

[Seven new BEST services from November 1](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/new-best-services-from-november-1/articleshow/24560592.cms)
[/articleshow/24560592.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/new-best-services-from-november-1/articleshow/24560592.cms)

sexual harassment committees in all institutions, which have long been awaiting implementation.

The draft and the process of drawing it up have elicited strong protests from several womens' groups across the country, many of whom believe new pieces of legislation are futile till existing laws are implemented effectively. A rights-based approach was incorporated comprehensively in the Justice Verma committee report and activists believe the [rush](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/rush) to draft a new bill could be politically motivated, given the upcoming general elections.

However, Charu Walikhanna, an NCW member who is spearheading the initiative, said the draft bill was an attempt to take forward the Verma committee's work to address not only violence against women, but also issues of discrimination faced by women. She claimed the NCW plans to hold regional consultations before finalising [the bill](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/the-bill) which is scheduled to be readied before the winter session in December.

But womens' groups point out that public opinion is often a farce, given that they were given a day's notice for the first such meeting to discuss the draft. "More work needs to go into the preparation of such a document to ensure it is comprehensive in its approach. It can't be done in a few weeks," said Sudha Sundaraman, president of the All India Democratic Women's Association. She believes the draft needs to draw much more from best practices of other countries. South [Africa](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/africa) for instance, has women's rights mandated as part of its constitutional provisions.

Sadhana Arya of the Saheli Women Resource points out that the NCW has often shied away from taking a critical stand on women's issues, questioning the hypocrisy behind drawing up such documents.

"We've got our hands filled with three new laws that demand a lot in order to deliver. We also know from past experience that new laws and structures don't get implemented on their own, but require intense engagement," says Madhu Mehra, executive director of Partners for Law in Development, Delhi, citing how the new law on sexual harassment at the workplace for instance, stipulates the creation of local and district complaints committees across India, which in itself will demand intensive follow-up. "Without these mechanisms the law will remain non-functional. To talk about a Bill of Rights at such a juncture only diverts and dissipates the collective energy needed to pursue the implementation of the new laws," she added. Mehra said it is essential to have clarity and discussion on the reasons behind drafting yet another 'aspirational document'.



ALSO WATCHED VIRAL VIDEOS



<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/reservation-bill-can-be-first-step-towards-equality-before-law-brs-mlc-k-kavitha/videoshow/98652427.cms>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/depth-is-the-rajasthan-right-to-health-bill-a-revolutionary-as-it-sounds-and-why-are-doctors-up-in-arms/videoshow/99007970.cms>

VIEW MORE VIDEOS >

ADVERTISEMENT

Aim to achieve your dreams

AD Start an SIP today [KNOW MORE](#)

TRENDING STORIES

IN CITY ENTIRE WEBSITE

- [Tattoo helps nab man on run for 15 years in Mumbai...](#)
- [Teen in remand alleges sexual harassment by woman teacher in...](#)
- [Live: Maha records 198 Covid-19 cases, zero fatalities...](#)
- [Mumbai sees highest tuberculosis detections in 2022 as 'missing' case...](#)
- [School bus fees set to rise 15-20% from April in Mumbai...](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

