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FOREWORD



Awareness about one's basic legal rights is something of paramount importance as law plays a crucial role in everybody's day-to-day life. However, people fail to realize this unless faced by some unwanted and unforeseen situations.

This book is a sincere attempt to spread legal awareness as well as awareness of other relevant issues amongst women as they not only constitute a major part of our population but are also the foundation of every family.

The book revolves around the central character, "Meera Didi", who is a lawyer by profession and a social worker by choice. The idea behind introducing this character is to show that any woman can be a "Meera Didi" with some effort, awareness and initiative.

I acknowledge the efforts made by Ms. GM Padma Priya and Divya Chaturvedi, advocates and Ms Natasha Sanoria, in conceptualizing and in the making of this book and the inputs provided by Shri Yogesh Mehta, Law officer. I hope, this book will help women become aware of their rights and get empowered.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Girija Vyas'.

Girija Vyas
Chairperson

MEMBERS

Ms. Malini Bhattacharya

Member

Retired professor of English, Jadavpur University and retired Director, School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur university, was a member of Lok Sabha from 1989 to 1996 and a member of the Panel of Chairpersons for Lok Sabha. She was also a member of the select Committee on the Pre-natal Diagnostics Test Bill as well as a member of the Select Committee of the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution Bill. A former member of the West Bengal Commission for Women, currently Ms. Bhattacharya is a member of the West Bengal State Planning Board and of the State Advisory Committee on PNDT Act and the Vice-Chairperson of the West Bengal Folk and Tribal Culture Centre.



Ms. Yasmeen Abrar

Member

Is the daughter of a well-known freedom fighter of Rajasthan. A brilliant student, she grew up in a political family. A former Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from 1998-2003, she was also a consultant at Rashtriya Mahila Kosh and has been working for the upliftment of women and children for the last two decades. Ms. Abrar's invaluable experience as a Member of the Mahila Bal Vikas Samiti, Rajasthan, will help her to effectively work as a member of the NCW.



Ms. Neeva Konwar

Member

A former lecturer, worked as a Executive member in Assam Seva Samiti for destitute children and leprosy patients and in Mahila Imdad Committee in Assam. A former Vice-President of the Indian Council of Social Welfare, She was also director of Allahabad Bank as well as the General Secretary, AiMC. She has attended International Conferences in USSR, Singapore, Beijing etc. Ms. Konwar undertook a study tour in New Zealand and Australia. As she has held a number



of important political posts, her experience as an administrator and a social activity will be an asset to the NCW.

Ms. Nirmla Venkatesh

Member

A former Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council. Extremely active in political arena and Congress party. A Social Activist, Ms. Nirmla has been working for the poor and downtrodden for twenty five years. Widely traveled throughout India. Ms. Nirmla's first hand knowledge about the grass-root women of India will stand her in good stead while working in the Commission.



Ms. Manju Snehlata Hembrom

Member

Ms. Manju Snehlata Hembrom, currently, Vice President, All India Mahila Congress, Member AICC Task Force on Naxalite Violence and President, Rashtriya Mahila Sansthan (Jharkhand Unit) has joined the Commission, as a member, on 30th June, 2006.



Hailing from a political family, Ms. Hembrom has been working for the progress and upliftment of women, particularly tribals, for several decades. With her experience in administration and social welfare work, she will be an asset to NCW. We welcome Ms. Hembrom to the Commission.

FROM THE DESK OF THE MEMBER SECRETARY



The Indian Constitution has emphatically enshrined the concept of equality and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex .Art 14 , proclaims equality before the law and ART 15 not merely frowns on discrimination against women but permits favorable treatment to women. The Indian Constitution has shown special compassion for women and grants unreservedly equal status and guarantees equal opportunities to both sexes.

Though the women in our country have, excelled in many fields as freedom fighters, leaders, bureaucrats, sports persons, artists, writers, lawyers etc there are many who remain unaware of their rights.

The National commission for Women endeavors through this publication to reach and empower these sections of our society and impart training and awareness to women, through the legal awareness camps and other mechanisms

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Chatterjee'.

S. Chatterjee