



ਸਰਵੇਸ਼ ਕੌਸ਼ਲ, ਆਈ.ਏ.ਐਸ.
ਮੁੱਖ ਸਕੱਤਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ
Sarvesh Kaushal, IAS
Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab

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ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸਕੱਤਰ,
ਪੰਜਾਬ ਰਾਜ ਮਹਿਲਾ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ
ਕਮਰਾ ਨੰ. 714, 7ਵੀਂ ਮੰਜਲ, ਮਿਨੀ ਸਕੱਤਰਾਤ ਪੰਜਾਬ,
ਸੈਕਟਰ 9, ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ।
Member Secretary,
Punjab State Commission for Women,
R.No. 714, 7th Floor, Mini Secretariat Punjab,
Sector 9, Chandigarh

ਅਸ. ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ./D.O. No. PA/MS-PSWC/09/583

ਮਿਤੀ/Dated 11-08-2009

Subject : Crime against women in Punjab

Dear Shri S. C. Agarwal,

As Member Secretary of the Punjab State Commission For Women, a statutory Commission constituted under the Punjab Act No 4 of 2001, it is my solemn duty, inter-alia, to monitor the implementation of laws and welfare measures concerning women, investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws, and initiate action for legal and administrative reforms to improve status of women, conduct studies and research into the problems of women and report the same to the Government for appropriate action.

2. I would therefore bring it to your personal notice that in the first five months of the year 2009, i.e., January to May 2009; as many as 153 women have been raped in Punjab, besides 222 having been kidnapped and another 130 molested. This is besides 70 women who have been murdered, 55 who have been driven to commit suicide and 39 who lost their lives for inability to satisfy dowry seekers.

3. This certainly calls not only for exemplary investigations by the police and efficient prosecution of the accused, but also an in depth inquiry into the nature and quality of handling of earlier cases by the police and prosecution authorities. Laxity in such matters may tend to dilute the deterrence, and in fact act as an invitation to commit offences against women and get away with them. Rehabilitation of the rape victims also needs to be taken up in an institutionalized manner.

4. Even though a large number of women have been driven to suicide for various reasons, or done to death by dowry seekers, it is strange that only two cases have been registered in Punjab for domestic violence in the five months from January 2009 to May 2009. The Domestic Violence Act is already operational, but such insensitivity to the cause of the women is baffling. The same is true of another burning issue of female feticide for which only 11 cases have been reported from Jan 2009 to May 2009.

5. I have reported these statistics from the crime records of the Punjab Police Headquarters, and therefore, there is no question of any exaggeration. On the other hand, we may have to keep in mind the fact that many incidents of crime against women go unreported.

6. I shall be grateful if you could kindly order a high level review of the whole gamut of offences against women in Punjab and the issues relating to reporting of crime, prevention of crime and successful prosecution of those accused of such crimes.

With best regards

Yours sincerely,

Kaushal
(Sarvesh Kaushal)

Shri S.C. Agarwal, IAS
Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab
Chandigarh