

NRI Marriages - "Abandoned" Grooms, "Abducted" Children and "Abused" In-Laws

(Location: Santa Clara City Library, 2635 Homestead Rd, Santa Clara, CA 95051 Conference Room: Sycamore Date: Dec 15th 2007)

(Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM Contact: Satya Kumar Phone: 408-329-1492 E-mail: public.relations@498a.org)

498a.org is organizing a press conference to expose immigration fraud in which NRI grooms are callously used to acquire a visa to a foreign country and then abandoned. **Press conference will be held at the Santa Clara City Library on Dec 15th, 2007 from 2:00 pm to 4 pm.** We intend to dispel the myths regarding the issue of NRI Abandoned Brides and the hype that has been generated by vested interests. NRI marriages and the reverse phenomenon of Abandoned Indian Grooms and child abductions by NRI Brides will also be discussed. There will be a live question and answer teleconference call with dozens of NRIs, who will reveal the havoc and destruction caused in their and their extended family's lives by the Gender Biased Laws in India.

When US based Jaspreet* married his wife Komal* in India, he was looking forward to a life of love, companionship and matrimonial bliss. However, within a month of joining Jaspreet in US, Komal clearly told him that she was interested in someone else and married him just for immigration to US, so that she can become a doctor here. After Jaspreet filed for divorce, Komal went to India and filed a false case of dowry harassment against Jaspreet and his family. She demanded 1 crore rupees (\$250,000) to take back the false criminal cases. Jaspreet's father suffered a cardiac arrest by the extreme stress caused by these false cases and passed away. He could not even attend his father's funeral. Today, Jaspreet has an Interpol Red Corner Notice against him, his family has been devastated and he fights hopelessly for justice in Indian Courts. It has been eight years and the false criminal case filed by Komal still goes on. Meanwhile, Komal has remarried and is living a normal life with her new husband and two kids.

Ramesh* (married for 5 years) sent his wife and son to India as he received an e-mail from his father-in-law that he had an impending heart surgery. His wife filed for Child Custody in India and until the interim order was fraudulently obtained continued to talk to him without giving him even a slight hint of her devious plans. Ramesh contested the case and eventually got an order permitting him to talk to his son in India and in all the proceedings that took place for almost 3-4 months there was no mention of dowry or threatening calls. But within a matter of hours after the order, dowry harassment allegation surfaced and false cases of 498a and 506 were registered against him and his family. His father aged 80 and sister were jailed without a shred of evidence. His sister's 2 children 3 and 9 were without a clue as to where their mother was for 2 days. Despite the court order in his favor he has not been able to talk to his son for over a year.

Jaspreet and Ramesh are not isolated cases. Every year, hundreds of NRI men are duped into sham marriages by unscrupulous brides, wherein unsuspecting grooms are ruthlessly exploited for immigration purposes. A new phenomenon has emerged in recent years wherein after landing on foreign shores, many newly wed brides from India promptly dump their husbands, sometimes within a matter of days. Worse, many of them take advantage of gender biased laws by filing false cases of domestic violence and dowry abuse to harass and extort money from their husbands.

While the much hyped Pravasi Bhartiya Divas conducted by the Govt. of India has become a platform for bashing NRI Grooms, Indian Govt. refuses to even acknowledge the anguished cries for justice by these innocent families that are being destroyed by unscrupulous Indian brides. Efforts by 498a.org, Rakshak Foundation and other sister organizations to inform the Indian Govt. about this immigration and extortion racket have been met with resentment and hostility. The Govt. apathy to the plight of these innocent men is best exemplified by the Ministry specifically created for NRIs – Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA). The very Ministry that is expected to act as a liaison between NRIs and the motherland is steadfastly pursuing an anti-NRI agenda. The persistent refusal by MOIA to even consider the issue of Abandoned and Cheated NRI Husbands comes as a shock and surprise to NRIs, many of whom have decided to distance themselves from India, after their bitter experience.

This issue requires immediate unbiased journalistic coverage given the fact that the Indian Govt. is considering even more gender biased legislations, which are based on faulty assumptions and unsubstantiated statistics. We cordially invite you to join our press conference and learn the shocking truth about NRI Marriages, abandoned spouses and abducted children.

498a.org is a voluntary organization dedicated to supporting NRIs and their families who've been ensnared by this draconian law. Rakshak Foundation is an international organization dedicated to preserving the family and social values of India. 498a.org and Rakshak are organizing this press conference. The purpose is to increase public awareness about NRI marriages and the impact of Gender Biased Laws on NRIs. More information is available at www.498a.org/pressConference.htm.

*names have been changed to protect identities