

Press Release

29-10-2014

Shrimathi Lalitha Kumaramangalam , Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) issued a clarification regarding media report titled " NCW chief wants legalization of sex work" published in "The Hindu" on 28th Oct., 2014.

The media report stated "The Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW), Lalitha Kumaramangalam, has advocated legalising sex work to regulate the trade and ensure better living conditions for women engaged in commercial sex work. Legalizing the trade, she says, will also bring down trafficking in women and lower the incidence of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Ms. Kumaramangalam said she would put forth the proposal at the empowered committee meeting of the Cabinet on November, 8."

Reacting to the report, the NCW Chief clarified that she has been misquoted by the newspaper regarding putting forth the proposal at the empowered Committee meeting of the Cabinet on November 8. She said that she mentioned about putting forth the issue in the National Consultation scheduled to be held on 8.11.2014 by Supreme Court Panel constituted by Supreme Court with reference to the PIL which was converted from appeal of 2010 Budhadev Karmaskar Vs. State of West Bengal to assist the court. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 24.8.2011 directed NCW to attend the meetings of the panel. The panel has to make certain recommendations for the possible amendments in Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 [ITPA] in the light of third term of reference, i.e., "conditions conducive for sex workers to live with dignity in accordance with the provision of Article 21 of the Constitution".

She further clarified that the statement was given with reference to the meeting which would deliberate on the existing provisions of ITPA, loopholes, implementation of the law and the impact of such implementation on the sex workers and their lives.