

# 2024-25

## GENDER

# SAFMA ACTIVITIES

SAFMA's relentless efforts in the field of advocacy of GENDER with thrust on Prevention of Gender Based Violence.

In partnership with PARI (People Against Rapes in India), a movement addressing sexual violence, initiated Project '**Violence Against Women- Prevention, Redressal And Rehabilitation**' with donation from Milap Social Ventures crowd funding app for purpose of Rehabilitation & Financial assistance to Victims of Gender Based Violence/Rape and Awareness Raising & Prevention. Rehabilitation and financial assistance provided to 45 victims (2024). \*In collaboration with Dharmashastra National Law Univ., (DNLU) Jabalpur Workshop on 'Prevention of Sexual Violence Against Women' held on 23.08.24 inaugurated by Justice Shri H. P. Singh in presence of Vice Chancellor, DNLU. Over 350 students interacted with Speakers - Judge Namita Dwivedi, Asst Director, MPSJA, spoke on Legal aspect of Violence Against Women, Dr. Charu WaliKhanna, President, SAFMA, on GBV and Need for Filing of FIR, Hurdles & the Law; Yogita Bhayana founder PARI & National Convenor SAFMA on Sexual violence & Rehabilitation of Victims. \*Workshop in Village Andhawa, Tehsil Panagar, Jabalpur among SC women & children, Participants (50 no.) including women & children were made aware of the importance of child safety, 'good touch'-'bad touch' & POCSO. During interaction with adolescent girls the primary reason for dropping out of school was identified as harassment by boys. Charity Donation from ASSET INDIA FOUNDATION for purpose of Rehabilitation & Financial assistance to Victims GBV/Rape in which 24 victims supported (Jan-Mar25). One girl supported monthly by us was able to raise over Rs 11 lakh for herself through crowd funding.

\*16.12.24 Convention Kit Bags comprising Folder developed on Cyber Crime, Caps, Books on Prevention of Violence Against Women distributed at "First ever Convention on Prevention of Violence Against Women" dedicated to Nirbhaya. Sessions included Education Reforms; Police reforms; Prevention & Justice; Rehab-ilitation & Support Systems for Victims; Criminal Psychology & Role of Media \*07.03.25 at Women's Day Event, Phoenix Mall, Indore distributed SAFMA Booklet on **DISABILITY- JUSTICE & PREVENTION** alongwith caps to hearing impaired students (100 nos); \*08.03.25 Women's day Workshop at Madhuri Aayaam Education & Welfare Soc, Barakhedi MP (60 able & children with disability).

**Global Presence** SAFMA has taken full advantage of making it's presence felt globally by participating in online international webinars \* 12.06.24 UN web meeting "Stakeholder Briefing on the Intergovernmental Process for the Declaration on Future Generations" in which Designated child advocates were given priority to deliver their interventions before others. \* 05.09.2024 Civil Society Virtual briefing on the Summit of the Future and the Action Days from The Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) & Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) \*14.01.25 Vital Voices Global Network online discussion on the Anti-Authoritarian Playbook-Recommendations of women leaders in the global fight for rights and democracy. *Raised Q - Gender-based trolling is suppressing women's rights in cyber space, particularly affecting girls in rural areas who struggle to express themselves in the first place. What can be done to address this issue?* (103 nos). \*19.03.25 Tech-facilitated Gender based Violence: What Can Law Do? By Vital Voices

## Gender Sensitisation & Legal Literacy Awareness

\*01.05.2024 Hans Raj College, Delhi Univ. on 'Prevention of Sexual Harassment'. Stressed need to foster awareness to avoid incidents from occurring. Clarified doubts on what is UNWELCOME BEHAVIOUR (50 nos) \* 08.05.2024 Lecture to NHRC Online Internship Program (OSTI) interns on "Rights & Issues concerning Women: Interplay of Gender & Human Rights" (80 nos. from different streams - Law, Science, Social Sciences, Political Sciences, History, Economics, Engineering & Human Rights). \* 07.06.2024 Gender



- Counselling and assistance to victims of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (24nos).
- Donation to St. Stephens Hospital Patients Welfare Soc for treatment of ortho-pedically disabled/polio affected children.
- Legal expense to poor mother of sexually abused child.
- Education of 1 orphan girl.
- Medical expenses for 1 kidney patient and 1 minor girl burn case.
- Donation to Madhuri Ayaam Education & Welfare Society, Vill. Barkhedi MP, unique inclusive initiative imparting free education & boarding to girls



SAFMA's efforts in fighting gender based violence includes dowry 2 death cases in Madhya Pradesh-Dist. Rajgarh & Indore. Due to efforts of National Convenor SAFMA Ms Priya Thakur escalating issue to NCW, SP, IG & DLSA, post mortem re-done, govt lawyer provided by State to family to get justice and oppose bail.

We remain dedicated to supporting GBV/rape victims denied Access to Justice & Fair treatment, Compensation & forced to relinquish their right to live with dignity. For enforcement of their fundamental rights under articles 14 & 21 of Constitution of India SAFMA filed Writ Petition (Crl) 514/22. (Pending)

Sensitisation Training on "Empowering Women in the Workplace: Awareness of POSH Act" for NHRC officers & staff, New Delhi (80 nos.) \*03.07.2024 Trained officers of Indian Defence Service on 'Prevention of Sexual Harassment at work place' and Rule- Regulations under the CCS CCA Rules. (17 nos) \*28.09.2024 President SAFMA spoke on condition of women workers at 'The Status of Manual Scavenging in India' organized by Adhyayan Foundation for Policy & Research (AFPR) and HRDI. (45 nos) \*14.12.24 Human Rights Day at Baha'i House of Worship, New Delhi. President SAFMA spoke on 'Rape a grave & systematic human rights violation & manifestation of GBV against women' (50 nos) \*07.03.25 President SAFMA spoke on 'Breaking Gender Barriers' at Phoenix Mall, Indore MP (500 nos)

**Law & Women's Rights**- SAFMA continues to use the LAW as tool against Gender Based Violence; to provide timely redressal to the victims of the Human Rights Violation, specially those from economically weak & marginalized sections, for enforcement of their fundamental rights Article 14 & 21 of Constitution.

- **SLP(C)15467/2024** in Supreme Court to support Advocate struggling for past over 6 years to receive maternity benefits from Delhi State Legal Services Authority. SAFMA believes that Gender discrimination & denial of maternity benefits to women are a violation of Articles 14, 15(3), 16, 19(1) (g) & 42 of the Constitution which is important for women's personal health and wellbeing of children. Writ Petition(C)11016/2017 in Delhi High Court was supported by SAFMA & argued by President with single Bench giving favorable order directing Respondent to grant maternity benefits to Petitioner. Order was challenged by Respondents in LPA 701/2023, in which order of Single Judge was overturned, hence need for appeal in Supreme Court. (Dismissed)
- **WP(C) 9898/2019** by SAFMA in Delhi High Court for **usage of Hindi** to record victims'/witness depositions in Delhi's 6 District courts including POCSSO courts & JJ BOARDS. In spite of giving evidence in Hindi, testimony is recorded in English thus denying justice & transparency to child victims of sexual assault. (Pending)

**HUMAN RIGHTS** - In furtherance of SAFMA's objective of protection of HUMAN RIGHTS, the following cases have taken up with authorities :

- HEALTH DETERIORATES on receiving 2nd dose of covid vaccine** - National Convenor SAFMA made Complaint to NHRC registered as Case No 874/12/8/2021 regarding Pushpraj Singh Gautam (Home Guard) whose health deteriorated after receiving 2nd dose of covid vaccine. He went missing and after 3 days his body was found in the wash room of the hospital. Sole earning member of family he died leaving behind wife, 3 children and aged parents. Due to follow up of SAFMA the wife Archana Singh Gautam received an amount of Rs 5 lakhs as compensation in May.
- DISCRIMINATORY HIRING PRACTICES AGAINST MARRIED WOMEN** - Complaint to NHRC D.No- 73282/CR/2024- regarding discriminatory hiring practices against married women practiced by Foxconn's biggest iPhone factory in India. As alleged in news report in Times of India dt 27.06.2024 that the systematic exclusion of married women from assembly line jobs. Foxconn, a major supplier for Apple, has been turning away married females. Female participation in the labour force is critical for inclusive and sustainable development of the country. Undeniably in India, female labour force participation is declining and a number of barriers continue to exist for women to enter the labour market and obtain decent jobs. Discrimination on grounds of marital status is prohibited by CEDAW, which has been ratified by India. The State of Tamil Nadu should be held liable to ANSWER as to what measures the state govt has taken to ensure discrimination against women.
- HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION OF CHILDREN IN MP** - Complaint to NHRC Diary No.- 112792/CR/2024 - of human rights violation of children in State of MP who lost their family's sole earning member to Covid-19. During the pandemic, 1,041 children in the State lost both parents to Covid-19 while 8,000 lost one; making this most vulnerable section of society in need of urgent help. Subsequent to which in May 2021, the Chief Minister announced that children who lost their family's sole earning member to Covid-19 would receive 5,000 per month and free education. As per news report, many are being deprived of this monthly financial assistance and have not been getting the money for almost 2 years from state govt. which had been running 2 schemes - Sponsorship Scheme and the Mukhyamantri Bal Ashirwad Yojana. State be held liable to ANSWER as to why the scheme has been stopped. What measures the state govt has taken to ensure that the children's education is not disrupted.
- MANUAL SCAVENGERS (SANITATION WORKERS) RIGHTS VIOLATED:** Complaint to NHRC Diary No. 121041/CR/2024- of human rights violation of manual scavengers who news reports suffocated to death while cleaning a sewer in Delhi. The men were reportedly clearing the sewer line at a construction site managed by NBCC, a public sector undertaking, and had not been provided with safety equipment by NBCC. In the view the above NBCC & NCT of Delhi should be held liable to :-1) EXPLAIN why SAFETY NORMS as per the law were disregarded, ie safety masks, harness belts, helmets, etc ; 2) Provide Information on PRO-ACTIVE STEPS taken to eradicate this practice & encourage mechanisation; 3) What measures has State implemented to PREVENT avoidable fatalities; and 4) Whether COMPENSATION been given to the families of deceased & how much.
- RAISED ISSUE OF WOMEN GIVEN ADULTERATED SALINE IN HOSPITAL LEADING TO DEATH**
- RIGHT TO SAFE MATERNAL HEALTH CARE** - Complaint to MP State HRC DT 02.12.24 reg human rights violation of right to life & health, in Sidhi dist., MP Govt. hospital, on 28.11.24 due to negligence of nursing staff the child of Gudiya Prajapati died after delivery. The nurse was more concerned about her uniform not getting soiled, causing the new born to fall on the floor & die from injuries. MP Govt has legal obligation to ensure women, children, & adolescents have access to highest standard of health care.
- HR VIOLATION & SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN IN MP** reported highest increase in the number of crimes against children





in the country in 2021(NCRB data). The initial days after sexual violence are most critical, a period when the victim needs urgent medical attention, financial support. As per Rule 9 of NALSA Scheme of 2018, inquiry shall be completed expeditiously and not exceed 60 days, a time limit being totally disregarded. As a result for reasons of poverty and lower status, victims coerced to 'compromise and settle.' Request to hold State of Madhya Pradesh liable to :-1. Develop a State Strategy to coordinate and prevent child sexual abuse, aiming to reduce its risk, extent, and impact.2. Expeditious completion of enquiry not exceeding 60 days, preferably within a week in case of poor persons, to facilitate Immediate Disbursal of Compensation or Interim Financial Relief.3. Police, trained and sensitized with the needs of victims, to ensure proper & prompt aid and coordinate with authorities for interim relief.4. Conduct awareness workshops for prevention targeting high risk families/slums.

**CHILD RIGHTS** SAFMA has been working in this field since it's inception and protection of children from sexual violence SAFMA continues provide support to parents of child whose case is registered under S.6 POCSO Act, Punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault, and pending adjudication in POCSO Court Delhi. Workshops conducted in Delhi slums to create awareness on the POCSO Act for both parents & children (80 nos). Donation to International Chandra Mouli Trust, Varanasi, which provide free education, for 500 school uniforms.



## ENVIRONMENT

SAFMA joint a unique plantation drive 'The Happy Plant project' proposed across 53 districts of MP in govt schools, and executed in collaboration with Extra Childhood an IIM-B NSRCEL incubated Media & technology Platform. Aim being to plant 10 lakh trees in 2025; Conducting Seed Ball workshops and organising plantation drives; Nurturing saplings of native fruits and vegetable plants and trees according to the season; Engage local media to cover the event and highlight the importance of environmental conservation; and Incentivize student Participation with distribution of certificates, badges, or special mentions in school assemblies. \* On 21.06.2024 1st event 'Hare Bhare School' conducted at Sarojini Naidu Govt. Girls Higher Sec School, Bhopal with students adopting a plant each (50 no) \*23.08.2024-2nd event at Dharmashastra National Law Univ (DNLU) where students alongwith VC planted 60 plants & took pledge to reverse climate change.



**IPR** SAFMA continues it's efforts in protecting Intellectual Property Rights of Artisans, specifically continuation of registration of BLUE POTTERY AUTHORISED USER /craftsperson given Notice of expiration for Renewal (Authorised User) under Section 18(4) of the Geographical Indications of Good (Registration & Protection) ACT 1999 and Rule 60(1) of Geographical Indications of Good (Registration & Protection) RULES 1999 regarding RENEWAL.

