



BULLETIN : 13

from **DURBAR**

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Durbar celebrated International sex workers day



A rally organised by sex workers in Kolkata on 3rd March

The 3rd of March is International Sex Worker Rights Day. The day originated by Durbar in 2001 when over 10000 sex workers gathered in Milan Mela, Kolkata, India for a sex worker festival. At that time it was quite unthinkable for the commoners to watch a conference of sex workers but Durbar made it possible. From that year 3rd March is designated and celebrated as International Sex Workers Day by sex worker organizations all across the world.

This year, Durbar in collaboration with All India Network of sex workers celebrated International Sex workers day in different sex work sites including Sonagachi, the largest red light district in West Bengal, Kolkata. The celebration was started by a Rally which was attended by 1200 sex workers from among different red light districts of Kolkata. Around 500 children of the sex workers took part in a Sit and draw completion which was followed by sports activities

participated by sex workers. The gala evening was started with varieties of cultural events which includes "Baul Gaan"- the folk tune of Bengal, Rabindra sangeet, hindi filmi songs, dance, drama and others.

Eminent persons from different walks of the society including Police Officers, local councilors, eminent academicians and others attended the event. Ms. Parbati Halder, Director Health of Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee commented that by celebrating this day the sex workers throw a challenge to the mainstream society demanding their workers' rights and dignity recognizing the struggle of the sex workers. The crowd enjoyed the beats of the contemporary and old melodies. The day long programme was ended by the performance of Durbar Band.

Another feather in the hat of Durbar- the Swayam Sidhdha Award



Ms. Bharati Dey, Secretary of Durbar receiving award from Rotary Club

This award is not just a recognition for Durbar rather an inspiration to take forward our movement along with other marginalized community including construction workers, domestic workers, shabars, nachinis and others. Ms. Bharati Dey (Secretary), Durbar, in her deliveration highlighted these points while receiving the Swayam Sidhdha award. The rotary club of Kolkata Metro city since last 6 years appreciates the essence of womanhood by awarding women from different sector of the society for their performance. This year also Rotary Club in collaboration with University women of Calcutta, gives this award to five women personalities working in different fields including renowned environmentalist Ms. Purnima Dutta, academician and social activist Ms. Chitra Ghosh, Ms. Urmi Basu, Ms. Anchita Ghatak and Ms. Bharati Dey on 14th March 2012 at Rotary Sadan, Kolkata. The warm evening was started with worshipping the

women power followed by the speeches on behalf of the organizers. The award giving ceremony was followed by a panel discussion on the topic “empowerment of women as a agent of social change” where distinguished panelist including Mr. Raju Raman was a speaker.

Binodini Sramik Union, an arm of Durbar seeks government recognition

Everyone has the right to seek pleasure and happiness. Like the other entertainment workers of the world, sex workers use brain, ideas, emotion and sense organs, in short the entire body and mind to produce quality services make people happy. As Entertainment workers, sex workers seek governmental recognition and, fulfillment of their just professional demands. For this purpose the sex workers have organized the Binodini Sramik Union, an arm of Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, the apex body of sex workers in West Bengal.

In December 29, 1999, under Trade Union Act, Binodini Sramik Union applied for the registration and in June 24, 2004 the registrar of Trade Union seeks clarification from the Binodini Sramik Union about some issues which had been asked to submit within October 15, 2004 and was submitted accordingly. After that no reply was received from the concerned authority.

Again in July 2011, Binodini Sramik Union made an enquiry about the matter but no information was found from the concerned authority eventually the file was untraceable. After that again in December 22, 2011, under Article 226 of Indian Constitution, Binodini Sramik Union lodged a writ petition in the Calcutta High Court.

The High Court has given order to the registrar of Trade Union to communicate immediately with Binodini Sramik Union and resolve the issue as early as possible.

Durbar’s nursery football team in the 4th YAMAHA ASEAN CUP U-13 FOOTBALL 2012

The nursery football team of Durbar, is one of the six teams of West Bengal, who has got the scope to play in the 4th YAMAHA ASEAN CUP U-13 FOOTBALL 2012, the qualifying round of which is going to be played in Kolkata. The winner will take part in the final round which is to be played in Kualalumpur, Malaysia.