

We whole heartedly support the view of the new Chairperson of NCW, Govt. of India, for her unbiased approach and positive attitude towards women in general and sex work in particular. Nonetheless this is a bold step towards 'recognizing agencies' of the women with a view to create a support base for the sex workers and their family members. We consider that Labour Legislation designed for sex workers would help

1. Decriminalize sex work.
2. Will distinguish between sex work and trafficking.
3. Would protect sex workers from getting exploited and physically abused by police, goons and their supporters.
4. Would be effective in combating trafficking in sex work.
5. Would create a step forward to provide respect and dignity to sex workers' community.

There are more than 4 million sex workers in our country, who maintained their livelihood through selling sex services what in turn helps betterment of sex workers' family including improvement of quality of life of sex workers and their children.

Existing Act (ITPA) which indirectly criminalizes sex work and sex workers essentially absorbs rights of women and her ability to exert her agencies as a full-fledged citizen of her country. Recognizing sex work as a form of work and protecting their labour rights through appropriate labour legislation would empower women in sex work and her rights to self determination. We urge NCW to engage representatives of sex workers in drawing the framework of labour legislation in sex work, keeping in view the existing labour laws for unorganized labour sectors in our country.