

Enabling the role of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) at the Local /District Level to Address Gender Based Violence

Women's Advocacy and Resource Center- Chandigarh along with The National Alliance of Women (NAWO) in collaboration with National Commission for Women (NCW) supported by The Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS)-DFID along with the Gender Community which facilitated as a knowledge partner conducted a two day workshop for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) to address their concerns on issues of - particularly, Violence against Women (VAW) in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh on, 9-10 December 2013.

The workshop aimed to understand how EWRs address issues of Gender Based Violence (GBV), specifically violence against women and young girls; and whether they are empowered themselves to provide active local leadership in combating VAW/GBV.

Dr. Pam Rajput, Chairperson-High Level Committee on the Status of Women, Government of India, and Ms. Shamina Shafiq, Member, National Commission for Women were actively involved in this workshop so as to enable the women to identify the issues and be able to involve the various stakeholders in addressing their concerns. A press conference was also held in Sitapur briefing the media about the purpose of engaging with the EWRs.

During the workshop the EWRs formed smaller groups and discussed their perception of violence, the kind of cases of violence they receive and how they address the same including the challenges they face if any.

The workshop encouraged cross-learning and sharing among EWRs and establish dialogue between EWRs and other relevant stakeholders (including the Police); it also brought EWRs in a face to face conversation with survivors of violence.

The workshop endeavors to empower EWRs and mainstream the issue of VAW in local governance institutions more effectively. Our vision is Violence free villages, violence free country, and rural women on the move. We intend to be with them and enable them to carry forward rather accelerate the wave of change.

The work shop was web casted live. Webinar and other multi-media forums were used.

The Gender Community Blog spot can be accessed through this link

<http://se-gen-cop.blogspot.in/>