

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE PUNJAB STATE WOMEN COMMISSION HELD ON 20th April, 2007 AT 11.00 A.M.,
4th Floor, MINI SECRETARIAT, SECTOR 9, CHANDIGARH UNDER THE CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF CHAIRPERSON,
PUNJAB STATE WOMEN COMMISSION.

The following persons attended the meeting :-

1. Ms. Parminder Kaur, Chairperson, Punjab State Women Commission.
2. Mr. Sarvesh Kaushal, Member Secretary, Punjab State Women Commission.
3. Mr. Narinderjit Singh, Secretary Social Security & Women & Children Development, Punjab attended the meeting as Special Invitee.
4. Mr. B.K. Uppal, IPS, DIG, Crime, as representative of DGP, Punjab.
5. Ms. Surinder Kumari, Dy. Director, Social Security, Punjab, as representative of Director Social Security, Punjab.
6. Ms. Shakuntala, Superintendent, Social Security.
7. Ms. Amarjit Kaur Bhullar, Member, Punjab State Women Commission.
8. Ms. Jatinder Kaur, Member, Punjab State Women Commission.
9. Ms. Barjinder Kaur, Member, Punjab State Women Commission.

S.No.	Agenda Item	Decision Taken
1.	Re-organisation / strengthening of PSWC on the lines of NCW :	The proposal was approved in principle. It was decided to take the matter with the Government to set up four Cells in PSWC. Secretary Social Security pointed out to study the financial implications of the proposal.
1.a	Constitution of the following Cells on the pattern of National Commission for Women (NCW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>COMPLAINTS AND COUNSELING CELL</i> <i>Enquiry Committees</i> <i>Success Stories</i> <i>Statistical Overview of Complaints</i> • <i>LEGAL CELL</i> <i>Legal Amendments Proposed</i> <i>New Bills / Laws Proposed</i> <i>Important Court Interventions</i> <i>Legal Awareness Programmes</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-left: 100px;"> Note: Covered under Section 5 read with Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001. </div>	

S.No.	Agenda Item	Decision Taken
	<p><i>Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats (PMLA)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>RESEARCH AND STUDIES CELL</i> <i>Seminars, Workshops and Conferences</i> <i>Public Hearings</i> <i>Special Studies</i> <i>Expert Committees</i> <i>Important Issues taken up by NCW</i> • <i>PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL</i> 	
1.b	<p>Commissioning of PSWC Website and outsourcing a webmaster through the Department of Information Technology</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>Covered by Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p> </div>	<p>It was decided to commission the Website of the PSWC on the pattern of National Commission for Women (NCW).</p>
1.c	<p>Online Complaint Registration :Proposed Complaints Registration System Instructions</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>Covered under Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p> </div> <p>The Complaints and Counseling Cell of the commission will processes all the complaints whether received orally, written or suo moto. In the NCW, the complaints received relate to domestic violence, harassment, dowry, torture, desertion, bigamy, rape, refusal to register FIR, cruelty by husband, deprivation, gender discrimination and sexual harassment at work place.</p> <p><i>The complaints are proposed to be dealt with as below :-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Investigations by the police are expedited and monitored.</i> • <i>The matters are brought to the notice of various state authorities to facilitate action.</i> • <i>Family disputes are resolved or compromised through counseling.</i> • <i>As per the 1997 Supreme Court Judgment on Sexual Harassment at Workplace, (Vishakha Vs. State of Rajasthan) every employer is required to provide for effective complaints procedures and remedies</i> 	<p>The proposal was approved in principle by all the members.</p>

S.No.	Agenda Item	Decision Taken
	<p><i>including award of compensation to women victims. In sexual harassment complaints, the concerned organisation is urged to expedite cases and the disposal is monitored.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For serious crimes, the Commission may constitute an Inquiry Committee which will make spot enquiries, examine witnesses, collect evidence and submit the report with recommendations. The implementation of the report shall be monitored by the Member Secretary and ATR will be placed before the PSWC. The Commission has powers to summon the accused, witnesses and records to facilitate inquiry.</i> <p><i>The Departments of the State, NGOs and other experts may be involved in these efforts.</i></p> <p><i>Cases falling under following categories will <u>ordinarily</u> not entertained by the Commission :-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complaints illegible or vague, anonymous or pseudonymous; or</i> • <i>The Complaint relates to civil dispute between the parties such as contractual rights obligations and the like;</i> • <i>The Complaint relates to service matters not involving any deprivation of women's rights;</i> • <i>The Complaint relates to labour/industrial disputes not involving any deprivation of women's rights;</i> • <i>Matter is sub judice before a Court/Tribunal;</i> • <i>The Commission shall not inquire into any matter which is pending before a State Commission or any other Commission duly constituted under any law for the time being in force.</i> • <i>Matter already decided by the Commission</i> 	
1.d	<p>Appointment of official functionaries at senior levels</p> <p><i>Member-Secretary (IAS 1972 batch in NCW)</i> <i>Joint-Secretary (IAS 1982 batch in NCW)</i> <i>Deputy-Secretary (IPS 1993 batch in NCW)</i> <i>Incharge Legal Cell</i> <i>Incharge Complaints Cell</i> <i>Incharge Research Cell</i> <i>Incharge Public Relations Cell</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>Covered under Section 5 of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p> </div>	<p>Administrative work will increase when the new cells will be functional. It was decided that there should be atleast one post of Dy. Secy. in the Commission. One retired officer should be appointed for official work.</p>

S.No.	Agenda Item	Decision Taken
1.e	<p>Providing ACCESS to old, infirm and temporarily restricted (such as in case of pregnancy etc) to the PSWC office at Chandigarh by re-locating it either on Ground Floor / in a building having an elevator facility</p> <div data-bbox="1292 358 1919 453" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <p>Covered under Section 10(2) (iv) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act,</p> </div>	<p>It was decided to relocate the office of PSWC at some other convenient women friendly place. In principle this need is experience. Detailed proposal is to be sent to Government.</p>
1.f	<p>Constituting a Legal Cell under a retired Judicial Officer / Retired Officer of L.R. Office or any other retired Officer of Punjab Government / PSU with a law degree and strong legal background and experience for discharging the following functions:-</p> <div data-bbox="1131 651 1897 745" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <p>Covered under Section 5 read with Section 10 (2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To Investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws;</i> • <i>Present to the State Government / NCW, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;</i> • <i>Make in such reports recommendations for the effective implementation of those safeguards for improving the conditions of women of the state;</i> • <i>Review, from time to time, the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommend amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcomings in such legislation;</i> • <i>Take up the cases of violation of the provision of the Constitution and of other laws relating to women with appropriate authorities;</i> • <i>To review the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women, recommend remedial legislative measures, felicitate redressal of grievances and advice the Government on all policy matters affecting women.</i> <div data-bbox="1274 1243 1897 1386" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <p>Covered under Section 10(2) (ii), (iii), (iv), (vi), (viii), (ix),(x), (xiii) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p> </div>	<p>The proposal was accepted in principle.</p>

S.No.	Agenda Item	Decision Taken
1.g	<p>Constitution of a Research & Studies Cell with the following functions to discharge:-</p> <div data-bbox="1274 272 1919 367" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p>Covered under Section 10(2) (v) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To deal with issues related with socio economic conditions of women in the country and calls for special studies or investigations into specific problems or situations arising out of discrimination against women and undertakes promotional and educational research so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation to women in all spheres.</i> • <i>Social mobilization, maintenance and divorcee women, Panchayati Raj in action, women labour-under contract, gender bias in judicial decisions, family courts, gender-component in the various Commissions' reports for women, violence against women, women's access to health and education in slums etc. to help in formulation of PSWC's policies for recommendations.</i> • <i>The Cell will evaluate the progress of the development of women for which clear gender profile for different states is being prepared.</i> • <i>This Cell will also conduct seminars and workshops in collaboration with central/ state government/ NCW/ NGOs and others for understanding the various problem areas in the field and to suggest action plan/ remedial measures to resolve these problems.</i> 	The proposal was accepted in principle
1.h	<p>Constitution of Public Relations Cell to discharge the following functions:</p> <div data-bbox="1392 1008 2016 1102" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p>Covered by Section (2) (ii) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p> </div> <p><i>The Punjab State Women Commission is committed to the protection of the rights of women in the State and to their welfare and development. To attain these aims, the Commission will organize statewide campaigns, workshops and consultations. The PR Cell will throw light on the activities under taken by the Commission to fulfill its mandate to participate, advice on the planning process of socio-economic development of women and evaluate the progress and development of women under the Union and the State Government.</i></p>	The proposal was accepted in principle

S.No.	Agenda Item	Decision Taken																
1.i	Constitution of PSWC Resource Centre, Library; and bringing out PSWC quarterly magazine to reach out to the women of the State. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> Covered under Section 10(2) (v), (xii) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001. </div>	The proposal was accepted in principle.																
2.	To adopt of the PSWC Strategy for 2007-08 :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Empowerment through building up skills and securing access to gainful employment. • Political Empowerment through awareness, training and mobilization for equitable representation in all fora. • Prevention of violence and discrimination against women inside and outside the home through legal reform and sensitive enforcement. • Amelioration of conditions of disadvantaged women namely : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Physically challenged women including those who are visually disabled or mentally affected. ii. Socially challenged women, SC/ST women, widows and prostitutes. • Prevention of indecent representation of women in the media through legal and social sanctions. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> Covered under Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001. </div>	The proposal was accepted in principle.																
3.	Preparation of State Helpline on the pattern of the following National Women Commission Helpline :- <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; color: #4F81BD;">Help Available on</th> <th style="text-align: left; color: #4F81BD;">Contact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Information and Services related with AIDS</td> <td>1097</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child Line - Counselling for Children in Distress – Organised by Salam Balak Trust, Delhi Brotherhood Society, Prayaas and Don Bosco, Butterfly</td> <td>1098</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CATS - Centralised Ambulance for Trauma Services – Delhi Govt.</td> <td>1099</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Psychiatric Problem</td> <td>9392345</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Counselling Services on Women in Distress – Organised by Delhi Police</td> <td>3317004</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sarthak - Career Guidance and Counselling for young People</td> <td>9628052777,9628019278</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AIDS Helpline –AIIMS</td> <td>9628019279 6852785</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> In accordance with the objective as stated in the Preamble of the Act. </div>	Help Available on	Contact	Information and Services related with AIDS	1097	Child Line - Counselling for Children in Distress – Organised by Salam Balak Trust, Delhi Brotherhood Society, Prayaas and Don Bosco, Butterfly	1098	CATS - Centralised Ambulance for Trauma Services – Delhi Govt.	1099	Psychiatric Problem	9392345	Counselling Services on Women in Distress – Organised by Delhi Police	3317004	Sarthak - Career Guidance and Counselling for young People	9628052777,9628019278	AIDS Helpline –AIIMS	9628019279 6852785	It was decided that MS-PSWC, should discuss the matter with the Secretary Social Security, Punjab.
Help Available on	Contact																	
Information and Services related with AIDS	1097																	
Child Line - Counselling for Children in Distress – Organised by Salam Balak Trust, Delhi Brotherhood Society, Prayaas and Don Bosco, Butterfly	1098																	
CATS - Centralised Ambulance for Trauma Services – Delhi Govt.	1099																	
Psychiatric Problem	9392345																	
Counselling Services on Women in Distress – Organised by Delhi Police	3317004																	
Sarthak - Career Guidance and Counselling for young People	9628052777,9628019278																	
AIDS Helpline –AIIMS	9628019279 6852785																	

S.No.	Agenda Item	Decision Taken
	<p>Helpline on Breathing Problems - Organised by Better Breathers Club of India 9628015969 9632154536</p> <p>Hotline for Brain Attack 5792090, 5794733</p> <p>Agewell Foundation - Counselling Services for Senior Citizens 6836486, 6910484</p> <p>Safe Blood and Health India - For Blood Donation 9628005982 9632161992</p> <p>Tarshi - Counselling Services on Reproductive Issues</p> <p>Navjyoti Addiction Helpline 7510490</p> <p>Sharan Drug Drop Helpline Centre 2964637</p>	
4.	<p>Preparation and release of Statistical Report regarding complaints, break-up with regard to various categories, Action Taken Report and final disposal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered by Section 10(2) (v) (xi) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	It was decided that this work should be done through outsourcing in a phased manner.
5.	<p>Preparation of Annual Reports of the Punjab State Women Commission.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered by Section 18 of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	It was decided to put up upto date Annual Reports of the Commission within 60 days to the Government.
6.	<p>To review of the implementation of decisions taken in the earlier meetings of PSWC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General</p>	It was decided to Constitute a Committee amongst the members of the PSWC for this purpose.
7.	<p>To authorize the Member Secretary, PSWC to communicate with the Government and its functionaries regarding the budgetary proposals as well as requirements of posts and other administrative matters on behalf of PSWC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General</p>	The proposal was accepted in principle.
8.	<p>To provide one computer including printer to every Member of the Commission, besides two computers with printers to the officials of the Commission.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General</p>	The proposal should be sent to the Government for funds.

S.No.	Agenda Item	Decision Taken
9.	<p>To plan for provision of Shelters/Protection Homes for destitute women at District and Sub-Divisional Hqrs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered under Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	
10.	<p>To plan for provision of free legal aid to destitute and other deserving women.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered under Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	
11.	<p>To review district-wise adverse sex ratio and efforts on the part of government authorities to prevent female feticide.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered under Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	<p>The proposal was accepted. For this purpose, it was decided to have the meetings of the PSWC in different districts.</p>
12.	<p>To take up appointment of Nodal offices and Committees for Government officers and private sector establishments for prevention of sexual harassment at workplace.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered under Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	<p>Details in this regard are to be provided by the Department of Social Security. The information regarding these Committees should be properly displayed at workplaces.</p>
13.	<p>To review and monitor complaints received regarding sexual harassment by different Sexual Harassment Committees.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered under Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	
14.	<p>To review district wise female literacy and steps to Improve female literacy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered under Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	

S.No.	Agenda Item	Decision Taken
15.	<p>To monitoring female drop-out rate from schools and colleges and remedial measures.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered under Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	<p>PSWC is to interact with the School Education Department regarding this matter.</p>
16.	<p>To chalk out training modules on Gender Sensitization for different target groups for 2007-2008.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered under Section 10(2) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	<p>It was decided to have training programmes at Amritsar, Patiala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Bathinda and Chandigarh. Funds for these programmes be provided by the Government.</p>
17.	<p>To approve an action plan for inspection of police stations, lock-ups, sub-jails, rescue homes or other places of custody where women are kept to find out the facilities and treatment provided to women and seek remedial action from the appropriate authorities;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered under Section 10(2) (vii) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	<p>It was decided to inspect the police-stations, lock-ups, sub-jails etc. by the members of the PSWC and to check the facilities.</p>
18.	<p>To publish advertisements for disseminating information regarding the objectives of the Commission, procedures and other relevant matters.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General</p>	<p>It was decided to send a proposal to the Secretary Social Security for publication of a booklet containing the information regarding the objectives of the Commission and other relevant information.</p>
19.	<p>To set up Expert Committees for intensive study of women specific problem areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Covered under Section 3(1) and Section 10(2) (v) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</p>	<p>It was decided in principle to authorize Chairperson, PSWC to construct such Committees.</p>

S.No.	Agenda Item	Decision Taken
20.	To establish effective coordination with National Commission for Women, Punjab Human Rights Commission and other Commissions at the State level. <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto; padding: 2px;">General</div>	It was decided that Chairperson and M.S., PSWC should have interaction with the National Commission for Women and other important commissions so that the activities of the Commission should be brought to their notice.
21.	To identify and approve the issues for conducting public interest litigation on behalf of groups of women in general, and in an individual case of a woman, who suffer from injustice or discrimination; and provide legal aid and rehabilitation in deserving cases; <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto; padding: 2px;">Covered under Section 10(2) (viii) of The Punjab State Commission For Women Act, 2001.</div>	
22.	To consider the test The Kerala Women's Commission Act 1990/95 for its comparative study with The Punjab State Commission for Women Act, 2001.	It was decided to have a Committee of Chairperson and M.S., PSWC for this purpose. The Committee will give its views in the matter which should be put up in the meeting of the PSWC for consideration.

Shri B.K. Uppal , DIG, Crime, suggested that a women IPS Officer should be deputed in the PSWC to assist the Commission in various matters relating to women.

It was also decided to have next meeting of the PSWC in the month of May, 2007 at Fatehgarh Sahib.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
