

A Call to End Gender-Based Violence

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Gender-Based Violence is one of the persistent and damaging challenges to our society's growth and well-being. Tackling it requires more than just policies—it requires a collective, sustained effort to shift mindsets, strengthen support systems, and empower every citizen to act.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has proposed a comprehensive framework to deepen our impact at every level—from spreading legal literacy to strengthening emergency response systems. The key areas of focus include:

Legal Awareness for All

We must ensure that every woman, girl, and frontline worker knows the rights and remedies available under laws like the important Domestic Violence Act 2005, POSH Act 2013, POCSO Act 2012, and the new criminal laws—BNS and BNSS, 2023—especially concerning victim compensation and legal recourse.

Digital Outreach

A dynamic social media campaign by using powerful hashtags, relatable visuals, and easy-to-understand content will help to spread awareness on helplines (112, 181, 1098), One Stop Centres, the SHe Box portal, and the Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat (BVMB) Abhiyan. The aim is to ensure no woman feels isolated or helpless when seeking help.

Safe Workplaces and Confidential Reporting

Working women must know that the SHe Box portal <https://shebox.wcd.gov.in/> offers a secure and confidential channel to report workplace harassment without fear. This is not just a tool and it is a statement that their safety and dignity matter.

Strengthening the Safety Net for Women and Children

Awareness of emergency numbers and services like 112, 181, and 1098 needs to become second nature. These helplines are lifelines and must be quick, accessible, and effective for anyone in distress. They should be circulated and be inculcated in women and children to call at the time a problem arises. See: <https://whl.tnsw.in/index.html>

Preventing Child Marriages, Protecting Childhoods

Through the BVMB portal, citizens can now report child marriage cases and seek swift redressal. We need to make this portal a known and trusted resource in every community. See: <https://stopchildmarriage.wcd.gov.in/>

Connection of the Dots under Mission Shakti Movement

The services like One Stop Centres, Hubs for Empowerment, Shakti Sadan, and Sakhi Niwas must be accessible and visible. We also need to link these with Gender Resource Centres under State Rural Livelihood Missions to ensure seamless support at the grassroots. See: <https://missionshakti.wcd.gov.in/>

Education as the Main Foundation

The conduct of workshops in schools and colleges are crucial by teaching young minds about gender equality, consent, healthy relationships and the importance of respecting dignity. When we shape attitudes early, we shape a better future.

Men and Boys as Allies

The idea of positive masculinity must be promoted through curricula, training

materials and community dialogues. The concepts like shared caregiving, co-parenting and rejecting exploitation need to be normalised—not as 'women's issues' but as human values.

Sensitising the Frontline Work

The Anganwadi workers, childcare staff and counsellors at OSC, Shakti Sadan and Sakhi Niwas are the first point of contact for many survivors. So, they must be trained to respond with empathy, awareness and efficiency for the victims.

Hence, the stakeholders ought to own this agenda to act with urgency and ensure that no woman, child, or survivor is left unheard, unseen, or unsupported at the time of violence.

Let us join hands and move forward with compassion, commitment and conviction to stop Gender-Based Violence.

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