

## **BREAKING NEWS**

### **India ignoring UN's recommendations to curb violence against women: Women Activists**

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Experts on Women issues on Tuesday said that India is ignoring the recommendations made by the United Nations on issues of discrimination and violence against women. Speaking to newsmen in the Capital on Tuesday, the experts said that the UN's Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) submitted a report to Indian government July 18, 2014, with recommendations in the areas where government needs to strengthen and amend the laws on discrimination and violence against women. But, the Indian government instead of incorporating the changes and amending the laws raised questions on the very recommendations. These experts gathered to 'debrief media persons on recommendations to India by UN Human Rights bodies on eliminating discrimination and violence against women'. According to lawyer cum Women's rights activist Vrinda Grover, the manner in which India handled the issue at the CEDAW committee meeting, raised doubts about the team's preparedness for the crucial meet. "People lacked the 'seriousness' and their insensitivity towards the issue was quite evident, said Vrinda Grover. "Even when there is a steep rise in the number of crimes against women despite having laws relating to sexual violence, there is little visible impact of the laws at societal and institutional levels. Victim blaming, patriarchal gender stereotypes, institutional apathy and police inaction continue to foster impunity for violence against women," said Grover. She further added, "there is a lack of understanding of the basic issues that can improve the situation of discrimination and violence against women in the country. Though Rashida Manjoo, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (UN SRVAW), presented the report to the UN Human Rights Council out of which the recommendations were made, the way India has responded is extremely shameful," she said.

Another expert Madhu Mehra said that India was more concerned about informing about the policies and laws made by them and not willing to listen to any suggestions. She said that India deplored UN Special Rapporteur's report, whereas there are many inconsistencies in the government's report." The denial mode of the government is a serious cause of concern," she said. The CEDAW has made several suggestions to India including setting up one-stop centers providing women and girls victims of violence and rape with free and immediate access to medical attentions, psychological counseling and legal aid. The UN body has also recommended changes in the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) so that sexual violence against women perpetrated by members of the armed force can be brought under the purview of the ordinary criminal law, and also remove the requirement of the government permission

to prosecute members of the armed forces against the sexual crime. Besides, it recommended, inclusion of women in peace negotiations in the north eastern states, amendment in the Section 19 of the Protection of Human Rights Act and conferring powers to the NHRC to investigate cases against armed force personnel currently not allowed by AFSPA, especially cases of violence against women.

All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch general secretary Asha Kotwal, said that the issue of caste based gender violence has always been ignored by the government saying it is a domestic issue."The Indian government is not even willing to listen to the recommendations made regarding handling the caste-related crimes against women," said Asha Kotwal.

Link: <http://ngonewsworld.com/women/407-india-ignoring-un-s-recommendations-to-curb-violence-against-women-women-activists>