



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2009 – 2010**



**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**

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[http: www//ncw.nic.in](http://www//ncw.nic.in)



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## PREFACE

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I take great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year 2009-10 of the National Commission for Women as envisaged in Section 13 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

During the year under report, the Commission carried forward the activities of previous year and worked relentlessly towards empowering women by taking up gender issues, suggesting amendments in laws relating to women, taking remedial measures to combat trafficking in women and children, atrocities on domestic workers, generating awareness about women's legal rights, explaining economic opportunities available to them, redressing grievances of women complainants as well as taking *suo-moto* cognizance of incidents of atrocities committed against women with a view to helping women victims.

In accordance with the mandate of the Commission, the Commission reviewed the scheme for Relief and Rehabilitation of victims of rape, suggested amendments in Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 and drafted the Domestic Workers Welfare and Social Security Act, 2010 and discussed alleged misuse of section 498A of IPC.

The Complaints and Investigation Cell, the core unit of the Commission accessed a large number of cases of women in distress for redressal of their grievances. Apart from dealing with the complaints, the Commission also took up investigation of many cases by taking *suo-moto* cognizance or basing on complaints of atrocities, committed against women, such as murder, rape, sexual assault, harassment at work places, dowry death, eve-teasing, NRI marriages, sale of minor girls to foreign nations, police brutality etc. and sent recommendations to the concerned authorities for necessary corrective actions.

During the year 2009-10, the Commission resolved 15985 complaints. The NCW has also started an online registration of complaints through its website so that the Commission can be accessed from the remotest corners of the country.

During the year, the Commission conducted several legal awareness programmes to impart practical knowledge to women about their basic legal rights and remedies provided under various laws. In addition, the Commission also organized Parivarik Lok Adalats, in collaboration with the State Commission for Women or the State/District Legal Services Authorities for providing speedy justice to women.

Besides, the Commission organized several workshops, conferences and consultations and public hearings on issues such as Domestic Violence Act, Female Foeticide, declining sex ratio, maternal health services, impact of armed conflict on women and children in the North East region, empowerment of women, sexual



harassment at work place, human rights of women, role of women in Panchayati Raj institutions, child marriage, rights of tribal women, awareness generation on HIV/AIDS, implementation of Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC &PNDT) Act, etc.

The special activities/programmes initiated by the Commission 'Save the Home Save the Family' continued during the year 2009-2010. The objective of 'Save the Home Save the Family' initiative was to train and sensitize police personnel in dealing with the cases of atrocities against women, emphasise on reconciliation method in cases of marital disputes, implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, complaints under section 498 A, IPC and ensuring proper networking amongst NGOs, NCW etc for the purpose. The programme is being part funded by NCW and implemented in association with the Delhi Police Women Cell.

One of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women (EWC) (14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Plight of Indian Women deserted by NRI husbands' was to evolve a well defined/ coordinated mechanism to deal with the issue of problematic NRI marriages to enable the aggrieved women to get a respectable solution to the problem. This recommendation was deliberated at an Inter Ministerial meeting comprising representatives from Ministries of Overseas Indian Affairs, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Law and Justice, Women and Child Development, National Commission for Women (NCW) and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). It was decided that the National Commission for Women will be the coordinating agency at the national level to receive and process all the complaints related to Indian Women deserted by their overseas Indian husbands. Thus, the NRI Cell was formally inaugurated on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009 to carry out the various activities regarding NRI marriages.

For a decade, the Commission has been working tirelessly for implementation of the long pending legislation for 33 *per cent* reservation for women. In the pursuit, the Commission held a press conference on the Women's Reservation Bill and appealed to political parties to extend support to the Bill.

I would like to record my gratitude for the support given to the Commission by various Ministries of the Government, particularly the Prime Minister's Office for its unflinching support and concern for women as well as the Ministry of Women and Child Development, various state Governments and State Commissions for Women, my own colleagues at the NCW, its officers and staff, who have worked shoulder to shoulder and made it possible to achieve our goals and objectives for the current year.



**GIRIJA VYAS**

*Chairperson*

*National Commission for Women*