

## *Sex Work is Dignified Work*



To,  
Hon. Justice H.L. Dattu,  
Chairperson,  
National Human Rights Commission,  
New Delhi, India.

Sub: Petition by the National Network of Sex Workers regarding police brutality and raids on sex workers in Mumbai on 24-25<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

As per media reports, during the intervening night of Friday 24/5/2019 and Saturday 25/5/2019 Mumbai Police raided Simplex building in Grant Road east and arrested 65 customers and 19 brothel owners. During this violent raid one woman in sex work who tried to escape from the rescuers got injured and is now admitted in a hospital. Police claim to have 'rescued' 141 women in this raid according to [media reports](#).

NNSW condemns any raid by the police that terrorizes sex workers who are in sex work of their own volition. Section 370 IPC is aimed at protecting women and children from being trafficked. It is not targeted at sex workers who practice of their own volition. This clarification was specifically made to the NNSW by the Commission headed by Hon'ble Justice Verma. In its [clarification to NNSW](#), the Commission was categorical the law ought not to be interpreted to permit law enforcement agencies to harass sex workers who undertake activities of their own free will, and their clients.

In the light of this explanation by the Verma Commission of their intention while formulating this law, we demand that the police stop such brutal raids and immediately constitute confidence-building measures among the sex workers such that women do not flee the rescuers. If the intention of the police is to protect women in sex work then they should be proactive about the same rather than terrorize the women into submission. Violent raids are not the answer.

The misuse of anti-trafficking provisions of Section 370 IPC, against adult consenting sex workers and their clients must be condemned. The judiciary needs to take strong action of the misuse of legal provisions that impact the lives of women in sex work

In solidarity,

1. President Kiran Deshmukh, VAMP, Maharashtra Mob- 9665252934
2. Vice President Nisha Gulur, KSWU Karnataka Mob- 9620889944
3. General Secretary P Devi, Me & My world, AP, 9394668555
4. Treasurer Sudhir Patil, Muskan, Maharashtra, Mob-8830451996
5. Joint Secretary Shyamala John, Snehitha Kottayam, KNSW, Kerala, Mob-9744603416
6. Board Members Kokila, Vadamar Tamil Nadu, Mob-8489611958
7. Lalitha Kumari, Jwala Shakti Samuh, Jharkhand
8. Lalitha Satheesh, Sanghmitra, Thrissur - KNSW, Kerala, Mob-9846419380
9. Reena Firoj Khan, Swadhar Sangh, Amlner, Maharashtra, Mob -7798149554
10. Lakshmi, UKMO, Karnataka
11. Seema Sharma, Ganika Mahila Shakti Sanghatan, Nagpur, Maharashtra, Mob-7666076318

**Supporters (NGOs) :**

- Aadhar Bahuddeshiya Sanstha, Amalner
- CIEDS Collective, Bangalore, Karnataka
- Indian Red Cross Society, Nagpur, Maharashtra
- Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanstha (KMVS), Gujarat
- Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM), Maharashtra
- Sangama, Karnataka
- South India AIDS Action Programme (SIAAP), Tamil Nadu
- Srijan Foundation (SRIJAN), Jharkhand
- Vikalp, Gujarat
- Women's Initiatives (WINS), Andhra Pradesh

**Community Based Organisations(CBO):**

- Adarsha Mahila Mandali
- Ankitha Women Development Organisation
- Arshabharath Suraksha Project, Idukki
- Beladingalu Mahila Okkuta, Raichur, Karnataka
- Belaku Mahila Sangha, Dharwad, Karnataka
- Deepam Pengal AIDS Thaduppu Sangam
- Durgashakthi AIDS Thadegattuva Mahila Sangha, Davangere
- Hardasi Sangh, Maharashtra
- Jwala Shakti Samuh (JSS), Jharkhand
- Kanmani Pengal Padhukaapam Matrum AIDS Thaduppu Sangam
- Krishna Vennila Mahila Society, Krishna
- Lakshmi Bhanusri Service and Development Society, Appanveedu, West Goadavari
- Mahila Abhivruddi Mondali
- Mahila Jagrut Sevabhavi Sanstha, Parbhani, Maharashtra
- Mahila Kranti, Uttara Kannada
- Mitra, Maharashtra
- Muskan, Maharashtra
- Navya Sri Public Welfare Society
- Nirangal Federation, Tamil Nadu
- Pratibha Mythri Sangama, Anantpur
- Prema Sangama Mahila Mandali, Chittoor
- Prerna Samajik Sanstha, Vaijapur, Maharashtra
- Punarjani, Pathanamthitta
- Rakshne Jilla Mahila Okkuta, Gadag, Karnataka
- Rudramahila Mahilamandali
- Sadhaney Mahila Sangh
- Sagaratheeram, Mullakal, Alapuzha
- Saheli Sangh, Pune, Maharashtra

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NNSW comprises of 63 organisations across eight states with over 1.5 lakh sex workers members.

## *Sex Work is Dignified Work*



- Sangamira Suraksha Project, Thrissur
- Shakthi CBO, Gokak, Karnataka
- Shyamala Pengal Padhukappam Maatrum AIDS Thaduppu Magalir Munnetra Sangam, Thenkasi
- Siri Mahila Sadhikarika Welfare Society, Kothapet, Guntur
- Sneha Mahila Sangh, Koppala, Karnataka
- Snehita, Kottayam
- Society for Health Rural Empowerment and Education, Idukki
- Soukya Belaku Samudaya Seva Samsthe, Bellary, Karnataka
- Soukya Samudaya Samsthe, Chitradurga, Karnataka
- Spandana Mahila Okkuta, Haveri
- Spandana Sri Maitri Sri Public welfare Society
- Stree Sanghatan, Chota Udaipur, Gujarat
- Sudaroli Pengal Padhukaapam Maatum AIDS Thaduppu Sangam
- Suryagandhi AIDS Thaduppu Maatrum Magalir Munnetra Sangam
- Swagathi Sneha Sangham, Vijaynagaram
- Swaruma Suraksha Project, Ernakulam
- The God Theresa Mahila Mandali
- Vanita Mytri Public Welfare Society
- Vanita Society, Kozhikode, Kerala
- Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad (VAMP), Maharashtra
- Ganika Mahila Shakti Sanghatan, Maharashtra

### **Union**

Karnataka Sex workers Union, Karnataka

### **Federation:**

Vademalar Federation, Tamilnadu

### **Networks:**

Kerala Network of Sex Workers (KNSW), Kerala

Me and My World, Andhra Pradesh

Me and My World, Telengana

Uttara Karnataka Mahila Okkuta (UKMO), Karnataka