make the radio project more robust. "Till now, the people shared their experiences of child marriage with us and we tried to make them aware about the ill effects of the practice. We are designing the next step of this project i.e. the reporting mechanism where we can figure out a way of registering such cases to the officials and prevent such dastardly acts to take place," she says. Talking about the statistics and the findings during the research for the project since the past four years, Meghna says they found out that people practice child marriage out of the extreme fear for the safety of their girl child.

"While most of the women who called us believed that child marriage should not exist, around 80 per cent of the men say that they fear for the safety of their daughters. They prefer to marry off the girls at quite a young age than risking their lives," she says. Sonali Khan, Vice President of the Delhi chapter of Breakthrough hints at taking the project to more avenues and tying up with more advocacy groups to root out the problem of child marriage from India.

"As part our effort to strengthen Gramvani, we are training volunteers from the rural areas to report cases of child marriage from their respective localities and take schools closer to girls so that they can break the barrier of distance.

"We are also keen on tying up with Unicef and the Centre which has shown an active interest in our campaigns to spread the message of 'Nation Against Child Marriage' even further." Gramvani currently running in Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Jamtara districts of Jharkhand and 15 districts of Bihar can be reached with the ten digit phone number.

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/379470/radio-over-phone-039gramvani039-aims.html#top

Official nod legitimises child marriages in Koppal
Bheemasena Chalageri Koppal:

Nipped in the bud: Marriages of minors are rampant in the State
It appears that preventing child marriage is not child's play in the district. Lack of awareness and some government officials giving age certificates in violation of laws are among factors encouraging the illegal practice.
In recent times, more couples below the legal age for marriage entering wedlock in mass marriage programmes is causing concern among activists working to prevent child marriages. According to a survey, one major reason why people get their wards married in mass wedding programmes is the inducements given by organisers. The allurements come in the form of
clothes for the bride and groom, ‘thali’ and free food for invitees from the side of both the bride and the groom.
The marriage of a whopping 44.7 per cent of girl children takes place in their teens, says the report of the district level health survey conducted in 2008. Poverty and lack of awareness among the people are the other factors responsible for the growing number of child marriages.
As many as 900 couples entered marital life between November 2010 and April 2011 in the district. Of these, 97 couples were below the legal age for marriage, said Harish Jogi, co-ordinator for children’s protection training programme of Unicef.
However, the silver lining to an otherwise dark cloud, according to Jogi, is that the number of child marriages in the district has come down to 10 per cent of the total marriages, from 20 to 25 per cent five years ago, thanks to the concerted efforts of the various departments.
The trend is more pronounced in Koppal, Yalburga and Kushtagi taluks of the district. In Gangavathi taluk, those conducting child marriages have found an ‘escape route’. The fear of being caught has led the organisers to send the clothes, ‘thali’ and other gifts to the homes of the brides and the grooms, where the marriages are conducted.
Some officials are doling out age certificates for those brides and grooms getting married below the legal age, even though they do not have the authority to issue the certificates. Such officials include the panchayat development officers and the Gram Panchayat (GP) secretaries. The GP secretaries are authorised to issue only the certificates of one’s place of residence. Revenue officials say that only the school records or the certificates issued by the office of the registrar of births and deaths are valid proof of age. The affidavits issued by the courts are also considered valid proof of age. But officials have started a rather illegal practice of mentioning the age of the bride or groom in the certificate of the place of residence, they say.
One such instance was detected at Kuknoor in the district on April 28, when a child marriage was being conducted at a mass marriage programme. It is important that the GP secretaries and the panchayat development officers are told in no uncertain terms that they are not empowered to issue age proof certificates, say activists. The time for the authorities concerned to act is now, they add.

**Supreme Court Muslims right to adopt a child**
Wednesday, 19 February 2014 14:20

New Delhi, Feb 19: The Supreme Court Wednesday said that Muslims can adopt a child under the juvenile justice law as its enforcement could not be impeded by the Muslim personal law. The apex court bench headed by Chief Justice P. Sathasivam said that the rules framed under juvenile justice law were an enabling provision which is applicable to all religions and communities and the same could not be frustrated by personal religious beliefs.
The court said this on a petition by a social activist Shabnam Hashmi who had sought the framing of guidelines by the adoption of children by the people belonging to all religions and communities.
Government offer on Women’s bill

Thursday, February 20, 2014

New Delhi, Feb. 19: The Centre today expressed readiness to extend the current Parliament session to pass the women’s reservation bill after MP Jaya Prada raised the issue and contrasted the delay on it with the government’s resolve on Telangana.

“If the government can make so much effort to get the Telangana bill passed, why can’t it show the same commitment to the women’s reservation bill? What is the government’s intention,” the actress-turned-MP, an unattached member, said in the Lok Sabha.

Her demand was supported by members of the Left, Trinamul, Biju Janata Dal and some from the Congress. Jaya, a Samajwadi MP from Uttar Pradesh, was expelled from the party along with Amar Singh.

The Mulayam Singh Yadav-led party opposes the bill, which seeks to reserve a third of the seats for women in legislatures, in its current form and says there should be separate quotas for Dalits and other weaker sections in the legislation.

Without naming her former party, Jaya said “some parties don’t want this bill to be passed”. “But the government can make efforts.”

This prompted parliamentary affairs minister Kamal Nath to declare that the government was ready to extend the current session, the last of the 15th Lok Sabha, to pass the bill. The session ends on Friday.

“The government is ready to extend the session if the House agrees and pass the bill,” Nath said.

The bill was introduced by UPA I in May 2008 and passed by the Rajya Sabha in March 2010. It has not been brought to the Lok Sabha yet despite pledges of support from the Congress and the BJP.

It was listed on the agenda of this session too but, given the lack of time and divisions in parties, it has little chance of being pushed if the House winds up on schedule on Friday.

Today, Janata Dal (United) leader Sharad Yadav, who is also opposed to the legislation, pitched another issue — reservation for OBCs, SCs and STs in the faculty of super-speciality hospitals — to counter the clamour for the women’s bill. He accused the Centre of having failed to bring a constitutional amendment to annul a Supreme Court order on hospitals.

“It is pain to stand up and raise the same issue again. We (backward castes) are more in number than you (upper castes). You did the same thing on the issue of caste census,” Sharad said, adding the women’s quota cry was ploy to deprive women from the weaker sections.

Sharad’s demand drew support from several members cutting across party lines, including the Congress, BJP, Samajwadis, BSP and the DMK.
New guidelines for sensitive handling of rape victims
Written by Anuradha Mascarenhas | Pune | March 17, 2014 1:53 am; Indian Express

The Union Health Ministry has come out with a new set of guidelines in a bid to ensure that victims of sexual assaults are sensitively handled and also asked for thorough documentation of medical evidence to help better conviction rate in rape cases.

The fresh guidelines, protocols and standard operating procedures for care, treatment and rehabilitation of the surviours of sexual violence will implemented in all public and private health facilities across the nation. The new set of rules will formally be announced at a joint event organised by the Ministry and the World Health Organisation on March 19 in New Delhi. The new protocols translate into practice the recommendations of the Justice J S Verma committee and conforms with the WHO’s guidelines for medico-legal services for victims of sexual violence.

The Ministry took the initiative under the then secretary Keshav Desiraju and Human Rights Watch researcher Aruna Kashyap, advocate Vrinda Grover, Additional Solicitor General N Indira Jaisingh, NIMHANS psychiatrist Shekhar Sheshadri, forensic medicine expert Dr. Jagadeesh Reddy and Centre for Enquiry Into Health and Allied Themes coordinator Padma Deosthali were among the members of the committee set up to frame the guidelines. Shakuntala D Gamlin, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, told The Indian Express, “It is incumbent on every government hospital in the country to treat rape victims free of charge, even post-treatment will have to be gratis.” The guidelines have appealed to every private hospital for free treatment of rape victims as part of their corporate social responsibility.

The guidelines are essentially aimed at doctors and while they have especially been drawn up for rape cases, it can be used in other cases of sexual violence, Desiraju told The Indian Express. Grover noted that the panel took cognisance of the lack of uniform protocols and gaps in provision of medico-legal care to survivors of sexual violence as per CrPC 164.

For the first time the guideline spells out do’s and don’ts — for instance, it is no longer relevant to check elasticity of the vagina and anus. The new protocol for medical examination is in line with the new law that has expanded the definition of rape, Grover added.

Visakha norms to guide Sexual Harassment Act
March 21, 2014 00:33 IST
The recently-passed Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 aims to address the issue of gender equality and is not just limited to instances of sexual harassment, speakers at a day-long workshop held here on Thursday, said. The workshop was held by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) – Indian Women Network (IWN) to sensitise its members about the provisions of the Act.

Sexual harassment is a part of the greater aspect of gender discrimination and should hence be seen as a violation of women’s fundamental rights, said Purnima Kamble, partner at law firm
Fox Mandal and Associates. The Act entrusts the responsibility of ensuring the safety of women staff to the employers, but it should be viewed in a larger perspective according to the Vishaka guidelines laid down by the apex court in 1997, she said.

“Following the passage of the Act, many organisations have established Internal Complaints Committees (ICC) to investigate complaints regarding sexual harassment by women employees. But not many ICC members know the power vested with these committees,” Ms. Kamble observed.

ICC has powers that can make or break the career of a person and hence, before filing their findings and recommendations, the members should know the background in which the Act was passed as these findings can be reviewed by a court of law, she cautioned.

“The Act still has some grey areas and it is the Vishaka guidelines which the ICC members should fall back to resolve these issues,” she explained.

To ensure that the provisions of the Act are followed in spirit, the organisations should conduct periodic counselling sessions to all their employees, Convenor of IWN and Deputy Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Lakshmi Lingam said.

“Women employees should be encouraged to approach the ICC as soon as they find wrong intentions among male colleagues and targeted counselling should also be given to male employees to sensitise them about the problems faced by women employees,” she observed.

**The statistics of gender bias**

*25th March 2014, the Hindu*

*The extent of violence against the girl as foetus and infant shows how deep the bias against women is and why they will be secure only if India introspects and changes targeted from birth: The World Bank estimated that over the last two decades, around 2.5 lakh girls were killed in India each year, because of their gender.— Photo: S.R. Raghunathan*

Over the next few weeks, there will be many tussles between our mostly male politicians over India’s security. But almost no one will ask if a country can be secure when half its citizens live in deepening insecurity, threatened not by terrorists or enemy soldiers but by the society into which they are born. We seem to forget that India’s security must encompass the security of 48 per cent of its citizens — women — and urgently address the endemic threats they face, ranging from entrenched discrimination to violence.

This starts with the mass murder of female foetuses. In its 2012 report on “Gender Equality and Development,” the World Bank estimated that over the last two decades, around 2.5 lakh girls were killed in India each year because of their sex.

When infant and child mortality are driven by biology, fewer girls die than boys, but the third National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) found that the postneonatal mortality rate for Indian girls is 21/1000, compared with 15 for boys. For the age group 1-4 years, “the child mortality
rate for girls, at 23/1000, is 61 per cent higher than for boys, at 14.” The World Bank report estimated that, as a result, India lost another 2.5 lakh girls in 2008. These figures put us to shame as a society. This systematic massacre could not happen unless society accepted it and governments turned a blind eye to it. Sections 312 to 317 of the Indian Penal Code list the punishments for causing miscarriage, injuring unborn children, preventing a child from being born or causing it to die after birth, and abandoning a child under 12 years. Over the last 20 years, how many prosecutions have there been under these provisions of the law? There should have been 10 million.

**Entrenched bias**

The extent of the violence against the girl as foetus and infant shows how deep the bias in India is against women and why women will be secure only if we as a nation introspect and change. Not only is this not happening, but the 2011 census shows that the sex ratio in the age-group 0-6 had fallen in 27 States and Union Territories from 2001. Millions of girls who are allowed to live are fed and educated less than their brothers. The United Nation’s Human Development Report 2013 estimates that 42.5 per cent of our children suffer from malnutrition (as against 3.8 per cent in China). There is also great irony in this because NFHS-3 established that when mothers were undernourished, 54 per cent of their children were stunted and 25 per cent wasted. The more educated they were, the lower the chance of their children being either stunted or wasted. By starving millions of girls so that their brothers can eat marginally better, and by taking them out of school, we have condemned each new generation – boys and girls – to a fresh cycle of malnutrition.

The treatment of little girls moulds the psyche of their brothers, who internalise the view that their needs — as males — have preference over those of their sisters. What we have come to thereby is the socialisation of violence against women.

There are no estimates of the extent of physical violence against the girl child but it would be reasonable to assume that it is extensive.

In 2007, the Ministry of Women and Child Development published a “National Study on Child Abuse,” which reported that 53 per cent of the children interviewed had suffered one or more forms of sexual abuse. It would be dangerous to extrapolate from this limited study that over half our children suffer sexual abuse, but it is clearly far more widespread than we admit. What should be of the gravest concern was that in most cases the children reported that the attack was by someone they knew, often a close relative.

Data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) confirms that this pattern continues as the girl becomes a woman. Since the NCRB can only collate cases registered, its data represent just the tip of the crime iceberg. But it reports that in 2012 there were 24,923 cases of rape registered. In 98 per cent of the cases, the victims knew the offenders. This is a logical outcome of a nurturing process in which boys grow up believing, from what they see in their families, that women exist only to satisfy the needs of men.

Society still resists change. NFHS-3 found that the median age for marriage for girls is still just over 16, and commented that this “is an indicator of the low status of women...it is related to
lower empowerment and increased risk of adverse reproductive and health consequences.” There is enough data to show how adverse these are.

Women, particularly poor women, are most insecure in childbirth when they fulfil the role society has set for them. According to the Millennium Development Goals, maternal mortality in India which was 301 per lakh of live births in 2001 should be down to 75 by 2015. This will not happen. We are perhaps down to a maternal mortality rate of 200 now. At 27 million live births in India each year, at least 54,000 women die in the process.

We also perhaps do not realise how other problems have a compounding effect. We are, for instance, the world leaders in open defecation. That is being perpetuated in most States where, despite a requirement that all houses built under the Indira Awas Yojana must have a toilet, very few do. Open defecation is also an open invitation to rape. Complaints to the NHRC show how many women are abducted or raped when they go out into the fields at night. In many States, teenage village girls either refuse to go to school or are taken out by their parents because the building has no toilet and their right to education suffers.

It is sad but to be expected that women have also been indoctrinated to believe that their security depends on good behaviour, as mandated by men. NHFS-3 found that 40 per cent of married women have been subjected to spousal violence. But it also found that 54 per cent of the women it surveyed agreed that wife-beating was acceptable if the wife went out without telling her husband, argued with him, refused sex, neglected the children, did not cook properly, was suspected of being unfaithful or showed disrespect toward her in-laws. On this, NFHS-3 said: “Violence is more likely to be justified if the described behaviour violates what is perceived as acceptable behaviour for women in their gendered roles as wives, mothers and daughters-in-law.”

**Obvious acts of violence**

And then there are the more obvious acts of criminal violence against women. There is the enormous problem of trafficking; the special insecurities of women in conflict zones. Adivasi and Dalit women are branded as witches. There are the continuing tragedies of forced marriages, of girls being killed for marrying boys of their choice or for not bringing in enough dowry, the needless hysterectomies under the Rashtriya Swasth Bima Yojana.

Within society as between states, security depends on power. The weakest are the most insecure. Women in India are insecure and remain at risk because in this patriarchal society they are children of a lesser god. For women to be secure, the country must change — there should be more women in Parliament and in positions of political and executive authority. Every election brings with it hope of renewal, but India will not be transformed, it cannot be secure, developed or respected if the democracy in which it takes pride does not bring about urgent and fundamental change in the lives of its women.

*(Satyabrata Pal was a Member of the National Human Rights Commission.)*

**It is sad that women have also been indoctrinated to believe that their security depends on good behaviour, as mandated by men**
Women's groups demand passage of quota Bill

Calling for action, women activists Jagmari Sangwan, Shabnam Hashmi and Ranjana Kumari said women comprise nearly 50 per cent of India’s population yet they continue to be under-represented in all aspects of politics. The marginalisation of women from politics is clear as today, with only 10.9 per cent of the parliamentary seats being held by women and women making up less than one per cent of ministers and four per cent of the negotiators in major development processes, they said.

Annie Raja, a senior CPI leader and Shobha Ozha, national president of the All India Mahila Congress, stood in solidarity of the purpose and stressed that all political parties need to come together and pass the Bill.

The demand for Women's Reservation Bill being passed in the current session of the Lok Sabha, is also being rallied through a strong online and mobile push to connect to the youth, particularly women. A number of partners have been brought together for online advocacy engagement. There is a petition under way on Change.org. A toll-free hotline has also been set up by Gramvani for people to support the demand.

The idea is to back the digital presence among the youth to make the 33 per cent quota a reality and make the online campaign visible.
Women groups release gender manifesto for coming general elections

Call to address women’s issues by decision-making bodies at all levels

Activists prepare gender manifesto

New Delhi: Despite a woman being at the helm in Delhi, the assembly elections are not a poster event for gender equality. This year, a miserable 3% of candidates are women, a drop from 8% in the 2008 elections. Now, for the first time, women’s groups have come together to prepare a gender manifesto.

The manifesto includes development of legal frameworks that would ensure gender equality within political parties, development and effective implementation of women-friendly legislations, implementation of all of Justice Verma committee recommendations, and effective utilization of the Nirbhaya fund.

For the first time, a gender manifesto for Delhi assembly poll

Manifesto calls for political parties to take their responsibilities towards Indian women seriously and take steps to guarantee gender equality in all sectors of society. This democratic struggle has gone on for 17 long years, and it is high time the political parties wake up to their responsibilities. "The manifesto calls on political parties to take their responsibilities towards Indian women seriously and make serious efforts to guarantee gender equality in all sectors of society. This democratic struggle has gone on for 17 long years, and it is high time the political parties wake up to their responsibilities," said Ramjana Kumari, the manifesto coordinator. Kumari added that the government must fulfill its obligation to table the women’s reservation bill in the winter session of parliament.

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Membership Values

WPC Members add diversity, at multiple levels, which is a cornerstone to the organization’s existence and functioning. WPC members are dedicated to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and women's rights across the country and help in achieving one of the missions of WPC; which is to be a National level representative body for building a sustaining community of vibrant members to work towards advancement of women in India.

Become a Member

WomenPowerConnect serves as a network, membership-based organization with individual and institutional members from across all states of the country. WPC was born out of the realization that despite substantial grassroots efforts, women’s organizations and groups in India lacked the co-ordination necessary to translate those efforts into legislative and policy outcomes necessary for true progress.

Although parliamentarians were interested in addressing women’s concerns, the information being supplied to them by grassroots organizations was vast and incoherent. A national level advocate was needed to bridge the gap between grassroots activism and policy outcomes. WPC arose as a unified voice for women’s organizations. It effectively and systematically advocates on women’s issues to the Indian parliament and government.

With WPC, the members can work to ensure that women’s rights advocates, organizations and movements continue to drive political, social and economic change to ensure rights for women and girl children.

In Case you are interested in being associated with WPC and its network you can fill the membership form and send it to us. Please find the Form Below:

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Name (in full)

Address for communication
City__________________________ Pin code:_____________________ State _______________________________

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(mobile) ___________________________________ E-mail: ______________________________________________________________

Designation with ____________________________________________________________________________________________

Address of Organization Represented
In Full (If organizational member)_________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ________________

Type of Membership (Please Tick Box to Indicate type applicable)

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Bank and Branch____________________________

• All cheques / DD to be made in favour of WomenPowerConnect
• Outstation cheques should carry an additional amount of Rs. 40/-

Please indicate which committee you would like to be associated with. Tick not more than 2 options

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