



Prajnya 16 Days Campaign Against Gender Violence

2009

## CAMPAIGN REPORT



<http://www.prajnya.in/16days.htm>  
<http://prajnya16days.blogspot.com>  
[prajnya.16days@gmail.com](mailto:prajnya.16days@gmail.com)

PRAJNYA 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE 2009 CALENDAR						
Events in Red are open to the public.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1 25/11</b> Responding To Domestic Violence: A Workshop	<b>2 26/11</b> Reporters' Roundtable: Gender Violence & The Media	<b>3 27/11</b> <b>In Concert: Celebrating Defenders Of Women's Rights</b>	<b>4 28/11</b> 1. A Matter Of Words: A Creative Writing Workshop <b>2. Not Silence But Verse: A Poetry Reading</b>
<b>5 29/11</b> <b>Collaborative Cooking: Recipes against VAW</b>	<b>6 30/11</b> Rebuilding Lives, Supporting Survival: A Roundtable for Service Providers	<b>7 1/12</b> Public Health & Gender Violence: A Workshop	<b>8 2/12</b> Exploring Gender Violence Through Theatre: A Workshop (day 1)	<b>9 3/12</b> Exploring Gender Violence Through Theatre: A Workshop (day 2)	<b>10 4/12</b> Symposium On Mental Health & Gender Violence	<b>11 5/12</b> Internal Displacement & Gender Violence: A PSW Symposium
<b>12 6/12</b> <b>Maaruvom, Maatruvom!: Serndu sindikka oru sandarpam (Public Forum)</b>	<b>13 7/12</b> Gender Sensitisation & Workplace Sexual Harassment: A Training of Trainers (day 1)	<b>14 8/12</b> Gender Sensitisation & Workplace Sexual Harassment: A Training of Trainers (day 2)	<b>15 9/12</b> <b>Spotlight on Service Providers</b>	<b>16 10/12</b> <b>"Empowerment, Equity &amp; Freedom from Violence" The Prajnya 16 Days Campaign Public Lecture by Dr. Jaya Arunachalam</b>	<b>Look out for our Media Initiatives!</b> <i>Print:</i> The New Indian Express <i>Radio:</i> Chennai Live 104.8 FM and Campaign Chronicle, our <i>blog</i> @ <a href="http://prajnya16days.blogspot.com">http://prajnya16days.blogspot.com</a>	
INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC EVENTS						
Event	Date	Time	Venue	Come cook up an end to violence against women Drop your best recipes into our "paanai" at Planet Yumm at Spencer Plaza or Besant Nagar.  Tie a white ribbon for every person you know who is a victim of gender violence. "Ribbon plants" at Amethyst, the Eco Café at Chamiers, Kipling Café or Ode Gallery Café.		
In Concert, featuring S.Sowmya	Nov 27	6 p.m.	Vani Mahal, G.N.Chetty Road, T.Nagar			
Poetry Reading	Nov 28	6:15 p.m.	Full Circle @ Chamiers, Chamiers Rd.			
Collaborative Cooking	Nov 29	-	Online; sign up for email updates			
Maaruvom, Maatruvom!	Dec 6	4 p.m.	Youth Hostel, Indira Nagar			
Spotlight on Service Providers	Dec 9	-	Sign up for email updates			
Public lecture by Dr. Jaya Arunachalam	Dec 10	6:30 p.m.	Bala Mandir German Hall, T.Nagar			

Between 25 November and 10 December 2009, Prajnaya organised the 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence in Chennai, for the second successive year. The 2009 edition retained the broad objective of the previous year's campaign - to raise awareness of the different forms and manifestations of violence against women, but also chose to highlight certain specific aspects of gender violence.

### Why 16 Days?

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence originated in 1991 as an initiative of the Centre for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University and has since been used as an organising strategy by several organisations around the world. Between 25 November and 10 December every year, the 16 Days Campaign draws the attention of policy makers, governments and civil society to gender violence, and advocates for the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

The campaign extends between International Day for the Elimination of all forms of Violence against Women (25 November) and International Human Rights Day (10 December), thus emphasising that gender violence is a legitimate and critical human rights issue, and must be acknowledged as such. In addition, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day falls on 29 November, spotlighting countless individuals and organisations who dedicate themselves to defending the rights of women throughout the year; and World AIDS Day on 1 December is an opportunity to highlight the impact of gender violence on public health issues such as HIV and AIDS.

### Why the Prajnaya campaign

Despite the increasing visibility of violence against women, despite the fact that most of us know someone who knows someone who has been abused, people still ask us: why are you doing this campaign? Is this (gender violence) really a problem? And in a sense, that has become our catchphrase for the year: we do this campaign because people ask us if gender violence is really a problem. There are other reasons as well:

- Because violence against women cuts across caste, class and community.
- Because gender violence is not a private concern.
- Because gender violence hurts us all, at every stage of our lives.

### The tip of the tip of the iceberg

- Rape is the fastest growing crime in India: between 1971 and 2001, the number of reported cases has jumped by 733%.
- 10 million sex selective abortions are estimated between 1981 and 2005.
- 50% of Indian women who were abused reported abuse during pregnancy. Intimate partner violence causes 16% of deaths during pregnancy.
- In Tamil Nadu, 76.8% of women asked about their experience of sexual violence identified their current husbands as perpetrators and 21.2% identified former husbands (NFHS-3).
- Over 68% of child domestic workers surveyed in a West Bengal study reported physical abuse, of which more than 20% were coerced into sexual intercourse.

### A big THANK YOU to all our campaign partners

Amethyst  
AVTAR Interim Women Managers Interface Network  
Chennai Live 104.8 FM  
Full Circle @ Chamiers  
InKo Centre  
International Foundation for Crime Prevention and  
Victim Care (PCVC)  
Kalki Weekly  
Kipling Cafe

The Marappachi Trust  
The New Indian Express  
Ode Gallery Cafe  
Omayal Achi College of Nursing  
Oriental Cuisines Pvt. Ltd.  
Queen Mary's College  
Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF)  
Sornammal Educational Trust  
Tulir - Centre for the Prevention and Healing of Child  
Sexual Abuse

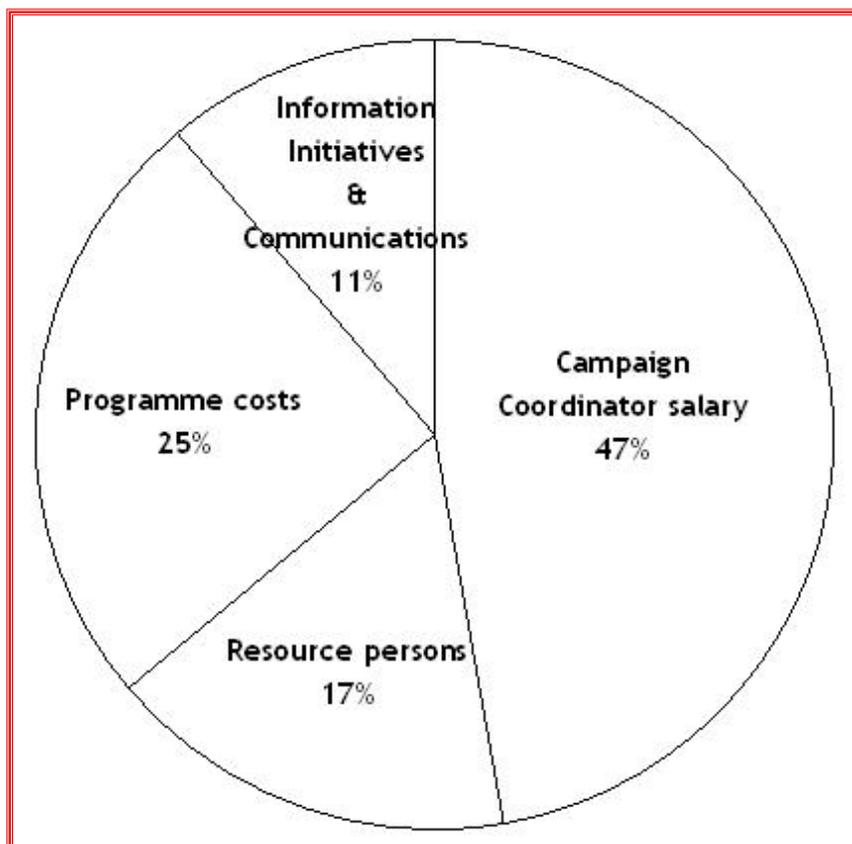
## Features of the 2009 campaign

- Different programmes at different locations**  
 Over the 16 days, Prajnya organised programmes and activities at multiple locations across the city, and in cyberspace. Tailor-made and designed for specific groups, the majority called for active participation. Some were open to the “general public”, while others were closed and restricted to a particular constituency.
- Multiple formats**  
 To reach out to as many different people as possible, the campaign merged form and content innovatively using theatre, poetry, literature and art. Programmes included workshops, symposia, a poetry reading, a public concert, training programmes and an open forum, among others.
- Forging partnerships**  
 In keeping with Prajnya’s mandate to facilitate and create networks for action, the majority of programmes were organised in partnership with other organisations, including educational institutions, service providers, corporate groups, and civil society. Working in partnership ensures that gender violence remains everyone’s responsibility, and not just that of a few select non-profits.
- Emphasis on “process”**  
 Campaign programmes were conceptualised such that they would serve as triggers to begin and sustain conversations between professionals in various fields, by creating a platform for debate and expression.
- Gender Violence and “....”**  
 The campaign reinforced the notion that we cannot look at gender violence in isolation, and must also bear in mind its widespread and long-term consequences. Given that it is imperative for health care professionals to learn, recognise, acknowledge and address the impact of gender violence on the communities they work with, the linkages between gender violence and public health was a specific focus of this year’s campaign.
- Ribbon plants**  
 Four cafes hosted “ribbon plants”, where you could tie a white ribbon onto a plant if you knew someone who had experienced violence. This was envisaged as an anonymous way in which people could express their support for the campaign.
- Information Initiatives**  
 In addition to the campaign calendar, Prajnya disseminated relevant information about gender violence to the public at large. Every day, a “fact-box” appeared in The New Indian Express, our print media partners, highlighting aspects of a specific form of gender violence; a modified version was also broadcast every day on Chennai Live 104.8 FM, radio partners for the campaign.



- Pilot study**  
 Prajnya took its first steps towards a comprehensive research agenda and programme, through the publication of a pilot report, “Gender Violence in India: a Prajnya Report”. This report draws on available data on the different forms of violence against women to highlight the magnitude of the issue, underscoring the need for more systematic monitoring and gathering of data related to crimes against women. The full report can be accessed online at <http://prajnya.in/gvr09.pdf>.

### What we spent on the campaign



Prajnya takes great pride in the fact that the campaign is a genuine community effort, funded entirely by individual contributions.

In 2009, we received a total of Rs 1,58,670 as donations towards the campaign.

This is how we spent the money.

**...and to all those who supported us, THANK YOU!**

Anupama Srinivasan  
 Bishnu N Mohapatra  
 Chaitanya-The Policy Consultancy  
 Dharmo Srini  
 Dipa Nag Chowdhury  
 Gokul Chandrasekar  
 Indu Balachandran  
 Integra Software Service Pvt Ltd\*  
 R. Jaikumar  
 Kasturi & Sons Ltd  
 Kavitha D Chitturi  
 Kavitha K Nair\*  
 Lata Mani  
 Lister Metropolis\*\*  
 Malathi Jaikumar  
 Manonmani Rangaswamy

Nalini Krishnan  
 Nandhini Shanmugam  
 Nirupa Sundaravaradan  
 Pamela Philipose  
 Pattammal Rajagopaul  
 K.A.Raju  
 Sarojini Rajaram  
 Shyamala Rajagopalan  
 Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd  
 V.Subramaniam  
 Tata Communication Ltd\*  
 R Thara  
 Vasughi K Adityan  
 Vivek Ltd\*  
 Wealth Advisors (I) Pvt Ltd\*

\*Supported the Training of Trainers programme for human resources personnel.

\*\* Offered us the use of their space for the Training of Trainers programme.

## 1 To 16: A Day-By-Day Account

### DAY 1

#### RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In partnership with Sornammal Educational Trust and PCVC

**What?** A workshop on domestic violence for women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the city.

**Why?** The impact of domestic violence on women is often invisible. This is especially true of domestic workers who are vulnerable to violence at both their homes and place of work. Through this workshop, we sought to communicate the message that domestic violence is not normal, and must not be normalised.



How impact does domestic violence have on families and children? How does it affect a child's social behaviour and performance at school? How can women speak up against different forms of control and threat? These were some of the questions that were discussed at this three-hour introductory session.

"It is the responsibility of women to become more aware of this problem, to intervene when possible and help others who face violence"

- Parimala, participant

### DAY 2

#### REPORTERS ROUND TABLE: GENDER VIOLENCE AND THE MEDIA

**What?** A structured, closed-door conversation between working journalists, moderated by senior journalist and media critic Ammu Joseph, with the primary objective of identifying practical guidelines for reporting on gender violence

**Why?** Given that gender violence is reported more often today than before, the media has a distinct responsibility in *how* they represent crimes against women. This is especially crucial in the specific vocabulary that is used or indeed, in some cases, ignored. It is vital to recognise gender violence for what it is and consciously use the appropriate "labels" in reporting.



According to participants -

- Cases of gender violence are sensationalised *and* made routine.
- There is tremendous pressure on reporters and editors to both package news as entertainment and get to the story first.
- Often, this has resulted in insensitive reporting, inaccuracies and 'single-source' stories.

Outcomes:

- Preliminary guidelines for reporting on gender violence were evolved and will be disseminated.
- A media watch group has been set up to monitor reportage.

## DAY 3

IN CONCERT: CELEBRATING DEFENDERS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

**What?** A public concert by Carnatic Vocalist S Sowmya that celebrates women achievers, and more specifically, women defenders of human rights.

**Why?** Prajnya believes that advocacy and awareness building exercises must find ways to work with traditional idioms that are familiar to specific audiences; in this case, Carnatic music as an integral aspect of Chennai's ethos and culture.



On the occasion of International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, Prajnya honoured four organisations in Chennai - Pennurimai Iyakkam, Feminist Association for Social Action, Forum for Women's Rights and Development and Centre for Women's Development and Research.

"Prajnya has been very innovative in conceptualising this programme, and asking us to honour each other"

- Bhavani from Feminist Association for Social Action



Prajnya approached eminent vocalist, S. Sowmya, to be a part of our campaign with trepidation, preparing for a 'no'. What we got was a very warm and enthusiastic, "it would be a privilege." Sowmya had given a great deal of thought to what she would perform at this concert. She chose to sing kritis in Devi's honour, compositions by female composers and songs by Subramaniam Bharati. Says Sowmya, "I am a little child as far as my involvement with Prajnya is concerned, but I am an active child." We look forward to a long and wonderful association with her.

**DAY 4**

**A MATTER OF WORDS: A CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**  
**&**  
**NOT SILENCE BUT VERSE: A POETRY READING**

Workshop in partnership with InKo Centre  
 Reading in partnership with InKo Centre and Full Circle

**What?** A creative writing workshop for college students, followed by a poetry reading session open to the public

**Why?** Very often, those who experience or witness gender violence choose to or are forced to remain silent. This workshop and reading are intended to demonstrate that literature can offer both readers and writers opportunities to express themselves freely. A literary event is therefore a means of exploring the relationship between art and society and more specifically, the role of the artist in civic life.



How can the process of writing help us understand gender violence?



Workshop designed and led by K. Srilata, for students from various city colleges

Sivakami Velliangiri, Susan Hawthorne and Kutti Revathi read from their work at "Not Silence but Verse", a reading conceptualised and moderated by K. Srilata.

"Feminist poetry is like a double edged sword. Pointing outwards, the sword speaks out at the propagators of violence and those who cause hurt to women, however, pointing inwards, it is like a surgical knife- that heals and soothes."

- K Srilata, at the reading



"Thank you for giving this wonderful opportunity to read with Susan Hawthorne and Kutti Revathi....what I have understood from her (Susan) reading is that the issues are the same on the other side of the continent as well. I am sure we can create awareness by writing and reading.

It is heartening to note such sincerity and enthusiasm and dedication in such young people. I am but a dot in a vast canvas. I bow my head to this Prajnya movement which will gain momentum over the years."

- Sivakami Velliangiri

## DAY 5

### COLLABORATIVE COOKING: RECIPES AGAINST VAW

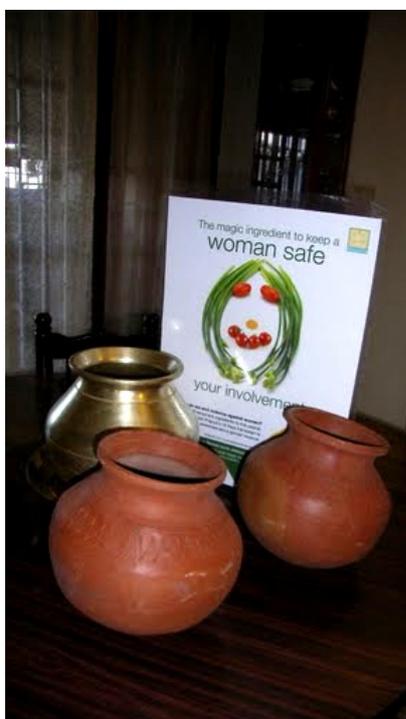
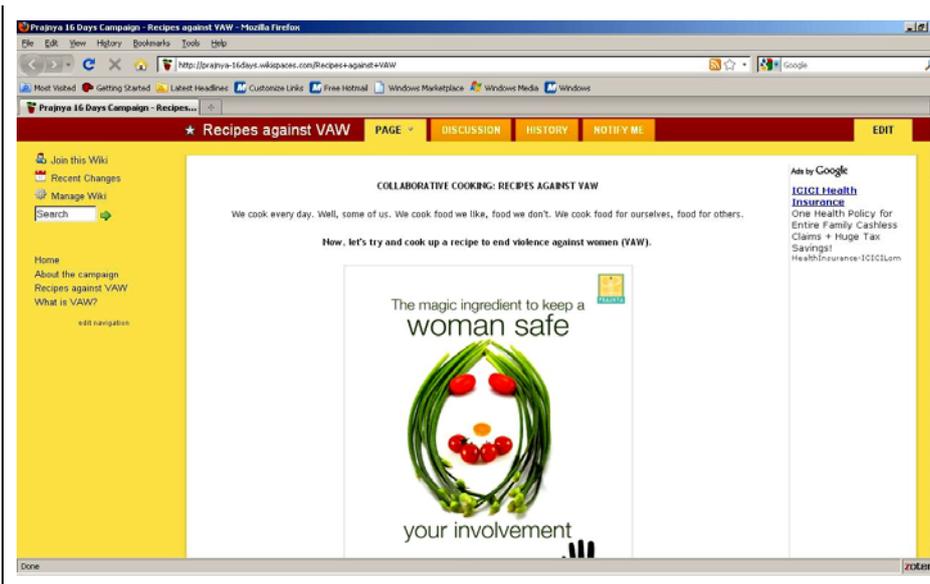
**What?** An online campaign, adapted from [take back the tech](#) to evolve recipes to end violence against women

**Why?** How do we end violence against women (VAW)? This is your chance to tell us what you think: contribute one or more ingredients to a recipe to end gender violence

*Paanais* at Planet Yumm,  
Besant Nagar and  
Spencer Plaza

Travelling paanai at  
all programmes

Wiki, at <http://prajnya-16days.wikispaces.com/Recipes+against+VAW>



#### Sample contributions:

- Meet women who work and live on the streets (sex workers, hawkers, bus conductors etc) and have discussions on public space and safety for women.
- Girls play with dolls, while boys play with cars. Such gender-specific stereotyping should end right now.
- Some school textbooks are currently being modified to become more gender-friendly. This is a healthy and vital trend that must be replicated world-wide.
- There is a widespread notion that a woman who dresses "provocatively" is inviting trouble. There needs to be recognition and acceptance of the right to free choice and right to be respected irrespective of gender.
- A sensitised judiciary and law enforcement agencies will help address the problems of women victims of violence more effectively.
- MOVIES! - sensible, admirable, believable roles for women!

## DAY 6

**REBUILDING LIVES, SUPPORTING SURVIVAL: A ROUNDTABLE FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**What?** A closed group discussion amongst key staff and administrators from organisations that provide support services for women who experience violence

**Why?** What challenges do these organisations face? What strategies can they adopt to help women address, thwart and cope with different manifestations of violence?



## DAY 7

**PUBLIC HEALTH & GENDER VIOLENCE: A WORKSHOP**

In partnership with Omayal Achi College of Nursing, Tulir and PCVC

**What?** A workshop/training programme for nursing students to help them develop the skills and attitudes necessary to identify and empathise with those who have experienced violence.

**Why?** It is essential to train health care professionals to identify and respond to those who have experienced violence effectively and empathetically.



Nursing students learnt about gender and sexual violence, how to identify those who have experienced it and how to help.

“The role of a health care professional in a gender violence incident is four-fold and includes: identifying, assessing, documenting and educating.”

Dr. Prasanna Poornachandra, PCVC

“Nurses are the one-point contact in the case of a medical emergency, and have an important role to play in the case of a sexually abused patient.”

Nancy Veronica Thomas, Tulir

## DAYS 8 & 9

### EXPLORING GENDER VIOLENCE THROUGH THEATRE

In partnership with Queen Mary's College and The Marappachi Trust

**What?** A two-day theatre workshop exploring issues of gender and gender violence, for students from Queen Mary's College

**Why?** So that young women can explore ways to address and cope with different forms of gender violence. How can they relate these issues to their daily realities?



"The workshop was largely about tapping collective experience, and providing a space for perceptions on body."

- Mangai, Marappachi

Forms: Puppetry, recitation, story-telling, monologues

Themes: the female body, skin colour, dowry, female infanticide, forced marriages



"It was wonderful, incredible to see the enthusiasm with which they got involved, the genuine introspection, the willingness to share. They shared with us stories from their lives, told us about their relationships with their families, and spelled out how they intended to tackle some of the more problematic ones."

- The Prajnaya Team

**DAY 10****MENTAL HEALTH & GENDER VIOLENCE: A SYMPOSIUM**

In partnership with Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF)

- What?** A symposium for mental health professionals to discuss the strong correlation between gender violence and mental health.
- Why?** There is considerable research-based evidence to demonstrate that those who have experienced or been subject to abuse or violence are at greater risk of developing mental health disorders/illnesses in later years.

The symposium speakers included:

- Dr. Shuba Kumar on the impact of domestic violence on mental health
- Dr. Shantha Kamath on the vulnerability of the mentally ill to gender violence
- Dr. Anita Rao on the effects of alcohol and substance abuse on gender violence and mental health
- Dr. Jayanthini on the impact of domestic violence on the mental health of children and families

Key issues raised at the symposium:

- Violence against women has profound implications for mental health which are often ignored.
- Prolonged exposure to violence of any sort causes physiological damage to the brain, resulting in physical, emotional, psychological and behavioural problems in children.
- The prevalence of abuse and domestic violence is found more in cases when a woman's job and income is higher than those of her husband's.

**DAY 11****INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND GENDER VIOLENCE**

A Prajnya Resource Centre on Women in Politics and Policy event

**What?** A symposium that draws attention to the experience and incidence of gender violence in the context of internal displacement, whether as a consequence of disasters, development projects or conflict.

**Why?** More than 26 million people worldwide live as refugees in their own country, that is, as Internally Displaced Persons (IDP). Women, who form a preponderant majority of those displaced, are rendered even more vulnerable as a consequence of being uprooted from their space and possibly, separated from their support system. They face the threat of abuse on a day-to-day basis with very little available by way of support, protection and justice.

- The symposium speakers included Dr. Gladstone Xavier, Loyola College; Sr. Lourthumary, Stella Maris College; and Sujata Mody, Malarchi.
- The symposium discussed the impact of displacement due to conflict, disasters and development projects on women's lives.
- Breakdown of support networks, loss of livelihood and an environment of captivity contribute to the increased experience of gender violence by IDPs.
- Gender violence is a form of 'systemic violence', the speakers stressed, and the discussion constantly referenced other political and social changes.

## DAY 12

### MAARUVOM MAATRUVOM: SERNDU SINDIKKA ORU SANDARPAM (Public Forum)

In partnership with Kalki Weekly

**What?** A forum to generate public opinion on gender violence

**Why?** Violence against women is not a private concern. This programme was therefore envisaged as a moderated public forum, with an open mic session, inviting individuals to express their views.



- Underlying attitudes of violence are indicative of masculinity.
- Gender violence must be made a matter of shame.



- Emotional violence has great consequences for a woman.
- Students must be given legal literacy.



- Women are not women's enemies; society indoctrinates us to think so.
- In a patriarchal setup, violence is accepted as part of the marriage.

## DAYS 13 & 14

### GENDER SENSITISATION AND WORKPLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT: A TRAINING OF TRAINERS

In partnership with AVTAR-IWIN

**What?** A two-day training programme for human resource professionals and social work students on gender sensitisation, workplace harassment issues and laws and procedures

**Why?** Because in spite of being one of India's main industrial and corporate hubs, Chennai does not have a corps of trained professionals able to offer advisory, counselling or consultancy services in this area.



What is workplace sexual harassment?

What are the legal provisions for companies?

How can organisations frame and implement policies?

Workshop designed and led by Hengasara Hakkina Sangha

## DAY 15

### CALL FOR HELP: A PRAJNYA LISTING OF EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR WOMEN IN DISTRESS

**What?** An easily accessible directory of service providers and emergency help for women in distress.

Available here <http://prajnya.in/chennaihelplines.htm>

**Why?** Because few people know where to go or whom to go to when they need help and few of us know where to refer someone who needs help.

**CALL FOR HELP**  
Helplines, Counselling, Emergency shelter, Safe Homes, Legal Aid.  
For women in distress.

Emergency helpline for women		1091	only from a BSNL landline
<b>AVAILABLE 24 HOURS TO HELP</b>			
Aashraya (Andhra Mahila Sabha)	Short-stay shelter home, counselling, legal aid, medical and psychiatric support	044-24642566 (24 hours)	12, Rosary Church Road Santhome, Chennai 600 004 (drop-in 24 hours)
Annai Fathima Child Welfare Centre	Phone counselling	9444444874 (24 hours)	No. 34, East Mada Street Myapure, Chennai 600 004
Aruwe	Counselling and referral services, legal aid, psychiatric support	044- 26454615 (24 hours)	No. 11, Solaiamman Koil Street Ayanavaram, Chennai 600 023
PCVC (International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care) pcvc2000@yahoo.com	Shanthi Crisis Line, shelters or other emergency residential facilities, medical services, transportation networks, assistance in finding housing or relocating, other emotional support, legal assistance	044-43111143 (24 hours)	2030, 13 <sup>th</sup> Main Road, Anna Nagar West Chennai 600040.
Sneha help@snehaindia.org	Emotional support to the depressed, desperate and suicidal	044-24640050 (24 hours)	11, Park View Road R.A. Puram, Chennai 600028. (drop-in 8am to 10pm)
<b>ALSO AVAILABLE TO HELP WOMEN IN DISTRESS</b>			
Kalaiselvi Karumalava	Short-stay shelter home, legal clinic.	044.26359495 (10 am to 6pm)	3/PD1, Madanai West

## DAY 16

### PRAJNYA 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN PUBLIC LECTURE: DR JAYA ARUNACHALAM

#### EMPOWERMENT, EQUITY AND FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE



The Public Lecture by Dr Jaya Arunachalam, President, Working Women's Forum brought to an end 16 days of campaigning against gender violence. Dr. Arunachalam reinforced the connections between empowerment of women, their access to economic resources and freedom from violence.

"...women must challenge a situation of over glorification of virtues of patience and endurance and fight perpetration of injustice and inequality against women. So the need of the hour is more intolerance, impatience against such social discriminations and to accelerate the pace of social change, instilling a new social order promoting genuine fraternity between both the sexes."

"There is no exaggeration in the number of incidents of violence against women reported. They are indeed increasing and becoming more gruesome. Such violence threatens the basic rights of women."

Dr. Jaya Arunachalam, December 10, 2009

## SO HOW DID IT GO? AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

For Prajnya, making an impact means three things. **One**, obviously, we reach out to larger and larger numbers of people through the campaign, including people who have never discussed or thought about gender violence before. **Two**, we really hope that those who are living with abuse everyday begin to identify their experience as violence and not as punishment they deserve. This is why we have had public programmes as well as focused training and dialogue sessions. **Three**, we stop talking about gender and sexual violence through euphemisms and use the real words: we say the word rape; we say street sexual harassment and not eve-teasing.

But actually measuring the “impact” of an advocacy initiative is always a tremendous challenge: on what basis do we judge the relative success or failure of a programme? In quantitative terms, by the number of people who attend? Or in a more qualitative sense, by the actual content and substance of the programme? We’ve decided to do both.

This is what we know, in terms of numbers, about the impact of the 2009 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence -

- Over 500 people attended our different programmes
- Our factboxes in The New Indian Express were circulated to an average of 146000 individuals (average per issue readership in Tamil Nadu)
- A good percentage of Chennai Live’s 16 lakh daily listeners heard our factbox on air
- Through Twitter, we were able to reach out to over 900 people

In addition, we know that we have a growing community of “followers” of both the blog, Campaign Chronicle ([prajnya16days.blogspot.com](http://prajnya16days.blogspot.com)) and our Facebook page, both of which were regularly updated during the campaign period.

More crucial to Prajnya’s long-term agenda is the sheer range of follow-up ideas and possibilities that this year’s campaign has generated. These include -

- Dialogues for a self-regulating media;
- Platform for support service providers to share ideas and experiences;
- Courses and workshops for trainee nurses;
- Special modules on gender violence and mental health;
- Interface between grassroots activists and government on gender violence;
- A coalition for action and sensitisation on workplace sexual harassment.

It is evident that there is a genuine need for sustained research and advocacy efforts on gender violence. Prajnya is willing and keen to facilitate these processes, along with committed partners. Moreover, we intend to launch a full-fledged research and information programme on gender violence, which will both draw on learnings from the 2009 campaign and suggest potential activities for future campaigns.

### Stay in touch with us

#### During the Campaign season

prajnya.16days@gmail.com  
<http://www.prajnya.in/16days.htm>  
<http://prajnya16days.blogspot.com>

#### In the Campaign off-season

prajnyatrust@gmail.com  
<http://www.prajnya.in>  
<http://keepingcount.wordpress.com>  
<http://pencilblue.wordpress.com>

## THE PRAJNYA TEAM

Anupama Srinivasan, Campaign Coordinator

Amrutha Raj

David

Hamsini Ravi

Meera Srikant

Nandhini Shanmugam

Nirupa Somasundaram

Nirupama Sarathy

Subhashini Selvanathan

Sumita Pai

Swarna Rajagopalan

Sweta Narayanan

Uma Vangal

Vasughi Adityan

**PRAJNYA 16 DAYS** | campaign against gender violence 09

Prajnya presents

**In Concert**  
Celebrating Defenders of Women's Rights  
Featuring S Sowmya

Friday, 27 November  
6:00 pm  
Vani Mahal

All Are invited

**PRAJNYA 16 DAYS** | campaign against gender violence 09

**In Concert**  
A public event to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. It will feature a performance by S Sowmya, a poet and singer, and a musical performance by the Prajnya Band.

Place: Vani Mahal, 120/121, Vani Road, Chennai

Date & Time  
Date: 27 November  
Time: 6:00 pm

Organized by  
Prajnya  
120/121, Vani Road, Chennai

**PRAJNYA 16 DAYS** | campaign against gender violence 2009

**In Concert**  
A public event to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. It will feature a performance by S Sowmya, a poet and singer, and a musical performance by the Prajnya Band.

Place: Vani Mahal, 120/121, Vani Road, Chennai

Date & Time  
Date: 27 November  
Time: 6:00 pm

Organized by  
Prajnya  
120/121, Vani Road, Chennai

**PRAJNYA 16 DAYS** | campaign against gender violence 09

**Not Silence but Verse**  
A poetry reading by S Sowmya, a poet and singer, and a musical performance by the Prajnya Band.

Place: Full Circle Bookshop at Charriers, No. 85, Charriers Road, Chennai

Date & Time  
Date: 28 November  
Time: 6:15 pm

Organized by  
InKo  
120/121, Vani Road, Chennai

**PRAJNYA 16 DAYS** | campaign against gender violence 09

Inko Centre, Full Circle and Prajnya present

**Not Silence but Verse**  
A poetry reading

Saturday, 28 November  
6:15 pm  
Full Circle Bookshop at Charriers

All Are invited

**GENDER VIOLENCE - I & BIA**

A Prajnya Report  
2009

**PRAJNYA 16 DAYS** | campaign against gender violence 09

Kalki and Prajnya present

**Maaruvom, Maatruvom!**  
Semdu sindikka oru sandarpam

Sunday, 6 December  
4:00 p.m.  
Youth Hostel, Indra Nagar

All Are invited

**PRAJNYA 16 DAYS** | campaign against gender violence 09

**Maaruvom, Maatruvom!**  
Semdu sindikka oru sandarpam

Place: Youth Hostel, 120/121, Vani Road, Chennai

Date & Time  
Date: 6 December  
Time: 4:00 pm

Organized by  
Kalki  
120/121, Vani Road, Chennai

The magic ingredient to keep a woman safe

your involvement

How can we end violence against women?  
We need your voice and involvement in this campaign. And our Prajnya 16 Days Campaign is here to support you.

**PRAJNYA 16 DAYS** | campaign against gender violence 09

**Empowerment, Equity & Freedom from Violence**  
A public lecture

Speaker: Dr. Jaya Arunachalam, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, Anna University, Chennai

Place: Bala Mandir German Hall, 120/121, Vani Road, Chennai

Date & Time  
Date: 10 December  
Time: 6:30 pm

Organized by  
Prajnya  
120/121, Vani Road, Chennai

**PRAJNYA 16 DAYS** | campaign against gender violence 09

Prajnya presents

**Empowerment, Equity & Freedom from Violence**  
A public lecture  
by Dr. Jaya Arunachalam

Thursday, 10 December  
6:30 p.m.  
Bala Mandir German Hall

All Are invited

We thank our volunteer designers for this lovely artwork!