

DISTRICT MEETING ON WITCHCRAFT AND WOMEN TRAFFICKING

Date: 15th September, 2019

Venue: Simdega Samudayik Bhawan, Simdega

Organized by,



**Agenda for the District meeting on Witchcraft and Women Trafficking
Date: 15th September, 2019**

Agenda

Time	Session	Resource Person
	Registration of Participants	
11:45 PM to 12:00 PM	Welcome Address & Introduction to Human Rights Law Network	Taramani Sahu, Social Activist Sonal Tiwari Advocate, HRLN, JHC
12:00 PM to 01:30 PM	Objective of the Meeting, Issues in the Village, Open House Discussion	Sonal Tiwari, Advocate HRLN, JHC

01:30 PM to 02:15 PM	Witch craft Act, case stories and an insight on how to and not to deal with it, in a legal way	Mrinalin Adela Tete, Advocate HRLN, Ranchi
02:15 PM to 02:30 PM	Open House Discussion	
02:30 PM to 03:00 PM	Discussion on problem in these areas, especially the suicide of two hockey players in adjacent forest of simdega district	Sonal Tiwary, Advocate HRLN, JHC Mrinalini Adela Tete, Advocate HRLN, Ranchi Taramani Sahu, Social Activist, Simdega
03:00 PM to 03:30 PM	Refreshment	
Vote of Thanks		



The stage was occupied by **Taramani Sahu, Activist, N K Pandey, Activist, Fulencia Bilung, Activist, Sonal Tiwari, HRLN, Ranchi, Mrinalini Adela Tete, HRLN, Ranchi.**

Session 1:

<p>11:45 AM to 12:00 PM</p>	<p>Welcome Address & Introduction to Human Rights Law Network</p>	<p>Taramani Sahu, Social Activist Sonal Tiwari, Advocate, HRLN, JHC</p>
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The session started with a brief introduction by **Taramani Sahu, Activist** and **Sonal Tiwari, Advocate HRLN, JHC Ranchi.** They spoke of the work done by HRLN and its network across the country and across the globe, the objectives and

functioning of HRLN as a pro-bono legal support organization. The objective of the introduction was also for the participants to understand and get a grasp of the current scenario and how HRLN, can help them with their various issues. Works done by the Advocates of HRLN was explained to all the participants.

Sonal Tiwary added the work done in Simdega district by HRLN advocates and asked the participant to help them in finding out problem which can be solved through the court. Fulencia Bilung, an activist, appreciated the work of HRLN and said that they are ready to help HRLN in every possible way.

Session 2:

12:00 PM 01:30 PM	Objective of the Meeting, Issues in the Village, Open House Discussion	Sonal Tiwary Advocate HRLN, JHC
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Greeted and welcomed the participants and talked about how HRLN, Ranchi, in order to discuss about the Human Rights in the vulnerable district of Simdega, where the problem is not only the ones in which people are struggling for the implementation of legislations in a fair and just manner, including creating awareness about the rights of women and children and providing free legal aid as well as to suggest the Government in order to improve the conditions of the poor people, talked about how HRLN has always organized Workshop on Human Rights and Law, Women and Law, Child and Law programme. HRLN has always supported victims through litigation and preparing reports which have been used by standing committee of the Parliament for drafting of laws.

He stated that there is National Human Rights commission in New Delhi which accepts complaints across the country but many States have their own State Human Rights Commissions whose jurisdiction is limited to that state only. He further said

that complaint always lie against government institutions, cases of civil nature, cases in which para military or army is involved or sub-judice cases are not entertained by the commission. He said that the complaint should not be vague or ambiguous; it must be specific and disclose human rights violation as to who is the perpetrator and who is the victim. It is not necessary that the complaint can be filed only by the victim; anyone can approach the commission on the behalf of victim. Lastly the complainant should include prayer/relief claimed.

Sonal Tiwary further stated that commissions could only recommend action against the culprit or compensation to the victim, and it is up to that government whether to obey that recommendation or not. He further said that recently Allahabad High Court in its decision held that the orders of Human Rights Commission are not recommendatory but it is authoritative in nature and government have to follow it. He also cited few examples as to how a complaint can be raised in HRLN.

This meeting was taken up in the village kela ghat, simdega district for the first time, and was attended by mostly women candidate. Their main problem apart from the other issues when asked was the Public Distribution System, in which they have been facing a lot of problems, the main problem being the non-enrollment of these distributors, because of which they are not paid any salary for the same, and they even have to face the shortage of grains. Wherein the grain they get from the dealers is cut short in the measuring in the first step itself, so the problem here is if they are supposed to get ration grains for 15 families, they are only getting ration for distribution for 12-13 families. Other objectives like Government schemes whether they are being implemented strictly in these areas or not. Mukhiya of the village was asked to share the problems in his area. Public

Interest Litigation was explained. And lastly, they were also asked for volunteers from that area.

Session 3

1:30 PM to 02:15 PM	Witch craft, case stories and steps how to and not to deal with it in a legal manner, and a brief discussion on women trafficking.	Mrinalini Adela Tete Advocate, HRLN, Ranchi
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Greeted and welcomed the participants. Firstly discussed about their knowledge of witchcraft and its condition in their village, from which it came into light that they still believe in the witchcraft practices. Wherein, if a particular family prospers over the other families, or there is no harvest in a particular season or someone gets ill or dies or any such omen takes place in their village, they blame it on a particular family, which is basically different from theirs. And in that one of the

participants discussed about an incident of his village where, a man was bitten by a snake and had later died and when the villagers protested, the one who was on the lead, was also bitten by a snake and died on the spot, which according to the participant had come down from the sky, out of nowhere and at that very moment when they were protesting. Another participant shared a story about her neighbor, where the old father was suffering from various complications, and even though the hospital was close to their house even then, they were not taking their old and infirm father to the doctor, but at the same time, the daughter was going on spreading a story that how after they brought their the newlywed bride to their house, the problems started and how the health of her father started deteriorating. Clearly leading everyone to believe that the new bride is a witch.

That it was discussed that how they cannot brand anyone as a “witch”, there being provisions in law under sec.302, 307, 323, 376, 354 of the IPC and under section 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Anti Witchcraft Act, which can lead them into trouble with maximum number of jail period and fine. Because in a way you are depriving a particular individual of her human rights, the way she lives, practices and professes her faith. The problem here is that, the targets in these cases are mostly single woman, who are widowed, deserted, unmarried, no one after them, who at some point had not submitted to the demands of the other villager, so being an easy target to exploit and also in some cases later occupy their property. In this the participants were made to understand that they are not supposed to take the law in their hands and go on committing mass murders, in the name of witchcraft, when the reasons behind their problems can be the natural forces. The villagers are so innocent people that they can be easily influenced by anyone, to even commit a

crime, because they believe that in that way they will be doing good to their society and future generations.

And lastly in brief the problem of women trafficking, sexual harassment and domestic violence was also discussed as these people fail to understand that there are laws against all these inhuman acts and the tool to their life's safety is in their own hands, as knowledge is their biggest weapon. And the famous saying, "*attyachar karne wale se zyada attyachar sahne wala zimmedar hota hai*". They were encouraged to approach the officials, court and if all else fail then they should definitely seek the help of HRLN.

Session 4

<p>02:30 PM to 03:00 PM</p>	<p>Discussion on the problem in these areas, especially the suicide of two hockey players in adjacent forest of simdega district</p>	<p>Sonal Tiwary, Advocate HRLN, JHC Mrinalini Adela Tete, Advocate HRLN, Ranchi Taramani Sahu, Activist</p>
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The district meeting was concluded by **Sonal Tiwary**, Advocate HRLN, JHC, **Mrinalini Adela Tete**, Advocate HRLN, Ranchi, **Taramani Sahu**, Activist, Right to Food, **N K Pandey**, Activist. The participants were once again facilitated and thanked. Further their role within the project and network was further emphasised. We spoke about the discussions that took place and the action plan:

1. Awareness programme in massive scale about different government schemes and the rights of the people
2. Volunteers who will help in the bridging of work and people of simdega to HRLN, Ranchi.
3. PIL on Public Distribution System, the poor condition of the distributors and the card holders
4. Take up the case of the suicide of two hockey players, and to demand independent agency inspection.



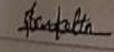
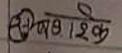
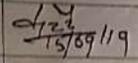
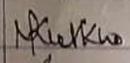
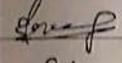
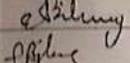
Vote of Thanks by Sonal Tiwary

Registration Sheet

District Meeting on Witchcraft Act and Trafficking
Simdega, Jharkhand
15th of September 2019
Venue: Simdega Samudayik Bhawan, Simdega

S. No.	Name	Organisation/Association/Occupation	Contact number	Email	Signature
1	वाम पासमान खान	SHG	9798319253		वाम पासमान खान
2	सरवती खान	SHG	9060042952		सरवती खान
3	तराना तवस्सुम	SHG	8434640802		तराना तवस्सुम
4	संजीव्या प्रीत	SHG	6204717505		संजीव्या प्रीत
5	मोती खान	SHG	9931181288		मोती खान
6	रूपती देवी				
7	किष्मती तिकी	S.H.B.	8292919848		किष्मती तिकी
8	असरिता वाडा	SHG	7670130202		असरिता वाडा
10	Rohsi Devi		7250179624		Rohsi Devi
11	Raghubar Mathi				
12	Vivbah Mathi				

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 Simdega, Jharkhand
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S. No.	Name	Organisation/Association/Occupation	Contact number	Email	Signature
13	Neyehsi Kuchasi				
14	Priyanka Kuchasi				
15	Roshmi Kullu		9556978580		
16	Bimla Kerketta		6200163871		
17	Sudhira Baraik		9583214608		
18	Rajesh Suman Sujan		83402688		
19	Sachin Suman Shoo		9735822299		
20	Martin Aho	Mukhya Gram Panchayat Talpa	8717608689		
21	Nipomala Aho		8909507521		
22	Rajesh Sonny		6371961985		
23	Edwin John Bilung	Member	9973188033		
24	Sudgenia Bilung	Member	8340168563		