

**Information booklet prepared by**



**for the meeting of Rakshak members**

**with**

**Shri Vayalar Ravi**

**Minister**

**Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA)**

**at the Hyatt Century Plaza  
Los Angeles, California**

**June 29th, 2006**



**The Honorable Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs**

The Hyatt Century Plaza, Los Angeles (Meeting in person)

June 29, 2006

**Subject:** MOIA Officials repeatedly ignore NRI Interests, works Exclusively with NCW to unleash anti-NRI laws, brings out an NRI-Hating Booklet on NRI Marriages.

Dear Sir,

Thanks for taking time to meet with us. We would like to also thank Consul General of India at San Francisco, Mr. B. S. Prakash for arranging this meeting.

As the Indian legal system considers all complaints filed by a wife as genuine by default, laws made to protect women from dowry harassment are rampantly being misused as a weapon to blackmail, extort money and seek revenge on NRI husbands and their India-based families. This is taking a huge toll on the personal and professional lives of Overseas Indians. Overseas Indians who unwittingly land in India for various reasons have been arrested, ill treated and exploited in the name of dowry laws. The economic and emotional damage resulting from this "legal terrorism" is creating a fear psychosis among Overseas Indian men when it comes to marrying women of Indian origin.

Is MOIA interested in this wholesale social division between resident and non-resident Indians?

**MOIA Booklet on Marriages to Overseas Indians**

As if this trauma is not enough, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has recently released a booklet on marriages with Overseas Indians. The booklet, published after an obstinate and rude disregards for all suggestions made by NRI organizations representing the husbands' point of view, are literally an example of MOIA's hatred for Overseas Indians projecting them all as fraudulent, violent and abusive towards women. While there are instances of abuse and violence in marriages with Overseas Indians (just like those in marriages with Resident Indians, some acts of violence, including well-publicized murders, directed at men), the booklet, primarily led by the MOIA official Ms. Sandhya Shukla, is causing deep and widespread resentment among Overseas Indians. Does Ms. Shukla's definition of Social Services include only targeting Overseas Indian Men and their families?

The MOIA booklet makes the following blatant generalizations against Overseas Indians:

1. Only NRI husbands and their families are responsible for failed and fraudulent marriages to Indian women.
2. NRI husbands physically and financially harass their wives frequently.
3. NRI husbands get married for dowry and abandon/divorce their wives after a short honeymoon.
4. NRI husbands and their family hide/lie about their marital status, job, visa status etc.
5. There are countless cases Indian wives of NRI husbands harassed by NRI families

MOIA has ignored suggestions made by "Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha (PSS) and Rakshak members" to balance out the MOIA booklet on marriage to overseas Indians. Following suggestions were made to Ms. Sandhya Shukla and the committee over viewing the booklet contents on 14<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> February. Some of the important points are:

1. Fraudulent marriages are prevalent from both bride and bridegroom, not only from NRI bridegroom.
2. The Booklet should be gender neutral and should not only address or talk about harassed people.
3. 'Wife' should be replaced by 'Spouse'. Ms. Shukla agreed to this, but we have not seen any change in the booklet yet.
4. It should specify do and don't to NRI while marrying an Indian bride.
5. It must mention that dowry case in India can be legally started by the Indian bride against the NRI's extended family without any proof.

**Disregard for the Exploitation of NRI Husbands**

Overseas Indians trapped in false criminal cases are expending their valuable time, effort and money to fight their cases that drag on for several years due to the inefficient Indian police and judicial systems. Their extended family go through enormous torture. This trend is impeding the progress of extremely talented, intelligent and resourceful young Indians in India and abroad.



**Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha (PSS)**

8/21, Third Floor, Near Birbal Park, Jangpura Extn., New Delhi-110014.

MOIA officials have blatantly ignored several attempts by Overseas Indians to draw their attention to this exploitation through the misuse of anti-dowry laws:

1. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, a memorandum was sent to the Indian Ambassador in Washington D.C. with copies to all Consuls General in the US, Officials in the MOIA and The President of India. We did not hear any response from Mr. Sen.
2. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Mr. Prabhat Kumar Singh, San Francisco Consul, forwarded the concerns to Mr. Malay Mishra, Joint Secretary, MOIA, about the misuse of 498A against Overseas Indians. We did not hear any response from Mr. Mishra.
3. On Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, representatives of "Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha (PSS)" had attended a meeting at MOIA when they reviewed 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.
4. On Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, representatives of "Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha" had attended a meeting with Ms. Sandhya Shukla about the contents of the booklet and voiced their opinion, no action/cognizance has been taken on their suggestions.
5. Before Pravasiya Bhartiya Divas in January our members sent several e-mails to MOIA officials to take cognizance of crime against NRI husbands/families and to include this in their seminar chaired by Mrs. Girija Vyas (Chairman, NCW). This plea was also ignored.

Whose affairs the MOIA is Looking After? Only undermining NRIs through vile characterization to be plum targets for criminal exploitation?

**MOIA About to Unleash Anti-NRI Laws in Cahoots with NCW**

Representatives of "Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha, (PSS)" met NCW and MOIA officials and have raised their concern over the MOIA booklet. Still neither MOIA officials nor NCW in their statements to the public/press state the problems NRI families face, including elderly people.

Just as we were waiting for a response on the booklet, the MOIA organized a two-day meet on June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 entirely to NCW's script, proposing to unleash the latest draconian laws against NRI husbands. The meet was organized without giving any voice to NRI husbands but exploited by MOIA officials to generate a huge anti-NRI propaganda in Indian newspapers, even the Times of India projecting in its editorial all NRI husbands as evil wife abusers. We came to know about the meet only through the newspapers. It wasn't even announced on [www.overseasindian.in](http://www.overseasindian.in) or <http://moia.gov.in>. Typical NCW accusations are "Lying, cheating, false promises, unreasonable dowry demands are just some of the things unfortunate NRI brides have to put up with, not to mention divorce, desertion and abduction of children."

**Will the MOIA stand up for Overseas Indians' Interests?**

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. All Counsel Generals in USA (except San Francisco every other consul Generals ignored over repeated requests.

We would like to know an easy and fast way to reach to -

- Indian Government officials at MOIA.
- Indian Ambassador and Indian Consulate Generals at the 4 consulates in United States.
- How to ensure that our concerns are not overlooked by MOIA when discussing the issues relating to overseas Indians.

Thanking you and with regards,  
Rakshak Team

CC:

Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, President of India

Ambassador Ronen Sen, 2107 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C., USA - 20008

B.S. Prakash, Consulate General of India in San Francisco, 540 Arguello Boulevard San Francisco, CA 94118

Neelam Deo, Consulate General of India in New York, 3 East, 64th Street, New York, NY 10021

Arun Kumar, Consulate General of India in Chicago, 455, North City Front Plaza Drive, Suite 850, Chicago, IL 60611

Consulate General of India in Houston, 1990 Post Oak Blvd. # 600 3 Post Oak Central Houston, TX 77056

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister, MOIA, 9th Floor, Akbar Bhawan, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi - 110021, Shri R. Narayanaswami, Secretary, MOIA Shri Malay Mishra [Diaspora Services Division], MOIA Dr. R.K.Verma [National Informatics Center], MOIA Ms. Sandhya Shukla [Social Services Unit], MOIA



310, Carmelita Place, Fremont, CA 94539 , e-mail: [help.rakshak@gmail.com](mailto:help.rakshak@gmail.com)  
Phone: 510.490.2657, <http://www.rakshak.info>

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**Honorable Justice Cyriac Joseph and Justice panel**  
US District Court for Northern District of California  
280 S. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113

Date: June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**Subject: Follow-up on the Meeting of IPC 498A affected Overseas Indians**

Honorable Justices:

We are grateful to you for the opportunity to be heard today. We thank Consul General of India at San Francisco Shri B.S.Prakash to arrange for this meeting.

The Indian legal system considers all complaints filed by wives to be genuine and immediately actionable by jailing the husband as well as his immediate and extended family requiring neither a prima facie investigation nor presentation of probable cause to the magistrate.

Consequently, laws made to protect women from dowry harassment have become a weapon to blackmail, extort money, coerce terms of marital settlement or seek revenge on Overseas Indians and their India-based families, all under the cover of legal sanction of the police, prosecution and judiciary. This rampant abuse has been inflicting legal wrongs upon Overseas Indians and their families without recourse to restitution or legal action against malicious prosecution.

We submitted the following prayers for the consideration of the Indian judiciary:

- That the Investigating Officer be required to state in court the basis or evidence for their reasonable belief that a crime has been committed; that the accuser be required to state her allegations on oath or an affirmation under penalty of perjury before an entire innocent family is subjected to indefinite and non-bailable custody;
- That the Judiciary may guide us how, when and by whom perjury charges for a false 498A report can be brought about;
- That, in order to minimize pre-trial extortion under duress, upon bail the accused NRI be allowed to return to his livelihood overseas until the trial begins; if necessary by requiring him to report to the nearest Indian consulate;
- That the accused NRI be allowed to make preliminary court appearances over a videoconference to spare several, short trips half way around the world.

**For your perusal, press clippings, individual stories and information booklets are enclosed.**

Our heartfelt thanks and warmest regards,

Rakshak Team

CC:

Ambassador Ronen Sen, 2107 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C., USA - 20008

B.S. Prakash, Consulate General of India in San Francisco, 540 Arguello Boulevard San Francisco, CA 94118

Neelam Deo, Consulate General of India in New York, 3 East, 64th Street, New York, NY 10021

Arun Kumar, Consulate General of India in Chicago, 455, North City Front Plaza Drive, Suite 850, Chicago, IL 60611

Consulate General of India in Houston, 1990 Post Oak Blvd. # 600 3 Post Oak Central Houston, TX 77056

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister, MOIA, 9th Floor, Akbar Bhawan, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi – 110021, Shri R. Narayanaswami, Secretary, MOIA Shri Malay Mishra [Diaspora Services Division], MOIA Dr. R.K.Verma [National Informatics Center], MOIA Ms. Sandhya Shukla [Social Services Unit], MOIA



**ashakiran**

**Asha Kiran**

1252/6 P.M. Lakshmi Layout, Magdi Cord Road Layout, 1<sup>st</sup> Main, Vijay Nagar, Bangalore 560 040,  
[help.ashakiran@gmail.com](mailto:help.ashakiran@gmail.com), Phone : 91-80-55334135

**Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha**

8/21, Third Floor, Near Birbal Park, Jangpura Extn., New Delhi-110014.

**Ambassador Ronen Sen**

2107 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,  
Washington D.C., USA - 20008

**Date:** April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**Sub:** Memorandum to Indian Government officials about large scale misuse of dowry law against NRIs (Overseas Indians) and gender biased view of MOIA (in the marriage booklet published recently) against overseas Indian husbands and their families.

Dear Sir,

The large-scale abuse of the Indian dowry laws (predominantly section 498a of the Indian Penal Code), by some unscrupulous women and their families, has been taking a huge toll on the personal and professional lives of Overseas Indians. Since the Indian legal system considers all complaints filed by women to be genuine by default, laws that have been made to protect women from dowry harassment are now being increasingly used as a weapon to blackmail, extort money from or seek revenge on Overseas Indians and their families in India. Overseas Indians who unwittingly land in India for various reasons have been arrested, ill-treated and exploited in the name of dowry laws. This kind of "legal terrorism" has caused so much economic and emotional damage that marrying a woman of Indian origin has become a source of intense fear among Overseas Indian men.

As if the trauma of being implicated in false dowry cases is not enough, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) has recently released their booklet on marriages with Overseas Indians, which presents an extremely biased picture projecting all Overseas Indians as fraudulent, violent and abusive towards women, with no reliable statistics to support their claims. While there are instances of abuse and violence in marriages with Overseas Indians (just like those in marriages with Resident Indians), the booklet exaggerated a one-sided story and has caused deep disappointment among Overseas Indians.

The abuse of Indian dowry laws has hampered the progress of hundreds of Overseas Indians whose intellectual abilities and professional skills are highly valued all over the world. Many Overseas Indians trapped in false criminal cases are expending their valuable time, effort and money to fight their cases which drag on for several years due to the inefficient Indian police and judicial systems. If this trend continues it will not only impede the progress of extremely talented, intelligent and resourceful Indians in India and abroad but will also hinder the progress of the countries that depend on their valuable services.

Several unsuccessful attempts have been made by Overseas Indians to approach the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and the offices of the Consulate General of India to draw their attention to the blatant exploitation of Overseas Indians through misuse of Indian dowry laws. The attached information booklets have been prepared by a team of concerned Overseas Indians to spread awareness among fellow citizens and the government authorities of various countries regarding the widespread injustice done in the name of Indian dowry laws. These booklets are intended to highlight the urgent need to address this issue and to safeguard the rights of Overseas Indians.

Thanking you and with regards,

Satya (for) **Bhavani Mahadevan (Co-ordinator, Rakshak)**

CC:

**Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, President of India

**B.S. Prakash**, Consulate General of India in San Francisco, 540 Arguello Boulevard San Francisco, CA 94118

**Neelam Deo**, Consulate General of India in New York, 3 East, 64th Street, New York, NY 10021

**Arun Kumar**, Consulate General of India in Chicago, 455, North City Front Plaza Drive, Suite 850, Chicago, IL 60611

Consulate General of India in Houston, 1990 Post Oak Blvd. # 600 3 Post Oak Central Houston, TX 77056

**Shri Vayalar Ravi**, Minister, MOIA, 9th Floor, Akbar Bhawan, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi - 110021

**Shri R. Narayanaswami**, Secretary, MOIA

**Shri Malay Mishra** [Diaspora Services Division], MOIA

**Dr. R.K.Verma** [National Informatics Center], MOIA

**Ms. Sandhya Shukla** [Social Services Unit], MOIA

**Encl:** MOIAbooklet.pdf, 498abooklet.pdf

Shri S. Krishna Kumar

Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

Subject: Contents of Information Booklet on Marriages to Overseas Indians (OI)

Ref : Letter to Chief Secretaries from Secretary MOIA (25/10/2005) No. OI-18013/02/2005-MS.I

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern over the contents of the '**Information Booklet on Marriages to Overseas Indians**' which you have sent to the chief secretaries of different states. While I appreciate your initiative to help the citizens understand the various problems that may happen in 'overseas marriage', I must say that the issues raised in the booklet are totally one sided views (wife's side views). All the 10 examples of 'typical incidents' the booklet cites suggests that the overseas Indian groom and his family members are cruel, arrogant and fraud. Further, it suggests that the OI husband's family is solely responsible for failed/failing overseas marriages.

Every 'overseas marriage' has similar problems as in an Indian marriage (Indian marriage here refers to couples married and living in India). 'Overseas Marriage' has additional caveats due to immigration/visa issues. Indian government, NCW and other women organizations cannot say that mostly 'husband's family' is responsible for "sufferings of women who are the victims of marriage to Overseas Indians". If any of the above organization has cited the statistics to support their findings, it must be present on MOIA's site (with it's source) for people to download and comment. Is Indian government trying to suggest that OI's are female beaters, female abusers and do not have respect for their marriage and their wife?

I have seen umpteen cases here in the United States where in a tensed relationship wife goes back to India and files a '**false dowry harassment charges**' and '**misuses IPC 498a**' on the husband's family. There are cases where a wife wants to support her family in India by sending them part of husband's earning and when husband objects to that, problems start in their marital life. There are cases where marriage turns sour when wife tries to control husband's life in various ways. The list of marital problems is endless and it is common in 'overseas marriage' and 'regular Indian marriage'.

Media both in the US and India has reported numerous cases in past few years where wife who married to OI male falsely accused her husband and his family of various crimes (including domestic violence). After long litigations, which drain time, money and energy, husband's family was proved innocent .

**The booklet must provide details and directions for both men (including OI's) and women about how they can protect their own rights before, during and after marriage both in India as well as overseas.** I would also like to know the names of the NGOs, law agencies and addresses of the people who helped MOIA prepare this draft, so I can contact them and discuss the details of their and my findings.

I would like the **booklet to help all the Indian citizens irrespective of their gender and location.** If I could be of more help you in drafting a more balanced and informative booklet, please let me know, I would be more than happy in assisting you in this worthy cause.

I believe you will consider these views and facts before finalizing the contents.

With best Regards,

Satya Kumar (San Jose, CA, United States)

Cc: Indian Ambassador to USA, Consul General of India, San Francisco, President of India, Prime Minister's office

Dear Shri Kumar,

I am attaching the letter I had sent to you and other officials of MOIA on 12th November'2005. I have not received any response from the ministry on this regard.

As a person of Indian origin, working in the US, I am very much concerned about the approach Ministry is taking in creating the awareness about the "Failed and Fraudulent Marriages" among prospective brides in India. The booklet prepared by the joint effort of ministry, NCW and NHRC (<http://moia.gov.in/shared/linkimages/46.%2003-251005>) suggests that the NRI men are responsible for the breakdown of marriages. The booklet fails to mention anything about how many thousands of innocent men and their families are duped by greedy and motivated women and their families. There have been a lot of incidents in the recent times where NRI husbands and their families were harassed by the wife and her family. Media everywhere (India and around the world) has highlighted the issues in various forms (articles, documentary and letters, internet) but Ministry has not taken the cognizance of any of that.

If you do not have data about problems faced by NRI men and their families, I can provide you with the same (the data is readily available on the internet).

Following are few of the links which may be eye opener for you.

- **India West Article (Leading Newspaper in USA)**  
[http://www.498a.org/contents/Publicity/IndiaWestArticle\\_498aMisuse.pdf](http://www.498a.org/contents/Publicity/IndiaWestArticle_498aMisuse.pdf)  
[http://news.ncmonline.com/news/view\\_article.html?article\\_id=768649893bc5975ce97b6bff5354c210](http://news.ncmonline.com/news/view_article.html?article_id=768649893bc5975ce97b6bff5354c210)  
[http://expo.ncmonline.com/news/view\\_article.html?article\\_id=4341a52dbd42b1562e77d1b7f499890f](http://expo.ncmonline.com/news/view_article.html?article_id=4341a52dbd42b1562e77d1b7f499890f) (Lisa Tsering got the Best in-depth Investigative Journalist award for exposing this widespread problem):
- **India Abroad (Leading Newspaper in USA)**  
[http://www.498a.org/contents/Publicity/IndiaAbroad\\_MinistryBiasedAgainstNRIHusbands.pdf](http://www.498a.org/contents/Publicity/IndiaAbroad_MinistryBiasedAgainstNRIHusbands.pdf)  
[http://www.498a.org/contents/Publicity/IndiaAbroad\\_NotAllHusbandsAreGuilty.pdf](http://www.498a.org/contents/Publicity/IndiaAbroad_NotAllHusbandsAreGuilty.pdf)
- **Channel 7: Documentary about gross misuse of Dowry laws and NRIs**(aired in Feb'2006)
- **Governments in USA and Canada have issued travel warning** (against the misuse of dowry laws) for the people traveling to India. Please see the contents at:  
[http://communitydispatch.com/artman/publish/article\\_1754.shtm](http://communitydispatch.com/artman/publish/article_1754.shtm)

Men also suffer a lot in any broken relationship and it is not easy for men to find sympathetic shoulder. I am not saying that the kind of issues ministry is trying to highlight and warn the people against do not happen. Following are few of my questions to the ministry:

- Can ministry provide the data for each of the atrocities (booklet lists 10 of those) that is included in the list?
- Has the ministry done some statistical analysis about what is the kind/class of people responsible for the atrocities on women (like taxi driver, janitors, daily wages people, gas station workers, low income group people)?
- In how many cases the husband and/or his family were doctors, engineers, researchers, diplomats, businessman and highly educated person?

- Does the ministry find the fraudulent cases much more in PIO/Overseas India marriages (in percentage) than what is prevalent in rest of the Indian marriages?
- Has ministry tried to find the other face of the coin? How many husband and their family members suffering?
- Has the ministry invited any organization like {Asha Kiran (Bangalore), SangaBalya (Bangalore), PSS (Delhi), Piritto Purush Pati Parishad (Kolkata)} to present the other side of the picture?
- Everywhere in Media and Pravasi Bhartiya Divas'2006 MOIA has talked about the complaints it received from women PIO (Person of Indian Origin), but MOIA conveniently failed to mention the problems reported by PIO male members.

I wrote comments to your website, but nothing happened. I suggest you at least look at the various comments listed on your website and consider acting on them before finalizing the contents of the booklet on 18th Feb.

**A half baked solution is worse than a no solution at all. I would urge you to look into all aspects of failed and fraudulent marriages and then suggest a solution or warning.**

I am copying Ambassador of India to the US, Counselor General of India at Chicago/Houston/San Francisco/New York on this mail. They may have something to add to the "Immigration fraud" by the wife and her family?

I hope you are able to take a balanced and "gender-neutral" approach while discussing not only the contents of the booklet but while approaching this complex issue.

Thanking you and with regards,

- Satya  
(San Jose, California, USA)

Cc: Indian Ambassador to USA  
Minister, MOIA  
Secretary, MOIA  
Officials at MOIA  
Consul General of India, San Francisco  
Consul General of India, Houston  
Consul General of India, Chicago  
Consul General of India, New York  
President of India



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](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 this 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)

Rakshak  
310, Carmelita Place

Fremont, CA 94539  
United States

e-mail: [help.rakshak@gmail.com](mailto:help.rakshak@gmail.com)  
Phone: 510.490.2657  
[www.rakshak.info](http://www.rakshak.info)

Mail from Mr. Prabhat Kumar:

From: "Prabhat K. Singh, Consul CA" <[CCA@cgisf.org](mailto: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 relatives, 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** <[cq@cgisf.org](mailto:cq@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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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, manmohan@sansad.nic.in, presidentofindia@rb.nic.in

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](http://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.

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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.