

Connect

Quarterly Newsletter

April, 2010



WomenPowerConnect



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From the President



Dear friends,

Greetings from WomenPowerConnect !

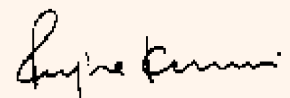
Upon the successful completion of yet another quarter, we are pleased to share with you another edition of WomenPowerConnect (WPC) newsletter. On behalf of everyone from WPC, I wish you and your family a very happy and prosperous 2010. I would like to thank all the members, dignitaries and other participants who combined their efforts to make the Fourth Annual Convention a success. This year being election year for WPC, we had the election of Governing Body members and office bearers. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for placing your trust in the previous Governing Board and therefore re-electing them. We hope to live upto your expectations and continue to work with zeal and commitment on women issues.

The past year has been eventful and as you all are aware, we had the 15th General Elections in the country in which UPA alliance, with the National Congress as the leading party, emerged as a clear winner. On behalf of WPC and all our member organizations we extended our support and heartiest felicitations to the new government. A strong, stable government, responsive to the developmental needs of the country, committed to work towards an equitable society, is the need of the hour. This election also holds a special place in our hearts as for the first time in the Lok Sabha we have 59 women MPs. It reflects the support women have and can generate from the people. All of us have been working relentlessly and at last the Women Reservation Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 9th of March.

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you that a charter of demands prepared by WPC in consultation with all of you was sent to all the major political parties and was also shared with all our member organizations. Later WPC also analyzed the manifestoes of major political parties. This initiative was appreciated by one and all and was considered as a step towards expanding the organization's outreach and giving strength to the voices of women across the nation.

WPC has been working on all the priority issues. We have made strides with regard to advocating and building alliances on the issue of declining child sex ratio. This has been made possible with support from UNFPA. There are 32 partners working on this issue, in 11 states, which WPC is coordinating.

We pledge to further strengthen our efforts, enlarge our membership base, and build alliances to enhance the impact and presence of WPC, with involvement and contribution from of each one of you. I once again thank you for the support and the faith you have bestowed on us. We need your participation and guidance in moving the WPC agenda forward.



Dr. Ranjana Kumari
President, WPC

Introduction

It is with much pleasure that we bring to you the first issue of the newsletter for 2010. WPC has marched ahead persistently with its agenda, and has received an overwhelming response from members, non-members and media alike especially on the occasion of the Fourth Annual Convention with the theme, Women Empowerment, Achievement and Gaps which was held in the month of November, the previous year.

I. Events organized in this quarter

1. Annual Convention

The Fourth Annual Convention of WPC was organized in New Delhi from 15-18 November 2009 with the joint support of UNFPA, IFES and OXFAM India.

On 15–16 November 2009, WPC organized a National level workshop for its implementing partners on the issue of **Support to Community Mobilization and People Driven Response to Prevent Sex Selection and Arresting Sex Ratio Decline**. It witnessed more than eighty participants from across the country. The workshop was organized as a support mechanism for mobilizing the community to prevent sex selection and arrest decline in sex ratio in the country. It provided a great opportunity for the implementing partners of the UNFPA-WPC to share their experiences and learn from the good practices of each other. The workshop aimed at building alliances and coming out with new strategies for the effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act. It comprised of two panel discussions and ten interactive sessions. Mr. Subhash Mendhapurkar, Director, SUTRA during the first session spoke on the *Positioning of the Issue of Sex Selection as an Issue of Gender Discrimination*. He raised some pertinent questions during the course of his discussions and concluded his presentation by identifying some of the issues that demand immediate attention. On the first day, the participants were divided into five groups and they were asked to deliberate on process, achievements, problems and way forward on the issues of -

- Implementation of PCPNDT Act
- Media and Communication Strategy
- Alliance Building
- Community Mobilization
- Advocacy

After the group work, there was an *Overview on Need for Monitoring and Evaluation of WPC and UNFPA Project* by Mr. K. Sathyanarayana from UNFPA. The discussions helped in establishing the importance of the application of research procedures to assess and suggest improvement in project implementation. The need for preparing effective frameworks as the project is already six months into implementation was discussed. The M&E Tools for WPC-UNFPA project were also explained to all the partners.

On the second day of the **National Level Workshop for Implementing Partners**, there were extensive discussions on the issue of techno-medical assault happening with women across the country. It was deliberated during the meeting that the planning of the work for the next year should be participatory and should be done in accordance with the needs of each individual state. The partners from Gujarat, Orissa and other states shared their experiences of working on this issue.



After an informed discussion related with the project implementation and the difficulties being faced by the partners, there was a panel discussion on the implementation of PCPNDT Act, which was chaired by Ms. Ena Singh from UNFPA. Mr. Kal Singh, Director, PNDDT Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was the first speaker. He assured that all the inputs from the participants will be placed before the concerned government officials and help required in implementing the Act in their area of operations would be provided. He also talked about the provisions made in the PCPNDT Act and the initiatives taken by the government towards its implementation.

The second presentation was by Mr. Rizwan Pervez, Programme Manager, CFAR. He talked about strengthening the implementation of the Act and making the stakeholders responsible.

The next session focused on *Communication Nuances, Messaging and Technology*, Ms. Saroj Pachuri, Executive Director of Population Council and advisor to WPC on the project, chaired the session. The presentation highlighted how communication and advocacy are the key to bringing the required changes in the attitude of the people. The need to communicate in the right way was touched upon along with underlining the need for, *evidence based advocacy*.

Ms. Amita Pitre, Programme Officer, UNFPA mentioned about the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, Stressing its need, she mentioned that it will help all the implementing partners to reach a common understanding.

The Fourth Annual Convention of WPC on **Women Empowerment, Achievement and Gaps** was organized on 17th November 2009 in New Delhi and it was attended by WPC members from across the country. Nearly 125 members participated in the convention to discuss various issues relating to social, economic and political empowerment of women. The convention comprised of an introduction session and a panel discussion. Dr. Syeda Hameed, Member, Planning Commission, Ms. Ena Singh, India Assistant Representative UNFPA, Ms. Tara Appachu Sharma, IFES were the guests of honour. Dr. Ranjana Kumari, President WPC delivered the welcome address and chaired the inaugural session. This was followed by a panel discussion, chaired by Ms. Alice Garg, GB member WPC, Dr. George Mathew, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, Prof. Sushila Kaushik, President, Center for Development Studies and Action, Ms. Yamini Mishra, Director of GBCA, Ms. Geeta Devi, Advocate from Karnataka, Ms. Viplav Thakur, Member of Parliament were the panelists. The discussion touched issues on Women in Panchayati Raj, Women Reservation, Gender Budgeting and Women Empowerment and Violence against Women.



The Annual Report 2008-09 was released during the convention. The Annual Report attempts to reflect the activities and achievements of WPC in the last one year. The report has also helped in reaching out to the government, parliamentarians, media and other organizations working on similar issues.

On the 17th of November 2009, WPC also had its Fourth Annual General Body Meeting. The election of the Governing Board formed an important agenda of the Annual General Meeting along with the adoption of Annual Report and Audited Report, appointment of Auditor and amendment to the Memorandum of Association.

The present Governing Body, with two new members, in place of two earlier members, was re-elected. The newly formed GB elected the office bearers for the next term. Members for the new term and office bearers are: Dr. Ranjana Kumari, President. Dr. Vibhuti Patel, Vice President, Ms. Sunila Singh, Treasurer, Dr. N. Hamsa, ex officio member, Secretary, Ms. Gouri Chaudhury, Ms. Alice Garg, Ms. Hasina Kharbhiih, Ms. Indrani Sinha Ms. Anju Sinha and Dr. Celine Sunny, as members.

On 18th November 2009, WPC with jointly OXFAM India organized a Workshop on Gender Budgeting with Special Reference to the Implementation of the

PWDV Act which was attended by 50 participants from different parts of the country. The workshop focused on the importance and need for adequate budgetary allocations for proper implementation of the Act. The workshop was a part of WPC — OXFAM project on reducing violence among women. The workshop had an inaugural session and two panel discussions. Ms. Indarani Sinha, Director, Sanlaap, chaired the first panel discussion. The panel comprised of Ms. Bhumika Jhamb from CBGA, Mr. Bharat, Vishakha, Ms. Pramila Swain, General Secretary, FARR, Ms. Satyavathy Kondaveeti, Bhoomika Helpline in Andhra Pradesh. Some of the important issues discussed during this session were Status of PWDV Act Implementation in Orissa, redressal of violence against women and the experiences of Bhoomika Helpline, a hotline in Andhra Pradesh which receives calls from women who are victims of domestic violence.

The next panel discussion was chaired by Ms. Gouri Chowdhry, Director, Action India and it focused on taking a stock of the situation at the national level. Ms. Udiksha from Lawyers Collective, shared the findings of Lawyers Collective, *Third Monitoring and Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the PWDV Act*, which was released in 2009. The workshop was helpful in information dissemination and sharing experience of work on the issue and strategizing the way forward.



2. Workshop organized jointly by CSR and WPC

On 2nd December 2009, Centre for Social Research and WomenPowerConnect jointly organized a day-long South Asia Experience Sharing Workshop in Delhi under the UNDEF project on *Enhancing the Role of Women in Strengthening Democracy*. It initiated the intervention to build capacity of prospective women leaders to participate in state and national electoral politics and minimize gender deficit in Indian politics.

The one day experience sharing workshop provided an opportunity to consolidate and share the myriad experiences originating out of the Capacity Building Trainings (CBTs) as well as advocacy and lobbying efforts of the project. An online course on political leadership was also launched during the workshop.

The project aimed at focusing and overcoming the challenges faced by women in accessing position of leaderships in various political institutions and processes. Under this project, the core strategy of 'Train, Contest, Win' was implemented at three levels. At level one, women's leadership capacity was built to reduce this gender deficit by imparting training to create a pipeline of 1000 women leaders. These trained people were motivated to contest elections for state legislatures and national parliament.

At level two, advocacy and lobbying with political parties to increase seats for women within political parties and lobbying for passage of 33% Reservation Bill, was undertaken. In this activity WPC partnered with CSR, as a national level lobby body.

At level three, the learning's from projects was shared at the South Asia Experience workshop held on 2nd December 2009 at New Delhi. Centre for Social Research, New Delhi is an Organizational Lifetime Member of WPC.

CSR has nearly two and a half decades of experience in researching on issues concerning underprivileged areas of society, restructuring gender relations and empowering

women. We work broadly in four areas:

- Direct interventions at the community level
- Knowledge and capacity building for all sectors of society
- Policy level interventions
- Action-oriented research

Over the years, CSR has focused its attention on women; the task of protecting their rights, empowering them, and understanding issues from a gender perspective.

3. State level workshop on Gender budgeting with special reference to PWDVA

WomenPowerConnect jointly with OXFAM India organized a state level workshop on January 19-20 2010 in Dehradun. The objectives of the workshop were to ascertain the status of implementation of the Domestic Violence Act including, budgetary allocations in Uttrakhand, identify key points and strategies to lobby state government, build network to lobby government for greater allocations for implementation of the Act and prepare a roadmap.

There were 30 partners from 13 districts of Uttrakhand and all of them were working on issues related to women empowerment, women rights and women self help groups. The workshop was successful in chalking out an action plan for lobbying and an alliance was formed to carry forward the agenda.



Good practice in community mobilization

Kanya Lohri Celebration



Since last three years, Lohri has different meaning and significance for people in Sriganganagar town of Rajasthan. In addition to the regular celebrations, the citizens here have started a unique practice to dedicate this festival to “Kanya” (the girl child) and not only to sons.

This change in the mindset did not come naturally to people here. This district saw a steady decline in child sex ratio over the last two decades and it featured as one of the “Red” districts of the country where sex ratio was as low as 750. This geographical area which happens to be one of the richest in the country, also boasted of high prevalence of ultra-sound clinics. Son preference mindset was fully supported by technology which resulted in decline in the number of girls in the area. Families also started feeling the pinch when brides had to be brought from other states.

With sustained community mobilization efforts of Urmul, a prominent NGO working in this area, people realized the consequences of the practice of sex selection. Though WomenPowerConnect (WPC) did not initiate the process, it partnered with Urmul and Vihaan to work on this issue for last one year.

On January 12, officially one day before the actual festival, Chamber of Commerce in Ganganagar organised “Kanya Lohri” to celebrate the birth of all girl children born in the district and felicitate those parents who have adopted permanent methods of family planning after one or more daughters. The function held in local Ramlila ground saw participation of more than 4000 people from all walks of life. Local MLAs, Mayor, other dignitaries and community members were present with hundreds of girls in all age groups.

The celebration was unique because almost all major educational institutions and professional colleges

in the district came forward and gave scholarships to girl students amounting to more than 1 crore rupees. The process for selection included asking for applications depending on the interests of the girls prior to the actual selection and on this occasions, the names were declared publicly through draw of lots (wherever the applications were more than the seats offered). The atmosphere was so charged that by end of the function, other institutions which were not part of the donors also started announcing scholarships to deserving girl students. In all, about 40 girls got the awards and to make it fool proof, a monitoring committee was also formed to see that these girls actually get free education and institutions do honour their commitments.

In the same districts, villages Panchayats have started distributing ‘Badai Patras’ to parents who have only girl children. These certificates are also signed by the District Commissioner, Panchayat Pradhan and NGO head. Birth of a girl child used to be considered a burden by family members in this area but now women sing songs, beat thali and celebrate birthdays. This has been major change in the cultural practices and hopefully will bring in some positive attitudinal shift amongst the community.

Another example of people- led initiatives is that the local media house ‘Seema Sandesh’ in Ganganagar organized a district level programme in November to sensitise the larger population on the issue of discrimination against the girl child. This group again partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to spread awareness through their paper which has the largest readership base in the district. WPC will continue to work in this area with the same NGO partner.

II. Facts and Figures

Crime Head-wise Incidents of Crime Against Women in India (2001 to 2006)						
Crime Head	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Rape	16075	16373	15847	18233	18359	19348
Kidnapping & Abduction	14645	14506	13296	15578	15750	17414
Dowry Death	6851	6822	6208	7026	6787	7618
Torture	49170	49237	50703	58121	58319	63128
Molestation	34124	33943	32939	34567	34175	36617
Sexual Harassment	9746	10155	12325	10001	9984	9966
Importation of Girls	114	76	46	89	149	67
Sati Prevention Act	0	0	0	0	1	0
Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act	8796	6598	5510	5748	5908	4541
Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act	1052	2508	1043	1378	2917	1562
Dowry Prohibition Act	3222	2816	2684	3592	3204	4504
Total	143795	143034	140601	154333	155553	164765

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India

Facts and figures on Domestic Violence

A study was jointly conducted by the Population Council in Delhi and the International Institute for Population Sciences in Mumbai which focused on the **widespread physical and sexual violence in 6 states, namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu**. It was reported in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi, February 24, 2009. The study unleashed facts that fewer men admitted to have perpetrated sexual violence than women who reported to have experienced it. The statistical data revealed that Bihar, recorded highest prevalence of physical violence, 54% women reported sexual violence by

their husbands while only 25% men admitted to having inflicted violence on the their marital partner. The study also found that physical violence began early in marriage and Maharashtra topped the charts where 14% of women said that they were abused in the first year of marriage. Rest of the figures are given in percentages below:

State	Women	Men
Jharkhand	40	23
Rajasthan	40	17
Andhra Pradesh	10	15
Maharashtra	27	9
Tamil Nadu	25	15

III. Legal developments concerning women

1. Gujarat to fast track all rape cases

The Gujarat government has decided to recommend the trial of all rape cases to fast track courts to ensure speedy justice to victims because of the sheer torture a victim undergoes after the incident. The decision was taken after the outcry that followed the gang rape of a 17 year old schoolgirl in a moving car in Surat on 12 June 2009.

Legal experts welcomed the decision. Fast track courts would increase the conviction rate and thus act as a deterrent. Justice will be swift as there would be no adjournments and the trial would be held in one go.

Source: Times of India, 15 June, 2009

2. Delhi court warns against hiring minor girls as help

Delhi court in one of its judgment has cautioned people who hire minor girls as domestic help saying that such employment without information on age and police verification could invite penal action. Hiring minor girl for employment without age and police verification is not only improper but also illegal and entails penal consequences. Not only family members of the minor and the placement agencies who enrol such minors for employment are liable for penal action but even persons who hire and employ such minors do so at their own risk and are liable to be hauled up," the court said.

The court's observations came while hearing an anticipatory bail plea of one K. D. Singh and his wife Harshit Bedi, both retired government employees, who were accused of employing a minor as domestic help and ill-treating her. Additional district and sessions judge Kamini Lau also said the family members of such minors and the placement agencies who put them into such jobs are also liable to be punished under the law.

Source: Times of India, June, 2009

3. Amendment to Divorce Act suggested

The Law Commission has recommended that the Indian Divorce Act 1869, relating to the divorce of persons professing faith in Christianity be amended so that court can entertain petitions for dissolution of marriage in which either of the party is domiciled in India when a petition is presented.

The Commission, headed by Justice A.R. Lakshmanan, said that this Act was enacted in 1869 (and amended in 1926) to suit the convenience of the Britishers in India. Section 2, as it stands today, will enable the courts to entertain the proceedings for dissolution of marriage except where the parties to the marriage are domiciled in India when the petition is presented.

The law commission has also suggested that 'irretrievable breakdown of marriage' should be recognized as a statutory ground for divorce as it is pleaded in India since long. The reform should be incorporated not just into the Hindu Marriage Act but also in all acts having similar provisions like the Special Marriage Act 1954, Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act 1939, and Christian Marriage Act 1872.

In a number of cases the modern positive approach will have a purposeful construction that would help to achieve the purpose of the Act. The court should always adopt a construction of a statute that would ensure the benefit of society and eschew such construction, which might adversely affect society." Accordingly the Commission recommended amending Section 2 of the Act.

Source: The Hindu, 11 May, 2009

4. Wife living separately does not amount to desertion

Justice V. R. Kingaonkar of the Bombay High Court in 2009 passed a decision that a spouse living in a separate residence doesn't amount to desertion. It can only be proved when there is a crucial ingredient of animus deserendi- the intention to desert. The judge quashed a family court order granting the divorce, calling it "illogical", and acquitted the wife of charges of desertion.



IV. Ongoing Projects

1. WPC-CSR-OXFAM Project on Reducing Violence against Women

During this quarter under the project, a state level interactive meeting was organized in the city of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, On 5th October 2009 and it was attended by Ms. Kanta Singh, Senior Programme Officer and Ms. Richa Tewari, Policy and Legal Officer from WPC. The meeting was an effort towards creating state level alliances on the issue of Domestic Violence and it was successful in this effort as WPC could help in preparing an Action Plan and bringing together all the groups and apprising them to work with synergy to help in identifying common strategies to combat Violence against Women.

In the next quarter–January–March, 2010, WPC plans to train the project partners in lobbying with the state governments for proper implementation of the Act. Four, two-days workshops will be organized in the targeted states. The agenda of these trainings will have sessions on policy advocacy, analysis of state budget from a gender perspective, with special focus on budgetary requirements for implementation of PWDV Act, alliance building for creating sensitive and effective support institutions in the states. Training material will be developed for this purpose.

2. WPC-UNFPA Project on Decline in Child Sex Ratio

In the last quarter of 2009, in the states of Bihar, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Haryana, state-level advocacy workshops were organized. The programme has been attended by NGOs in the states working on this issue and the concerned Government officials. The

events facilitated interface between the Government and CSOs. The participating NGOs came together to form an alliance on this issue, which would act as pressure groups in the states for ensuring effective implementation of the Act.

Monitoring visits were undertaken for 29 implementing partners. During the visit, the WPC project team had progress update meeting with the staff members and visited the areas where the IPs were implementing the programme. The agencies were assessed on the basis of their staff strength, capacity, project progress in comparison to the timeline and utilization of funds.

The work plans for the next year are being prepared based on the reports of monitoring trips to the states, work done so far, organization's strength and the stakeholders whose participation can help in bringing change in the mindset of the community.



V. About our members

1. Sangini - A Grassroot level Organisational member of WPC from Madhya Pradesh.

Sangini, started working as a gender resource centre from April 2003. The gender experts provide specialized support on the gender mainstreaming initiatives. Sensitisation of the citizens in the context of gender discrimination and making available to

them, relevant reference material and information, remains central to Sangini's interventions.

The organization provides a platform to address the inequalities amongst men and women and how interventions should be made to create a gender just society. In order to do so, it attempts to enhance the capacities of civil society organizations

in mainstreaming gender just processes. Sangini works towards bringing women from different sections of the society, especially from the dalit and the tribal communities, as partners in contributing to the creation of a gender just society.

Goal

Sangini envisions creating a social order in which all kinds of gender discrimination is eliminated and women get an equal and fair chance to participate in and affect socio-economic and political processes governing development.

Sangini's Interventions at a glance

- i) **Gender Resource Organization:** In the last four years, Sangini has created regional forums in four of Madhya Pradesh's six regions. These forums comprise of NGOs working on women's issues at the regional level. Sangini supports these forums to actively intervene in cases of Violence against Women. They have also been responsible for interacting and sensitizing the local media.

Sangini has also conducted a study on Sexual Harassment at the Workplace in three districts of Madhya Pradesh in association with the National Human Rights Commission and Action Aid, Delhi. The study was conducted to examine the implementation of the Vishakha guidelines in state institutions including different departments, ministries, and the secretariat.

In order to increase mass awareness on the issue, Sangini produced a booklet '*Vishakha dishanirdesh-Aakhir hai kya?*' in the year 2003. Written in Hindi, the booklet has been widely circulated to a number of non-government organizations, government agencies and educational institutions in the state. Sangini has also published booklets on *Women and Law*, *Women and Rights*, *Women activist in Madhya Pradesh* and a simplified compendium on gender perspective during the year 2004-2005 which were very well received across the civil society.

Sangini has initiated the publication of a quarterly newsletter for dissemination within Madhya Pradesh. The newsletter focuses on different issues pertaining to gender.

- ii) **Capacity Building of Voluntary Organizations government department and other civil society members :** Sangini in its endeavor to build the perspective of the voluntary sector on

gender issues has been organizing a number of workshops in various districts of Madhya Pradesh from time to time. It also organizes need based trainings on demand from various organizations on issues related to gender, law, women and health, panchayat, women leadership in SHG.

- iii) **Campaign for Generating Large Scale Sensitization:** Sangini, in partnership with other organizations has also conducted wide campaigns on issues like domestic violence, sexual harassment at workplace in 30 districts of Madhya Pradesh. Sangini is also planning to start Women Help line in collaboration with Women and child Development department of Madhya Pradesh.

2. Assam Mahila Samata Society

A State Level Organisation, and an organisational member of WPC.

Belshiri Tea Estate in Garmara Gram Panchayat, Dhekiajuli Block, Sonitpur District of Assam is inhabited by around 3000 people, mostly engaged as labourers in the tea garden. The garden is situated at a distance of almost 11 kilometers from Dhekiajuli town and enshrines 6 lines. The *Kiran Mahila Sangha* was formed under Assam Mahila Samata Society (AMSS) way back in 2004 with 80 women of the garden. Another Mahila Sangha *Navadahar* was formed in 2005. Apart from this, 50 adolescent girls are involved with two *Kishori Manch*s.

It is noteworthy that the women and adolescent girls of Belshiri Tea Estate are quite aware of their rights and entitlements owing to participation in various training and workshops organised by Sonitpur District Implementation Unit of AMSS, which is an autonomous registered society that has been implementing the Mahila Samakhya programme under Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India in several districts of Assam.



Women Reservation Bill passed in Rajya Sabha

The passage of Women Reservation Bill in the Rajya Sabha, on 9th March 2010 was indeed a historic moment for the women groups that worked relentlessly for more than 14 years for getting this important piece of legislation taken up, tabled and passed.

The struggle is still on. We are just one step near success. Let us reiterate our commitment to the cause and our faith in the democratic process. We need to pursue and work towards ensuring that women get 33% reservation in Parliament and the state Assemblies. We are confident that with continued perseverance of all of us-the women of India- and the support from all the political parties, which have helped this bill sail through in the Rajya Sabha, we will have this constitutional amendment in place, soon.



WPC delegation met Ms. Sonia Gandhi on 27th March, 2010 to extend Support of the Womens' organisations and urge her to ensure passage of the bill in the Lok Sabha.

The delegation was led by Dr. Ranjana Kumari, President WPC.



Registered Office:

WomenPowerConnect
2, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070
Phone: +91 11 2689 9998/2612 5583
Fax: +91 11 2613 7823
E-mail: mail@womenpowerconnect.org
Website: www.womenpowerconnect.org

Mailing Address:

WomenPowerConnect
A 1/125, First Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029
Phone: +91 11 4270 5170/4270 5171/4270 5172
Fax: +91 011 4270 5170
E-mail: mail@womenpowerconnect.org
Website: www.womenpowerconnect.org

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