

Report
Workshop on State Level Consultation on Safety of Girls in Higher Educational Institutions

Title: State Level Consultation on Safety of Girls in Higher Educational Institutions

Date: 12 February 2026

Organizing Body: National Commission for Women (NCW)

Venue: Bachat Bhawan, Shimla

Recourse Person: Smt. Vijaya Rahatkar, Chairperson, National Commission for Women

St. Bed's College nominated Dr. Savita Rana and Ms. Punam Chauhan to attend a State Level Consultation on Safety of Girls in Higher Educational Institutions organized by the National Commission for Women (NCW) on 12 February, 2026. The consultation aimed to deliberate on campus safety, POSH Act compliance, and strengthening institutional mechanisms to ensure a secure and gender-sensitive educational environment for girls and women.

Programme Overview:

The programme began with the registration of participants, followed by the welcome of Hon'ble Chairperson, NCW, Smt. Vijaya Rahatkar. The consultation included multiple thematic sessions focusing on law enforcement perspectives, institutional responsibilities, legal frameworks, student voices, and open discussions for suggestions and way forward.

The keynote address by Smt. Vijaya Rahatkar emphasized: The crucial role of women in leadership and governance, active participation of girls and women in civil services and decision-making roles and the need to strengthen safety mechanisms and institutional accountability.

Key Sessions and Discussions:

- Role of Institutions and ICC

- Importance of a functional and transparent Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)
- Regular review of ICC activities
- Mandatory ICC training and capacity building
- ICC members to be rotated after every three years
- POSH Act Awareness and Compliance
- Legal requirements under the POSH Act
- Display of POSH posters across campuses
- Distribution of POSH booklets to students
- Conducting awareness talks and orientation programmes
- Campus Safety Measures
- Installation of CCTV cameras in vulnerable areas
- Identifying crime-prone zones within campuses
- Ensuring a safe physical and psychological environment for students
- Student-Centric Approach
- Victim-centric and time-bound grievance redressal
- Ensuring confidentiality during complaint proceedings
- Availability of separate rooms for ICC meetings and record-keeping
- Counsellors to be trained and prepared for student support
- Training and Capacity Building
- Cyber security awareness and training
- Gender equality programmes to be introduced
- Yashoda training programme initiatives by NCW
- Campus policing initiatives for awareness on safety and law
- Institutional Coordination
- Regular meetings of ICC with Principals and Vice Chancellors
- Management should not interfere in ICC proceedings
- Clear communication channels for students to approach teachers, principals, or concerned authorities

Important Helplines Highlighted:

112 – Emergency services

181 – Women's helpline

14490 – National Commission for Women Helpline

Conclusion

The state-level consultation proved to be highly informative and impactful. It reinforced the importance of proactive institutional responsibility, robust ICC mechanisms, continuous training, and student awareness to ensure the safety of girls in higher educational institutions. The workshop provided valuable insights and actionable strategies that can be implemented at the institutional level to foster a safe, inclusive, and gender-sensitive campus environment.

Dr. Savita Rana and Ms. Punam Chauhan gained significant knowledge regarding legal frameworks, preventive strategies, and best practices that will contribute positively to strengthening safety and grievance redressal systems in their institution.





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