



SAFMA ACTIVITIES

2019-20

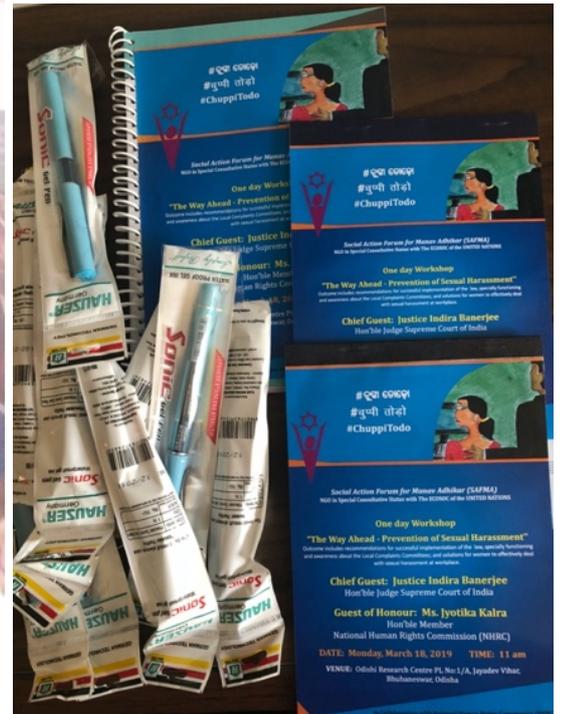
GENDER

SAFMA's relentless efforts in the field of advocacy of GENDER issues continues - focus area being **prevention of sexual harassment at workplace**, a form of gender based violence and discrimination constituting a gross violation of women's rights to equality.



To create an enabling safe working environment for women, resulting in increase in their participation in the labour force SAFMA REPORT “**Status and Functioning of Local Complaints Committees under The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013** and awareness levels among women in the work force” on NHRC website. The aim to study the functioning and procedure followed by the Local Complaints Committees in Delhi, Haryana, and Odisha; whether District Officer has taken measures under S.20 for creation of awareness on sexual harassment and the rights of the women; and empirical research into what extent the women in the work force are aware of what is sexual harassment, extent of harassment and the forum available for redressal of their complaint on being harassed, ie LCC. The Empirical research covered total 743 respondent in Delhi, Haryana, and Odisha.





Chuppi Todo

Handbook for Women “Chuppi Todo” in hindi, odiya and english developed on the law and redressal mechanism under the Prevention of Sexual harassment at Workplace Act, 2013.

GENDER SENSITISATION

In recognition of it's work SAFMA President has been nominated on NHRC sub-committee on CEDAW.

SAFMA collaborated with HRDI-Human Right Defence International (HRDI) on Symposium ‘The slaughterhouse of Wombs’ held on 30.08.19. Discussion was initiated on news reports of 4542 women sugarcane cutter workers of Beed, Maharashtra being compelled to remove their wombs. Speakers included Members NHRC, & NCPDR, Chairperson NCW, Chief Technical Advisor ILO & others.

SAFMA sponsored Essay Competition open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students. About 70 entries were received and cash prizes alongwith certificates were distributed- 1st Prize -Rs 5000; 2nd Prize - Rs 2500; and 3rd Prize - Rs 1000 each for rank holder.





SAFMA made representation at NHRC Second meeting of the Core Group of Women held on 25.10.2019 on topic of declining **Child Sex Ratio (CSR) giving recommendations on Additional Safety & Care Required For Girl Child; Institutional Support on Form of Creche; Woman Not to be Treated as a Liability; and Two Child Policy** be considered, after due debate and discussion incorporating views of stakeholders.

Law & Women's Rights

- In W.P.(C) No.11016/17 in Delhi High Court President SAFMA argued for a woman advocate's right to maternity leave & benefits under The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017.
- Assistance was provided to a Teacher subjected to sexual harassment in registering case with NHRC being No 4836/30/1/2019-WC.
- SAFMA filed writ petition No. WP © 9898/2019 in High Court of Delhi for usage of hindi to record victims'/witness depositions in the 6 District courts in Delhi including POCSO COURTS and the JUVENILE JUSTICE BOARDS, and to take appropriate steps. Regrettably inspite of giving evidence in hindi testimonies are recorded in English, denying justice to victims, a large number being child victims of sexual assault and their families of who have no idea of what has been recorded, nor whether what they deposed has been exactly recorded. The FIR is recorded as stated by victim ie hindi, even recording of statement under CrPC Section 164, is done in the Hon'ble judge's own handwriting in hand, but during their testimony before court the language of recording changes; not surprising that there is a conviction rate of LESS THAN 20% in POCSO judgments of the six courts in Delhi.

- In furtherance of SAFMA's objective of protection of HUMAN RIGHTS of poor and vulnerable sections of society, SAFMA has been continuously bringing to notice of authorities human rights violations as under:-



- **Non Registration Of Fir By Police In Cases Of Rape** : SAFMA requested NHRC to take cognizance and issue notice to all state governments seeking details on the following:- (1) No. of cases state-wise/district wise where allegations of police refusing to register FIR have been made; (2) Number of cases registered under IPC Section 166A against erring local police who refused to register FIR of rape and other forms of gender based violence; (3) What is status of case and how many police have been punished under section 166A IPC; (4) What action has been taken to sensitise police specially in vulnerable areas of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, for when police turn away a woman in distress, especially a rape victim, it has wider social ramifications in a patriarchal society.
- **Human Rights Violation And Economic Deprivation** : Complaint filed with NHRC by SAFMA and on behalf of a poor single mother Ms. SUSAN SUNITA due to the callous denial of entitlements by public sector undertaking MMTC LIMITED.
- **Police Apathy In Investigation Of Murder Case Of Deceased Police** : Complaint filed with NHRC on behalf of mother of deceased, Registered as Diary No: 186053/CR/2019 and File No: 34393/24/76/2019; Notable is FIR No. 230/19 PS Adarsh Mandi does NOT mention date or time of recovery of body nor date/time of identification. The version as recorded by police in FIR is in variance with version given in complaint.
- **Police Apathy in non-registration of FIR in case of poor woman**: Seeking Notice be issued to Police and Dist Education Depart. Uttarkashi.

SAFMA has been working in the field of CHILD RIGHTS since it's inception. Concerned with growing drug addiction among children belonging to poor families submitted is research proposal titled "DRUG ABUSE AND CHILD SAFETY" Dr Ambedkar International Centre, Min. of Social Justice & Empowerment; emphasising that drugs and substance abuse and dependence is becoming a public health crisis in India, specially among young children who start abuse as early as nine years.





SAFMA reiterated its commitment to **ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY** for we believe in the linkage between environment and the right to life as enshrined in the Constitution of India. In every meeting and counseling session with children/women the role of the environment and need for preservation & protection is stressed.

SAFMA continues its efforts in protecting **Intellectual Property Rights of Artisans**, specifically their registration as Authorised Users of registered Geographical Indications Act (GI), besides other issues, like Brand Building & promotion etc. SAFMA in collaboration with RUDA provided assistance to 29 nos. AUTHORISED USER /craftsperson of GI BLUE POTTERY & GI KOTA DORIA who had been given Notice of expiration for Renewal.

SAFMA commitment to elimination of gender based violence is reiterated through free legal representation to victims of gender based violence, including domestic violence, rape and child sexual abuse, with volunteers having counselled and provided assistance to almost 25 women. The charity work being done by SAFMA includes funding of education of 3 children in Jammu and Kashmir through Kashyap Seva Foundation and 1 child in Nanki Public School, Delhi. In addition provided service to the dying and destitute and to serious and terminally ill women; donation to St. Stephens Hospital Patients Welfare Society for treatment of orthopedically disabled/polio affected children donation of woolens to 10 women/girls in polio ward; and donation of providing 60 sets thermal wear (upper & lower) to students from Sant Baba Nagpal Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya Evam Shodh Sansthan, run by Shree Adya Katyayani Shaktipeeth Mandir, Chattarpur.

The success of SAFMA is a manifestation of the growing recognition of the role of SAFMA in promoting its aims and objectives, and it is SAFMA's constant endeavour to serve the vulnerable and marginalised sections of society with commitment and dedication.