

**Karnataka Report
April 2019- May 2020**

Meeting with District Legal Services Authority

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. In every State, State Legal Services Authority has been constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the NALSA and to give free legal services to the people and conduct Lok Adalats in the State. The State Legal Services Authority is headed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the respective High Court who is the Patron-in-Chief of the State Legal Services Authority. In every District, District Legal Services Authority has been constituted to implement Legal Services Programmes in the District. The District Legal Services Authority is situated in the District Courts Complex in every District and chaired by the District Judge of the respective district.

1. District Legal Services Authority-	Bidar	5
2. District Legal Services Authority-	Bangalore Rural	2
3. District Legal Services Authority-	Hassan	2
4. District Legal Services Authority-	Yadgir	3

Legal awards training was conducted in Bidar for about 15 sex workers

Advocacy around Bills/Policy

The government of India recently passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which is anti- constitutional and for the first time brings religion as the basis of citizenship . The National Population Register which will pave the way for National Register of Citizens — has led the country to the brink of uncertainty. While the former seeks to confer citizenship to certain foreigners, the NPR and NRC may deny citizenship to sections of the country's populace and strip them of their rights. It has introduced 'citizenship' as a new form of identity based on documentary evidence, this will have an adverse impact on sex workers. We participated in various protests /meetings etc .

International Justice Mission along with a few other organisations have formed a state level alliance called "Mukthi End Human Trafficking and Bonded Labour "and they are also looking at sexual exploitation. Given the track record of IJM of forced raids, anti human rights approach, undue emphasis on criminalisation and forced rescue, rehabilitation approach, this alliance with the support of the state is going to cause damage to the work of the sex workers movement. We have had a meeting with some of their key representatives of the alliance but they seem to be stuck in the construct conflating sex work with trafficking. We have also emphasised that we are

not anti trafficking. We salute their efforts. We are anti forced rescue and forced rehabilitation. Let us see how it spans out in the coming days and we will devise strategies accordingly.

Advocacy was also conducted regarding the Trafficking Bill and Transgender Persons Bill in Karnataka.

Alliance Building

Building Alliance with the Bhoomi Mattu Vasati Hakku Vanchitara Horata Samiti .Sex workers are part of this movement to demand housing and land rights for sex workers also.This has also ensured that as part of this, there are many groups which are part of it and it has also given us space to push the agenda of sex workers. Engaging with Dalit groups, sexual and gender minority groups, labour unions etc . Building alliances is also happening at district level.

Elections

UKMO conducted its AGM and elections last year through a democratic process and the individual CBOs also conducted elections .

Increase in Membership

There has been a increase in membership of NNSW members sin Karnataka . Presently there are 11 voting members in Karnataka .

Access to social entitlements and health services

About 500 sex workers have been provided social entailments(Voter ID , PAN Card , Bank account , Chethana Scheme , Rageev Gsandhi Housing , Adhar card , Widow pension , Labor card , Manaswini Scheme , Udyogini Scheme , Dhanashree scheme and others) and health services in Karnataka

Major crisis

In Bangalore, Karnataka sex workers working on the streets report have been exposed to very high levels of physical violence, abuse from the police and morality squads. Police atrocities against female and trans sex workers continue with impunity, sex workers are being regular assaulted, humiliated in public in the guise of “clean Majestic” (name of a large and busy bus terminal where sex workers go for work). “Obbava Pade” a vigilante group consists of all women police personnel who go about assaulting sex workers with the support of the state machinery. The Jayamala Report by the Government of Karnataka documented experiences of police violence and found that over 24% of sex workers experience police violence every day. 15 % expe-

rience attacks every week, and 42% experience violence every month. The State government continues using the term “Damannita Mahile” which means oppressed women to refer sex workers, a construct that is deeply problematic and this is supported by few Dalit groups as well.

State Meeting to discuss the NNSW Bye law in the month of April 2020,Gokak

All the NNSW members participated in the meeting to underwent the bylaw and provide inputs .The meeting was facilitated by Rajesh about 30 sex workers participated in the meeting .

Governance

Regular board meetings are been conducted by the CBOs/ collectives and members meetings are also conducted by Karnataka Sex Workers Union. Because of trainings conducted by NNSW there seems to be emergency of second line leadership and they are gaining a voice .

Sensitisation Meetings

30 Police personnel participated in sensitisation program

46 health care providers participated in the state level meeting in the month of Feb2020 the meeting was regarding SRHR services for sex workers

Education support to children of sex workers

Provided scholarships for 16 girl children of sex workers for education and we are regularly conducting monthly meetings with parents and children since January 2020

VAMP Institute -Karnataka

NNSW members trained in the VAMP Institutes are now able to contribute significantly to the discourse on exploitative practices, exploitation, brothels itself as spaces of exploitation, raid and rescue mode of rehabilitation; violence of forced rescue operations and its impact on sex workers. State specific Institute was conducted in Karnataka.September, 2019 about 35 sex workers participated.

4 community members got job in Anganawadi school

