Fwd: submission by North East Network, Assam

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For Advocacy file

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From: NEN Anurita <nenanurita@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, 28 Dec 2021, 3:22 pm
Subject: submission by North East Network, Assam
To: <nhrc.india@nic.in>
Cc: NEN Assam <assam@northeastnetwork.org>, Rashmi Rekha Borah <rashmi@northeastnetwork.org>

28 December 2021

Shri Justice Arun Kumar Mishra
Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission, India

Sir,

Greetings from North East Network!

We are a woman’s rights organization active in the states of Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland since 1995.

We would like to make a submission to you based on the discussion and suggestion which was held on 17 December 2021 at Administrative Staff College, at Guwahati.

We had expressed our concern regarding rising crimes against women in Assam. For the fourth consecutive year, Assam has recorded the highest crime rate against women, according to the NCRB data. In the third edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index, 2020, the state of Assam has performed poorly, scoring 57 and ranked 26, making it the third worst performer in the gender Index.

We appeal to you to issue appropriate directives to Government of Assam to implement the following policy matters.

Acid attack is on the rise in Assam. Very recently in December 2021, two women were thrown acid by a man in Lakhimpur district. In 2017, a Writ Petition was filed in the Gauhati High Court by North East Network and Nishamon Borah, a survivor of acid attack. Assam is yet to implement Supreme Court Guidelines. We urge upon your good office to look into the writ petition as we wait to hear its outcomes. It may be mentioned that the Supreme Court issued guidelines in 2013 to strictly monitor and regulate the sale of acid and undertake adequate publicity measures to ensure that the survivors of acid attack are able to access the provisions of the law aimed at aiding them.

Assam is yet to implement ‘Guidelines and Protocols – Medico Legal Care for Survivors/Victims of Sexual Violence, 2014’ by the Ministry of Health and family Welfare for comprehensive health care response while dealing with persons from vulnerable groups such as women, persons with disabilities, sex workers, LBTQIA+ persons, children etc. NEN had made a submission to Health Department of Assam in this matter in 2018. We urge upon your good office to look into this matter.

A 12 year old girl was allegedly killed and burnt by her employers in Raha, Nagaon district of Assam on 22 April 2021. The minor girl was a domestic help and had worked with the family for many years. We have submitted a memorandum to the ‘One man Enquiry Committee’ appointed by Government of Assam on 16 June, 2021. However, we have not received any update on the case. Moreover, the practice of hiring minor boys and girls from socio-economically marginalized communities as child labour, which is a criminal offence and violation of constitutional rights of the children, should be immediately stopped. We request your esteemed office to look into
the matter, make known to public the outcomes of the Enquiry and ensure prompt justice to the victim and her family.

We feel that it is extremely important to have a state policy for women with adequate budgetary allocation and a dedicated task force with individuals from both government and society. NEN had also submitted an appeal in this matter to Govt. of Assam in 2021.

We look forward to your responses on the above appeal.

With regards,

Anurita Pathak and Rashmi Rekha Borah
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