

NRI Marriages - "Vanishing" Brides and "Abandoned" Grooms

(August 9th 2007, 11AM -2 PM Conf. Room No.3, The India International Centre Annexe, 40 Max Muller Marg, New Delhi)

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When Canada based NRI Mandeep* married his wife Jasvinder* in India about a year ago, he was looking forward to a blissful married life. What he was not prepared for was the "vanishing act" by his wife within a week of arriving in Canada. Shocked and confused, he took police's help to find his wife, but his efforts to be reunited with her were thwarted, when she refused to return back to him and admitted that she had married him only for a visa. To add insult to injury, as per Canadian immigration laws, he is obligated to provide financial support to his "vanished" wife for the next three years..

Mandeep's is not an isolated case. Every year, scores 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 phenomenon of Abandoned Brides, has received abundant media attention, the counterpart phenomenon of Abandoned Grooms has largely been ignored and has not even been acknowledged. To expose this immigration fraud in which NRI grooms are callously used to acquire a visa to a foreign country and then abandoned, **498.org, in conjunction with Rakshak, is organizing a press conference at the India International Center Annexe on Aug 9th 2007 from 11am to 2 pm.** We intend to dispel the myths regarding the issue of NRI Abandoned Brides and hype that has been generated by vested interests. NRI marriages and the reverse phenomenon on Abandoned Indian Grooms 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 lives by the Gender Biased Laws in India and the Govt's unconcerned disposition towards their predicament.

To see the indifferent attitude of the Govt., consider the case of Joy*. Shortly after his wife joined him in the USA, Joy was distraught by the viciousness and violent nature of his wife. He soon discovered that she had bi-polar disorder, a serious mental illness. Her parents admitted that the medical condition existed before marriage and this information was withheld from Joy. He tried to get her treated in the USA, but his wife fled to India and promptly registered a dowry case against him and his aged parents. Her brother, a Supreme Court Lawyer, used his powerful connections, to get an Interpol Red Corner Notice (generally used for hardened criminals) against Joy and also managed to get his passport revoked. An appeal to Ministry of External Affairs has been pending for the past 6 months. Meanwhile, his brother-in-law has been attempting to convince Joy's employer to terminate him from his job. The Indian Govt. and judiciary have turned a deaf ear to Joy's anguished appeals for justice. Living a life of melancholy and suffering, Joy has lost all hope for his career and his future in the US, for which he had worked so hard.

Efforts by 498a.org and other sister organizations to inform the 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 – The 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, by acting under undue pressure and influence from NCW and WCD. **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 is of great national interest given that the Govt. is considering further **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 and abandoned spouses.

[498a.org](http://www.498a.org) is a voluntary organization dedicated to supporting NRIs and their families who've been ensnared by this draconian law. Rakshak is an international organization dedicated to preserving the family and social values of India. [498a.org](http://www.498a.org) and Rakshak are organizing a press conference "NRIs Marriages – Vanishing Brides and Abandoned Grooms". 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