

Annex 2: List of organisations visited

British Council, Delhi

Ms Kamal Singh Head of Governance & Social Justice
Ms Kalpana Das, Assistant Manager

Jagori, Delhi

Ms Abha Bhaiya – Chairperson, Ms Nandini Rao – Senior Programme
Coordinator

Guild of Service, Delhi

Dr Mohini Giri,
Meera Khanna – Honorary Vice President

Zubaan, Delhi

Urvashi Butalia, Director

All India Democratic Women's Conference, Delhi

AIDWA Central Executive Committee
(All India Women's Association)
Dr Aparna Basu, President

Oxfam (India) Trust, Delhi

Cherian Mathews
Deputy Country Programme Manager

National Human Rights Commission

General Secretary
Head of Complaints
Head of Research

Department of Women and Children Development, Delhi

Dhir Jhingran, Director (and 2 colleagues)

Ministry of External Affairs

Mr Ravi, Head of Western Europe

Ministry of Legal Affairs

Mr A Sinha – Joint Secretary

National Commission for Women

Joint Secretary

Human Rights Activists – Punjab

Justice Bains & his son R Singh Bains, Advocate

Punjab

Human Rights Commission, Punjab

Justice N C Jain, Chief Justice (Retired) Chairperson

Institute for Development and Communication, Chandigarh, Punjab

Dr Pramod Kumar, Director,

Dr Rainuka Dagar, Head of Gender Section

Sanchetena, Ahmedabad

Dr Hanif Lakdawala

SAHR WARU: Women's Action and Resource Unit, Gujarat

Ms Sheeba George, Executive Director

AWAG (Amdavad Women's Action Group)

Dr Ila Pathak

Centre for Social Justice

Mr Gagan Sethi, Director

Human Rights Advocate

Gujarat

Action Aid

Mr Amar Jyoti Naik,
Project Director

Ms Visa Ravindran (based in Chennai) Telephone Interview

Freelance Journalist, writer on women's issues, Honorary President, Joint Action Council for Women.[2002—2004], Founding Member, Centre for Security Analysis, Honorary Chairperson, Aashraya: a Short-stay Shelter for Women in distress, run by the Andhra Mahila Sabha [2003], NGO Representative in Sexual Harassment Grievances Cell, Dept. of Lighthouses & Surface Transport, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, recently made Member, Media Committee, Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women.

Andhra Pradesh State Human Rights Committee

Ms Lalita Iyer, Senior Correspondent, The Week (Hyderabad)

Oxfam – Andhra Pradesh

Ms Girija Devi, Programme Officer,
& **Andhra Pradesh Women's Network**
Coordinator of the Network is Ms Padmavathi

Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies, Hyderabad

Professor Rama Melkote (President)

Dr K Lalita, (Vice-President)

Vasudha Nagaraj (Secretary, practising lawyer)

Dr A Suneetha, Research Fellow at Anveshi

Asmita ("Identity") Resource Centre for Women, Hyderabad.

Ms Vasanth Kannabiran

Raising the consciousness of women on rape, domestic violence, health and reproductive issues.

Ms Fatima Ali Khan

Director, Women Studies Centre, Osmania University, Hyderabad (also runs an NGO for poor women called "Saathi"; has worked with the British Council for several years on a higher education link and on Indo-UK women studies projects).

Department for Women and Child Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Mr Rami Reddy, Commissioner,

British High Commission

Shakti Shalini, Delhi

Women's counselling centre and short stay Home, Delhi

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Annex 5: Information about the organisations cited in the report

British Council

The Council's mandate is to work on collaborative programmes through awareness raising, capacity building and exchange of professionals between India and UK. British Council Governance team is involved in a lot of networking initiatives and offer a neutral platform to bring the Government, NGOs and academics together. They work on issues such as violence against women, women's empowerment and leadership. The British Council organised in collaboration with others a conference for women police officers in 2002.

Jagori

The organisation was founded in 1984 with the main objective of ensuring knowledge and information on women's issues reaches the rural poor and deprived communities, oppressed classes. Their main focus is on training women activists and documenting women's issues and campaigning. Violence against women is their primary area and they run a violence intervention unit, taking up cases and campaigning also producing back-up material. They have a broad remit and are involved in reforms and legislative lobbying, women's reproduction and bodily rights, globalisation issues, sexuality and adolescent girls. They have run projects on community issues in 30 villages in Uttar Pradesh as from last year. In one such village there is an organic farm and a training centre. They receive a lot of Government funding for publishing their material and also receive funding from other German and Dutch sources. They are also involved in a large Government programme started in 1989 called "Education for Women's equality." Jagori have been involved in a campaign against eve-teasing begun in 1989 and have been involved in training police officials on trains and working with the police to ensure eve-teasing is not trivialised.

The Guild of Service

The Guild of Service is a voluntary national organisation working with marginalised women such as women from Kashmir, riot victims of Gujarat, Dalits and children victims of militancy. They are involved in human rights issues for women, advocating with the government and run training programmes for elected members of the panchayats. In addition they work with women in psychiatric asylums and prisons. They act as a watch-dog and run rehabilitation centres for women victims of violence, there are centres in Kashmir, Gujarat, Madras and Delhi, Madhapur. They have a special focus on widows and run homes for widows in north India.

Zubaan

Zubaan publish books by women on women and violence is part of that, being a key concern of the women's movement. The organisation is 20 years old

and grew out of the women's movement. The Director has worked on issues of rape and dowry.

Oxfam, Delhi

According to the deputy acting country programme manager Oxfam Delhi their primary focus covers 10 states identified as poverty pockets and have been operating for over 50 years in India. They focus on livelihood, disaster preparedness and gender. They run many programmes, are involved in advocacy, care and support in neglected areas with the aim of promoting holistic care and support as a prevention. In Uttar Pradesh their focus is on Dalit girl's education. They have also supported and were involved in pioneering work on many gender programmes. They have also worked on enhancing the quantity and quality of support mechanisms, enhancing women's rights, domestic violence, sexual harassment in the work place, building capacity of the police, shelter homes, lobbying at district level and working closely with the police and judiciary and have been involved in a lot of campaigning to bring dowry issues out into the open. They also support campaigns.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

The NHRC was set up in 1993 under the Human Rights Act 1993. They are funded by parliament and tax payers money. They investigate complaints and provide legal assistance. The US Department of State report 2003 describes the NHRC as the main human rights organisation operating in the country. The NHRC is government appointed and has powers to investigate and recommend policy changes, punishment and compensation in cases of police abuse. The NHRC was directed to contribute to the establishment and functioning of NGOs. The Commission acts independently of the Government.^[40a]

All India Women's Conference (AIWC)

The AIWC set up in 1927 by an Irish suffragette, is involved in issues of dowry child marriage and legislative measures for women, working women's issues, prostitution and immoral trafficking. They are partially funded by the government and subsidised by international funding. The organisation is committed to the cause of women and protests against exploitation in the economic, social and political fields. The organisation provides a short stay home for women in distress, family counselling and legal awareness.

The National Commission for Women (NCW)

The National Commission for Women is a statutory body founded in 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act 1990 with the aim of promoting and protecting the interests and safeguards of women. The Commission is a recommendatory body with a Research and Studies Cell, a Monitoring Cell, Public Relations Cell, Administration unit and Legal and

Complaints and Investigation cell. As stated in the annual report of the Department of Women and Children 2002-2003, investigations by the police are expedited and monitored, family disputes are resolved or compromised through counselling and serious crimes are dealt with by an Inquiry Committee who following investigation which involves examining witnesses and collating evidence, a report is submitted with recommendations. The implementation of the recommendation is monitored by the Commission.[1a]

Punjab Human Rights Activists

A group of human rights activists interviewed who had done extensive work on human rights, women and farmers rights in Punjab.

Justice Bains and Mr Rajvinder Singh Bains

Both are prominent human rights lawyers from Punjab.

Punjab State Human Rights Commission

The Commission was set up on 17 March 1997 under the Human Rights Act 1993. The Commission started work on 16 July 1997. The Commission is made up of a Chairperson who has been a Chief Justice of a High Court, one member who is, or has been a Judge of the High Court, one member who is or had been a District Judge of the High Court and two members having experience in matters relating to human rights. The current Chairman Justice N C Jain met with the delegation. The Commission has powers to inquire into violations of human rights and negligence in the prevention of such violations. It can intervene in proceedings involving human rights violations, visit detention or similar facilities, review Constitutional safeguards in respect of human rights, study treaties, promote research and education and encourage NGOs in the field of human rights. After an inquiry into an individual case the Commission may recommend the initiation of proceedings or other action against individuals, approach the Supreme Court for directions it may deem necessary, and recommend the grant of immediate relief to the victim or family. The authority/State Government has to indicate its comments/action taken on the report/recommendations of the Commission within a period of one month in respect of general complaints.

Institute for Development and Communication, Punjab

A research institute based in Chandigarh, who receive funding from the Government NGOs and international sources. They have produced a number of reports covering issues related to women in conflict, violence against women and development issues. The Institute aims to influence policy and intervene in the public arena. The Institute aims to increase public knowledge and perception in the area of gender conflict including domestic violence and development areas such as the social implications or peasantry, debt and cultural and political development.

Sanchetana Community Health and Research Centre, Ahmedabad

A Gujarat based NGO registered as a charitable trust receiving funding from the US and in the past the Netherlands. The Centre has been operating for some 22 years. Director, Dr Hanif Lakdawala. Originally the main focus was on the area of health, but the Centre also looks at human rights issues and violence issues and since 1987/8 has been working in the area of communal violence trying to bring the two communities together. They are working with Gujarat representatives of NHRC in Ahmedabad.

SAHR WARU: Women's Action and Resource Unit, Ahmedabad

A Gujarat based NGO working on women's empowerment and equality. The group undertakes advocacy, research, training, action and dissemination and publicity. Mainly focussed on Ahmedabad City and district the group has also worked in other districts in Gujarat and the cities of Nagpur, Yewatmal, Mumbai and Calcutta. The group runs a Legal Aid Programme which provides legal aid to women through casework. Provided specific assistance to women after the Gujarat violence in 2002.

Ahmedabad Women's Action Group (AWAG)

Registered as a society and as a public trust AWAG receives funding from the Government, international organisations and individuals. They do not receive funding from corporations due to their comments on the presentation of women in their commercial advertisements and their support for the formation of a union. The Secretary to the Trust Committee Dr Ila Pathak who met the delegation is also known as the Director. The group is Gujarat based but also takes up issues of advocacy at the state level. They are involved in police gender sensitisation training.

Centre for Social Justice, Ahmedabad

The Centre for Social Justice was set up in 1994. It ensures that the legal and human rights of the vulnerable are protected. It works towards enhancing access to legal remedies by providing qualitative and free legal services to the vulnerable people. It also sees to it that legal awareness is created and it spreads among the vulnerable people. The organization prepares the base and runs campaigns for advocacy and law reform. It tries to instil human rights perspective in the day-to-day working of the Judiciary. It works for improving the quality of legal education. Its main thrust area is to provide Social Justice Through Alternate Lawyering. The main target groups of the organizations are women, Dalits, tribal people and prisoners under trial. It works in 8 districts in Gujarat through a network of Law Centres. It is supported by Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust and Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation along with small grants from Local Government Schemes and individual contribution from the public. It has a specialized working group on women's rights, socio-eco rights and an environ-legal division.

A human rights lawyer working with NGOs and individuals in Gujarat

Action Aid (Gujarat)

A Legal Cell Team of paralegal lawyers. Working at Supreme Court level generated a group of lawyers to take up cases working closely with the Human Rights Commission. Exceptional circumstances brought them to Gujarat. Criticised for being more into social and economic rights and not into civil Human Rights. Provide social support to the women and children who are the first victims of any violence. Provide legal help working with them provide counselling and mental health support. Worked closely with state authorities after earthquake and drafted rules for Juvenile Justice Act.

Visa Ravindran

Freelance journalist and writer on women's issues based in Chennai. Honorary President, Joint Action Council for Women.[2002—2004], Founding Member, Centre for Security Analysis, Honorary Chairperson, Aashraya - a Short-stay Shelter for Women in distress, run by the Andhra Mahila Sabha.[2003], NGO Representative in Sexual Harassment Grievances Cell, Dept. of Lighthouses & Surface Transport, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, recently made Member, Media Committee, Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women.

Andhra Pradesh State Human Rights Committee (APSHRC)

A committee of judges who receive complaints from individuals and can award compensation for victims and recommend prosecution. Set up in 2002 following guidelines issued by the Supreme Court. It has an overseeing role in implementation of guidelines on the arrest and detention of individuals. Chaired by a retired High Court Justice. They investigate and report on cases brought to their attention and provide a report to the State Government, if the State Government fails to comply with their directions the APSHRC sends the report to the Supreme Court.

Lalita Iyer

Senior Correspondent in Hyderabad, The Week, a weekly magazine from the house of the Malayala Manorama Group, owned by a Christian family.

Andhra Pradesh Women's Network

A group supported by Oxfam Andhra Pradesh. The Network started work in October 2002 and its main objective is to create a violence free society and to fight against violence against women. They work mainly in the areas of family and dowry violence. They run awareness campaigns, marches and rallies and plan further awareness campaigns including a bicycle rally aimed at future possible perpetrators of domestic violence.

Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies, Hyderabad

Anveshi is a research centre for women's studies, established in 1985, in order to provide a space where feminist activists and scholars from different institutions could interact. It was envisaged as a centre where researchers from different disciplines and backgrounds could find intellectual stimulation and material resources essential from women's studies. Based in Hyderabad, Anveshi has worked on wide-ranging issues from those of health (issues of harmful contraceptives and population targets), caste discrimination, reservations and dalit issues (worked against anti-reservation politics, probed into atrocities against dalits and worked on issues of discrimination against dalits in educational institutions) literature, history, media, law and institutions.)

Asmita, Hyderabad

A women's resource centre based in Hyderabad. Their primary function is to offer legal aid and counselling to women in distress. Campaign on women's rights at a policy level. They produce and distribute literature, pamphlets posters and leaflets. The organisation have produced a ballet on domestic violence which they see as a powerful way of carrying a message against domestic violence and patriarchy.

Department for Women and Child Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh state body responsible for women and child development in Andhra Pradesh. Implements the Child Development scheme. Provide food supplements and immunisation programmes through centres for women and children. Also provide educational programmes in the area of women and child development.

Ms Fatima Ali Khan

Director Women Studies Centre, Osmania University, Andhra Pradesh. Also runs an NGO for poor women called Saathi.

Shakti Shalini, Delhi

Shakti Shalini was formed in 1987 by a group of parents of dowry victims. It operates from a main office in New Delhi and field offices in the slums. The organisation works with battered women and children to provide support for long-term rehabilitation, influence policy, and generate a socio-cultural environment against violence inflicted on women. They run a short stay home, which provides shelter and serves as a crisis intervention centre and temporary refuge.

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