



Mainstreaming Litigation
for
PREVENTING MATERNAL MORTALITY

22 – 23 December 2008

Mumbai

26th. November 2008

Dear Friend

A conference on 'using appropriate legal tools to prevent maternal mortality' was organized by, Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) and Initiative for Health and Equity and Society in New Delhi on the 15th And 16th of March, 2008, to explore the possibilities of utilizing legal remedies available to redress the problems pertaining to reproductive health and rights with special emphasis on maternal mortality morbidity. The participants comprised of lawyers and activists as well as experts on maternal health from various states across India.

The conference resulted in the identification of public interest litigations (PILs) that could be filed in the High Courts and a few cases that could be taken up on an individual basis in order to set precedents and highlight larger issues. The aim was to obtain orders from the court to ensure proper implementation of the government guidelines vis-à-vis women's/maternal health and make available facilities so that the dismal figures of maternal mortality show some improvement.

In the meanwhile visits were made to several states and PIL's were filed in M.P, UP, Bihar and Jharkhand High Courts. It was then felt that that the abysmal ground situation and near absence of legal action demands mainstreaming litigation, a stocktaking and further discussion.

A follow up conference will take place in Mumbai on 22-23 December 2008 to report and consult on outcomes activities resulting from the earlier conference

and to Identify fresh possibilities of taking the litigation process forward for increasing access to maternal health-care.

This conference will be aimed at further strengthening the ongoing Public Interest Litigations (PIL's) and maternal health care by sharing experience with a range of concerned organizations, social activists and committed lawyers.

The anticipated outcome is an increase in Public Interest Litigation (PILs) to improve maternal health and refinement of litigation strategies in those states where precedents of legal action exist and in those where precedents have yet to be set.

In view of your experience and insights in this shared concern, we invite you for this interactive conference dealing with legal tools to address the issue.

Kindly send your consent to the secretariat at HRLN immediately it will help in making better physical arrangements.

With best wishes

Dr.Mira Shiva
Initiative for health equity and society
mirashiva@gmail.com
09810582028

Colin Gonsalves
Human rights law network
26th November 2008

Secretariat

Human Rights Law Network

576,Masjid Road

Jangpura-New Delhi-110014

Phone:(011)24374501;24378854;24379855/56;24376922

Fax: 011 2437 4502

EMAIL: contact@hrln.org

For queries please contact

Sanjai Sharma 09971822197

EMAIL: contact@hrln.org

sharma.sanjai@rediffmail.com

Physical Arrangements

-

- Boarding and lodging arrangements have been made by HRLN at the venue of the meeting
- Support for travel: by train 3 tier sleeper/AC 3tier or Bus.
- Please do not hesitate to contact Sanjai Sharma for all queries.

Conference Venue:

JJ Hospital Nursing Association
(Next to INS Hamla)
Madh Marve Road,
Malad West, Mumbai 95
Venue at: Wadia Pavilion -1