

From: Rakshak Helpline <help.rakshak@gmail.com>

Mailed-By: gmail.com

To: "Consul General of India, San Francisco" <cg@cgisf.org>

Cc: sndani@yahoo.com, help.rakshak@gmail.com, info@498a.org, mail@pariwariksuraksha.org, bhavani.mahadevan@gmail.com, cca@cgisf.org, jsds@moia.nic.in, dirss@moia.nic.in, minister@moia.nic.in

Date: Jun 19, 2006 3:46 PM

Subject: our concern about MOIA meeting with NCW on 20-21st June'06

Dear Mr. Prakash,

Please refer to the news article in hindustan times:

http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/5967_1723537.00160006.htm?headline=NRI~marriages:~'Plz~do~something which mentions about MOIA meeting with NCW and which does not refer to any atrocities on the families of the NRI grooms by the unscrupulous women and their families.

Mr. Prabhat Singh informed us in the mail to us that he has intimated Joint Secretary Mr. Malay Mishra in MOIA about the plight of Indian grooms and their families (extortion using the stringent laws like 498a). His mail to us is attached at the end of the mail. We have not heard from any official from MOIA till date.

We have not heard from the government and we feel that husband's and their family issues (NRI) have not been handled or represented at all. We and our representatives have made numerous attempts to present it to MOIA, but we are yet to see any results/communication from the government on that. We have received more than couple of hundred complaints of the NRI husbands about atrocities inflicted by the family of the wife (including wife) in a marriage that has gone sour.

Could you please let us know what is the best way to have our concerns heard in these meetings too. Some representatives of "Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha" has attended a meeting at MOIA when they reviews the draft of the "marriage to overseas indians" booklet and had presented their concerns (<http://moia.gov.in/showinfo1.asp?linkid=245>). We have not seen any cognizance of their suggestions to the review committee until now. They are copied on tihs mail too. Also included is the copy of the marriage booklet few of our volunteers have come out with, which we think is more balanced and contain much more relevant information.

We, working for family harmony are very concerned that the NRI marriage issues are not adequately represented (as there is no government funded organization to represent the rights of the husband and their families).

Please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Bhavani Ramamurthi (for Rakshak Team)

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Mail from Mr. Prabhat Kumar:

From: "Prabhat K. Singh, Consul CA" <CCA@cgisf.org>
Date: Mon, 15 May 2006 15:16:58 -0700

Pl refer to our meeting this morning regarding misuse of sec498A of IPC by women to embroil their husbands and their realtives, in some cases distant ones, I have forwarded your petitions to the Joint Secretary, Mr Malay Mishra in Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. My recommendation has been the following:

Even though the numbers involved may not be large, the issue is gathering steam with it attracting media coverage and even an advisory being issued by the US State Deptt regarding the misuse of the same legal provision to its citizens. In view of these and the sentiments expressed by the petitioners, it is requested that the MOIA may consider making the article concerning sec498A on the Ministry's website and the proposed booklet on the same subject at least gender neutral and request the Law Ministry to examine providing safeguards against the misuse of the legal provisions by hearing the other side or in this case the petitioners.
Prabhat Kumar Singh
Consul

On 4/27/06, **Consul General of India, San Francisco** <cg@cgisf.org> wrote:

I have gone through the useful material prepared by your organization for the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs regarding the misuse sometimes of Section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code. I would appreciate if someone knowledgeable could talk to me in this regard.

(B.S. Prakash)

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Date: Jun 21, 2006 11:55 PM

Subject: Re: our concern about MOIA meeting with NCW on 20-21st June'06

Dear Mr. Prakash,

It is really odd and frustrating for NRIs to see that there was a 2 day meet organized by NCW in partnership with MOIA about issues on NRI marriage with absolutely no representation by NRIs (on 21st and 22nd June). No news about this workshop was available at MOIA website (www.overseasindian.in), no information was circulated, none of the organizations (like Asha Kiran, Rakshak, PSS) were informed about these events.

We got to know about this event 12 hours in advance through news paper sites.

All of our efforts to get MOIA/MEA to acknowledge/act/understand our concerns for past several months have been unanswered.

We fail to understand what is the agenda and role of MOIA and MEA for overseas Indians.

NCW (National Commission for Women) has been making only one sided, pro women remarks and maligning NRI groom and their family reputation.

Please suggest us what options we are left with? Is this all the commitment Indian Government shows to the hard working NRIs in exchange of the glory, fame and positive image we bring to our motherland?

Where did we go wrong?

- Rakshak Team.

Please see the news articles

<http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20060621/369758.html>

A comprehensive legislation to tackle the problems relating to NRI marriages is expected to be prepared by the month of November, National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Girija Vyas said today.

Ms Vyas said the Commission was studying the problem of NRI men abandoning their Indian wives along with all other aspects of the issue and would come up with a report in this regard in two to three months.

"We will give our recommendations to the Central government by October so that a comprehensive and practicable act could be brought by the month of November," she said while talking to

reporters on the sidelines of a workshop on "Problems relating to NRI Marriages" organised by the NCW and the Ministry of Overseas Indian affairs jointly.

To a question, she said the Commission was in favour of enforcing this law with retrospective effect so that those NRIs who had already spoiled the lives of thousands of innocent girls from India by abandoning them after marriage could be brought to book.

She said the Commission was working in [tandem](#) with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and Ministry of Women and Child Welfare' besides several other related organisations, agencies, associations and NGOs in this regard.

The Commission, Ms Vyas said, would also recommend that those NRIs who would marry the Indian girls would be made to sign an affidavit declaring their antecedents. Such marriages, she said, should be registered within a specified period of time which could be up to three months.

Also, a dual photograph of the NRI husband and his Indian wife be incorporated in his [passport](#) in order to curb the tendency to break the marriage to marry someone again, she added.