

Misuse of anti-dowry laws against NRIs

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NEW DELHI: An international NRI press conference was organized by 498a.org at New Delhi's India International Center to raise awareness regarding the NRI parental child abduction cases and the misuse of anti-dowry laws against NRIs and their families.

Several victim NRI fathers whose children have been abducted and taken to India by their NRI wives had joined this event via tele/video conference in order to raise their concerns and present their heart wrenching stories to the press. Dr Anupama Singh facilitated the interaction between the NRIs and journalists. There were victims from various parts of the world, mostly from the USA, who participated in this unique press conference.

There were around 35 such NRIs on the phone and some of

the NRIs family members in India had come to the venue of the press conference. All the NRIs who joined the press conference were highly educated and well-to-do engineers and doctors. The participants included victims whose children had been abducted by their estranged wives or non-custodial ex-wives (who were not even Indian citizens) to India and when these men fought their child custody issues in India, their whole family was jailed by the use of false 498a cases.

Every year, unscrupulous brides dupe thousands of NRI men into sham marriages and many NRIs become victims of International Parental Child Abduction. Not a day goes by when you don't hear the myths regarding the issue of NRI Abandoned Brides and the hype that has been generated by those with vested interests about it.

There have many cases of immigration fraud in which NRI grooms are used to acquire a visa to a foreign country and then callously abandoned. The complex issues surrounding NRI marriages and the reverse phenomenon of

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Abandoned Grooms and Child Abductions by NRI Brides were discussed at length in the conference.

In fact, India is now known as a safe haven for Parental Child Abduction. Many of the unscrupulous Indian women take advantage of gender-biased laws by filing false cases of domestic violence and dowry abuse to harass

and extort money from their husbands and in-laws. In most of the incidents where wife abducted kids to India, the wife had lost the divorce and/or child custody case in foreign court, and ran to India to file a false dowry harassment case against the husband and his family.

Several incidents have come to light where the abductor wife also had arrest warrants issued against her in the USA that had been brought to the attention of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Indian Courts (and also published in a major Indian newspaper). Despite all this, the abductor wives/ex-wives were easily able to register false dowry harassment cases in India.

Even after these women had received final orders in their divorce cases in the USA, they came back to India and filed dowry harassment cases against their NRI husbands and their family. In

couple of cases, the wife/ex-wife was not even an Indian citizen.

In last two years, many NRIs and NGOs such as Rakshak Foundation have written several letters to the MOIA ministry, met MOIA minister Vayalar Ravi, Secretary Nirmal Singh, written and met members of parliament, deposed in front of several high level government committees.

Despite all this, the NRIs have not received any help or support in any form from any Indian government/non-government/legal agency to address the rampant misuse of the Indian gender biased laws that are used solely to extort money from NRIs and harass their extended families.

After trying every other possible way to garner help from the Indian government, NRIs have now turned to the media to seek help in creating awareness about the misuse of the dowry laws.