



Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women

Initiatives of the Tamil Nadu Government towards Women Empowerment

OVERVIEW

Women's rights are human rights!

Women constitute half the world's population and are entitled to all human rights on an equal basis. Enabling women to access their rights will promote their standard of living and prevent all forms of violence against women. A perpetual rule of law protecting women overrides changing times, particularly in a country where she is both worshiped as a goddess and outraged, a woman cannot depend on anything but the inherent rights she is born with.

The government of Tamil Nadu aims to create, promote, and expand the rights and opportunities of all women in the state. The state government has demonstrated progressive development in areas like poverty, employment, equal wages, reproductive and sexual health and in combating crime against women. The state has made significant efforts to provide equal civic and political participation in their communities.



The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women (TNSCW) complements the work of the state government by monitoring both, legislation protecting women and programs implemented for the welfare of women. TNSCW facilitates several high-level conversations with various stakeholders to promote women's welfare and equality. By addressing systemic gaps and concurrently training implementers in the system, the Commission endeavors accountability over state departments to help achieve high-standard performance in the state.

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FOREWORD



It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of responsibility that I pen down these words as the Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, contributing to a book that reaches into the essence of women empowerment. I express my gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. M. K. Stalin, for providing me with this opportunity to serve as a chairperson of this prestigious statutory body.

As an advocate for gender equality and a staunch believer in the transformative power of empowering women, I am honoured to be a part of this significant literary endeavour. In a world that is continually evolving, the importance of empowering women cannot be overstated. It is not merely a matter of promoting

equality; it is about recognizing and harnessing the immense potential that resides within every woman. Women empowerment is not an isolated goal; rather, it is a catalyst for societal progress and prosperity. When women are empowered, they become architects of change, shaping the destiny of not just their own lives but also the communities and nations they inhabit.

Tamil Nadu, with its rich cultural heritage and progressive outlook, has been a vanguard in championing the cause of women's rights. Our state has witnessed remarkable strides in women's education, economic participation, and political representation. This book serves as a testament to our collective commitment to furthering the cause of women empowerment and inspiring individuals, irrespective of gender, to contribute to this noble pursuit.

The pages within unfold a narrative of resilience, triumph, and the ceaseless pursuit of equality. They showcase the stories of women who have defied societal norms, shattered glass ceilings, and emerged as beacons of inspiration for generations to come. As we explore the diverse

facets of women empowerment, let us be reminded that it is not a one-size-fits-all concept. Instead, it embraces the uniqueness of each woman's journey, acknowledging the intersectionality of her experiences.

In the pursuit of empowering women, education emerges as a powerful tool. By fostering an environment that encourages education and skill development, we pave the way for economic independence and social mobility. Through this book, we hope to ignite the flame of knowledge and empowerment, inspiring women to pursue their dreams with unwavering determination.

As Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved in bringing this book to fruition. Your dedication to the cause of women

empowerment is commendable, and your efforts will undoubtedly contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding gender equality.

May the words contained herein resonate with readers, sparking conversations, challenging preconceived notions, and fostering a collective commitment to creating a world where every woman is empowered to reach her full potential.

With optimism and determination,



Tmt. A.S. Kumari

*Chairperson, Tamil Nadu State
Commission for Women*

ABOUT TAMIL NADU STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women (TNSCW) was established in 1993, as a statutory body, constituted under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. Apart from dealing with domestic violence or violence against women, the Commission also acts as an advisor to the state government in making policies to uphold women's rights and enjoys all the powers of a civil court. The Commission is overseen by a chairperson and nine members who are committed to the cause of women and nominated by the state government. TNSCW is headed by Tmt. A.S. Kumari as Chairperson alongside seven members and a dynamic team.

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women is vested with sufficient powers to be the guardian safeguarding women's rights and interests, at both the state and district levels. The objective of the Commission is to that constitutional rights and protections for women are upheld and implemented effectively. TNSCW is also tasked with advising the government on policy matters that affect women.

TNSCW functions to uplift women's rights in the following areas:

- To conduct research and studies on issues relevant to women's rights and gender equality.
- To make policy recommendations to the government to address systemic gender disparities and create a more gender-inclusive society, based on their research and findings.
- To investigate complaints and take Suo moto cognizance of matters relating to – the deprivation of women's rights, non-implementation of the laws, and non-compliance with policy decisions guaranteeing the welfare of women's society.
- To engage in advocacy efforts to raise awareness about women's rights, gender equality, and crime against women.
- To provide legal aid and support to women who have faced discrimination, violence, or other rights violations.
- To offer training programs and capacity-building initiatives for various stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, to sensitize them towards women's issues and improve their response to gender-based challenges.
- To collaborate with various stakeholders, including NGOs,

civil society organizations, and other government bodies, to create a collective effort to promote women's rights and bring about a collective effort against all forms of violence against women.

- To undertake issues related to domestic violence, dowry harassment, sexual harassment, bigamy, sexual harassment at the workplace, trafficking in women and other issues affecting women.
- To conduct regular inspections on working women hostels, short-stay homes, juvenile homes and prisons.



02 WOMEN WELFARE SCHEMES

PUDHUMAI PENN SCHEMES

I. MOOVALUR RAMAMIRTHAM AMMAIYAR HIGHER EDUCATION ASSURANCE SCHEME:

On March 18, 2022, the Tamil Nadu Government's Finance and Human Resources Management Minister announced a new scheme to improve the enrolment ratio of economically weaker girls in higher education at the Legislative Assembly. The scheme will provide monthly payments of Rs.1,000 to girls in Class 6-12 in government-run schools until they complete their undergraduate degree, diploma, and ITI courses. The payments will be made directly into their bank accounts.

The incentive is extended to any number of female students in a family pursuing higher education at recognized institutions. The scheme is implemented through an online portal, managed by the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency called 'Penkalvi' (meaning girl's education). Four core banks, Indian Bank, Canara Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, and SBI,

are identified to open bank accounts.

The Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme aims to reduce early marriage rates, and low enrolment rates, prevent dropouts and increase retention of female students by providing financial benefits. The scheme promotes girls' educational status, encourages higher education, and improves gender parity. It also encourages women's participation in the workforce, provides monthly incentive benefits, and enhances career opportunities. In conclusion, the scheme will aim to promote higher education among economically weaker girls in government-run schools.

A State-level Steering Committee will oversee the scheme's implementation under the leadership of the Chief Secretary, with meetings twice a year. A State-Level Monitoring Committee, headed by the Director of Social Welfare, will coordinate with all departments and report periodically. A District-Level Monitoring Committee, led by District Collectors will review progress monthly.

II. FREE TRAVEL FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT BUSES:

Free travel facilities have been provided for all women including working women, transgender and girls who are pursuing higher education in ordinary fare city buses operated under the control of the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation since 2021.

MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

I. Dr. DHARMAMBAL AMMAIYAR NINAIVU WIDOW REMARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs.15,000 is given through Electronic Clearing Service (ECS) and Rs.10,000 as a National Savings Certificate along with an 8-gram 22-carat gold coin. There is no income ceiling or educational qualification prescribed to avail of this benefit. Those who hold a degree/ diploma are given Rs.50,000, out of which, Rs.30,000 is given through ECS and Rs.20,000 is given as a National Savings Certificate along with an 8-gram, 22-carat gold coin.

II. E.V.R. MANIAMMAIYAR NINAIVU MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR DAUGHTERS OF POOR WIDOWS

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs.25,000 along with an 8-gram, 22-carat gold coin are given to beneficiaries. To avail of this benefit under the scheme, the annual income of the family should not exceed Rs.72,000. For a graduate, a sum of Rs.50,000/- along with an 8-gram gold coin is given.

III. ANNAI THERASA NINAIVU MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR ORPHAN GIRLS

The scheme provides financial assistance of Rs.25,000, along with an 8-gram, 22-carat gold coin to

beneficiaries and for beneficiaries who are graduates a sum of Rs.50,000/- along with 8gm gold coin are given. Beneficiaries are not required to be under any income ceiling or educational qualification to avail of benefits under this scheme.

**IV. Dr. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDY
NINAIVU INTER-CASTE
MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE
SCHEME:**

The scheme provides cash assistance for brides who have completed 10th std, a total of Rs.25,000 is provided. The cash assistance will be paid in two different payments: Rs.15,000 will be paid through ECS and a final payment of Rs.10,000 will pay as a National Saving Certificate, and an 8-gram, 22-carat gold coin. Brides holding a degree/diploma will receive a total of Rs.50,000 with Rs.30,000 through ECS and Rs.20,000 in National Saving Certificate, with no income ceiling or minimum educational qualification.

SERVICE HOMES

Government Service Homes in Tamil Nadu provide accommodation, food, health, and medical facilities to widows, deserted wives, economically backward women, and girls rescued from child marriage. These homes operate in seven districts, allowing inmates to continue their education and raise their children. A maximum of three children can be kept by a mother, with girls receiving education up to class XII and males up to class V. To help women achieve economic sustainability;

vocational skills, computer training, spoken English, and counseling are provided at these homes.

**SCHEME TO ASSIST CONTINUING
EDUCATION FOR GIRLS:**

Under this scheme, the Tamil Nadu Government offers financial assistance of Rs.50,000 for professional courses and Rs.30,000 for degree/diploma courses to girls who were ex-inmates in Service Homes and Government Children Homes and have completed their class 12. The scheme benefits girls from 26 Government Children's Homes and 7 Service Homes. Vocational training programs are also provided to equip girls to take up jobs with confidence.

**WIDOW AND DESTITUTE
WELFARE BOARD**

Widow and Destitute Women Welfare Board has been constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu, vide G.O.(Ms) No.56, SW & WE Department, on September 2, 2022. The Board will aim to address various problems faced by vulnerable women including widows, deserted women, orphan women and spinsters, through the formulation of necessary schemes to improve their livelihood status by providing them facilities to better their education, health, employment, and opportunities to form special Self-Help Group, undertake skill training. Overall, the Welfare Board will work to help vulnerable women lead safe and dignified lives in the Society.

FAMILY COUNSELING CENTRE

To assist families, the Tamil Nadu Government provides financial assistance to five family counseling centers run by non-governmental organizations in the districts of Chennai, Thiruvavur, Villupuram, Theni, and Sivagangai. These counseling centres provide services such as counseling, referral, and rehabilitative services for women, children, and family members who are specifically victims of domestic violence.

GENDER BUDGET

In April 2022, the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department announced that a 'Gender Budget Cell' will be formulated in all departments to ensure that gender budgeting will be a priority in Tamil Nadu. In July 2022, the state government issued orders for the formulation of a separate Gender Budget along with general guidelines to all departments vide G.O. (Ms.) No. 38, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department and a circular has been sent on the same vide Govt Lr no. 7148/SW2 (2)/2022) to all departments requesting the formulation of a 'Gender Budget Cell' in coordination with the Planning and Development Department.

WELFARE SCHEMES TO UPLIFT TRANSGENDERS

I. TAMIL NADU TRANSGENDER WELFARE BOARD:

Transgender individuals face numerous challenges, including family rejection, social discrimination, and marginalization from mainstream society. They often face harassment, deprivation, and lack of job security, leading them to leave their families and lead nomadic lives. To address this issue, the Tamil Nadu Government, in 2008, established a Transgender Welfare Board and became the first state in India to form a Welfare Board for transgenders. The Welfare Board will aim to empower transgenders through various services and provide them with identity cards, ration cards, house pattas, residential homes, free sewing machines, higher education assistance, formulation of self-help groups, free bus travel in ordinary fare city buses, free skill training, and provide grants up to Rs.50,000/- for income generating activities. An exclusive mobile app, called "Thirunangaial" (Transgender in Tamil) has been developed to help transgenders register their details and access welfare schemes.

II. STATE AWARDS FOR TRANSGENDER:

Since 2020, a state-level award, known as the Thirunangaiyar, recognizes transgender individuals who have made significant contributions to the welfare of transgender individuals and have built their careers independently, is presented on April 15 each year, on the Thirunangaiyar Day.

III. PENSION SCHEME FOR TRANSGENDERS:

As a first of its kind in India, a pension scheme for destitute transgenders who are above 40 years has been implemented in Tamil Nadu wherein Rs.1,000 is paid as monthly pension.

OTHER WELFARE MEASURES

I. FREE SEWING MACHINE:

The Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department is implementing a Free Supply of Sewing Machine Scheme to boost income for widows, deserted wives, economically weaker women, and socially affected women. The Department of Textiles and Handlooms supplies cloths to 32 cutting centres, which are then used by Tailoring societies to stitch uniforms. With a 10% government subsidy, 15500 advanced sewing machines were provided to Women Industrial Co-operative Societies, improving the quality of stitching, and increasing productivity.

II. WOMEN INDUSTRIAL COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES:

The Directorate of Social Welfare is implementing socio-economic development schemes through Women's Industrial Co-operative Societies to ensure the state achieves gender equality and economic independence for women. These societies are exclusively for women aged 18-40 and below the poverty line, providing employment opportunities and decent income.

Further, there are 99 Women Industrial Co-Operative Societies and one Transgender Industrial Co-Operative Society under the Directorate of Social Welfare, all engaged in stitching and supplying uniforms to school children under the Purachi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme and the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare/ Backward Class, Most Backward Class, and Minority Welfare Departments. Additionally, 25 Women Weaning Food manufacturing societies are under the Mission Director of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme and are operated to uplift women.

III. WOMEN HELPLINE NUMBER 181:

- To provide a 24-hour toll-free telecom service to women affected by conflicts/violence and seeking support or information.
- To facilitate crisis and non-crisis intervention through referral to the appropriate agencies.
- To provide information about the appropriate support services, government schemes and programs available to the woman affected by violence.

IV. KAVALAN- SOS APP:

The Kavalan - SOS app is designed to assist Tamil Nadu residents in emergencies like physical emergencies, eve teasing, kidnapping, and natural disasters. It provides immediate assistance

to vulnerable individuals, especially women and the elderly, during such incidents. Police can be contacted, no matter the place a victim is at.

One Stop Centre:

- To provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof.
- To facilitate immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including medical, legal, psychological, and counselling support under one roof to fight against any forms of violence against women.

03 ACHIEVEMENTS OF TNSCW

MEETING WITH INTERNAL COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

In March 2022, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women held a consultation program on the Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) at Greater Chennai Corporation and 120 ICC members participated. The event aimed to educate ICC members on their roles in preventing and redressing workplace sexual harassment. The program covered topics such as the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, roles of ICC members, handling complaints, and best practices.



MEETING WITH WOMEN ASSOCIATIONS

In April 2022, a meeting with Women's Associations in Tamil Nadu focused on the government's efforts to protect women. The meeting highlighted the enactment of laws, the launch of programs, and the establishment of institutional mechanisms. However, the Women's Association emphasized the need for increased awareness and effective implementation legislation like the Protection of

Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013; and the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. They also called for more women-friendly infrastructure and public transportation. The government representatives assured the associations that they are committed to protecting women and working on new initiatives. The meeting concluded with a commitment to creating a safer environment for women.

MEETING WITH FAMILY COUNSELORS

In June 2022, TNSCW held a consultation to meet with Family Counselors from Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts. The consultation was for family counselors from Chennai, Tiruvallur, and Kanchipuram districts and focused on cases of aggrieved women. Key points discussed included a holistic approach, building rapport with women, training counselors in trauma-informed care, and collaboration between agencies. The meeting concluded with a commitment to provide the best possible support to aggrieved women and their families.



AWARENESS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In July 2022, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women held an Awareness Program on the Domestic Violence Act in Chennai. The program, attended by protection officers, police officials, and family counselors, covered topics such as the definition of domestic violence, victim rights, duties of protection officers, procedures for filing and disposing of cases, and best practices for supporting victims.



AWARENESS PROGRAM ON WORLD DAY AGAINST ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On July 30, 2022, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women held an awareness program on 'Use and Abuse of Technology' in observance of the World Day against Anti-Human Trafficking at Queen's Mary College, Chennai. The event presided over by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, aimed to raise awareness among 300 college

students about the dangers of human trafficking and how technology is used by traffickers to target and exploit victims. Key points highlighted included the use of social media platforms, online dating apps, and other digital platforms to target and exploit victims. The speakers also shared tips on staying safe online and avoiding falling victim to human trafficking, such as being cautious about sharing information, being wary of strangers, being suspicious

of job offers, and telling a trusted adult if contacted by someone who makes you feel uncomfortable. The program concluded with a call to action for students to become ambassadors against human trafficking, educating their peers and families about the dangers of human trafficking and reporting suspicious activities to authorities.

AWARENESS MARATHON TO CREATE SAFE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In August 2022, a marathon aimed to raise awareness about women's safety and child protection attracted over 1000 participants. Flagged off by District Collector Mrs. S. Amritajyothi, the event emphasized the fight against gender-based violence and child abuse. It also promoted healthy living and physical fitness, promoting overall well-being. The event aimed to inspire others to take action for women's safety and child protection.



SEMINAR ON GENDER EQUALITY

On September 14, 2022, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women held a seminar on promoting gender equality at the Greater Chennai Corporation. The event, attended by police officials, advocates, and family counselors, aimed to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality and discuss the need for adapting and strengthening policies and legislation. The seminar, inaugurated by Ms. A.S. Kumari, called for a holistic approach and the development of gender-sensitive policies and effective enforcement mechanisms. The panelists discussed the challenges and opportunities faced by each stakeholder group and their recommendations for policy adaptation.



A FREE MEDICAL CAMP FOR WOMEN

On September 18, 2022, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women held a medical camp in Thousand Lights, Chennai, for women over 40 years old. The camp offered free screening tests for breast cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and cholesterol, as well as free treatment for minor ailments. The camp, attended by over 100 women, emphasized the importance of early detection and treatment of breast cancer and urged women to maintain their health.



AWARENESS PROGRAM ON EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

On September 30, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women held an awareness program on women's empowerment through technology at the Tamil Nadu Open University. The program, attended by over 250 self-help group members, aimed to raise awareness about the benefits of technology for women and encourage them to use it to empower themselves. The Chairperson, Ms. A.S. Kumari, highlighted the importance of technology in empowering women, highlighting its potential for accessing education, employment, healthcare, and building networks. The program included talks on how to access education, start and grow a business, stay connected with family, and protect online safety. Participants also received hands-on training on basic computer skills and internet usage. The program was well-received by the SHG members, who expressed their commitment to using technology to empower themselves and their communities.



A STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM END VIOLENCE

On October 10, 2022, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women in partnership with International Justice Mission organized a "State Level Workshop on Protecting Women and Girls from End Violence (SDG 5.2)." The workshop was attended by government officials representing various departments and students at Madras University.





The workshop aimed to raise awareness of the various forms of violence against women and girls, including bonded labour, and to discuss the role of various government departments and other stakeholders in preventing and responding to such violence. The workshop also focused on the importance of implementing Sustainable Development Goal 5.2, which calls for the elimination of all forms of violence against

all women and girls in the public and private spheres.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, Ms. A.S. Kumari who emphasized the need for a collective effort to end violence against women and girls, inviting government, civil society, and the community all to have a role to play in preventing and responding to such violence.

The workshop included sessions on the following topics:

- The legal framework for protecting women and girls from violence
- The role of the police, the judiciary, and other stakeholders in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls
- Best practices for implementing Sustainable Development Goal 5.2

The workshop was well-received by the participants, who appreciated the opportunity to learn from experts and to share their own experiences. The workshop also helped to build relationships between the various stakeholders who are working to end violence against women and girls in Tamil Nadu.

STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION ON DRAFTING STATE LEGISLATION FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

On February 20, 2023, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women and the Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers Trust held a consultation on drafting state legislation for domestic workers in Tamil Nadu. The consultation aimed to address the fragmented legal framework and the lack of a single law specifically addressing the rights of domestic workers. Key provisions included a broad definition of a domestic worker, a list of basic rights, and a mechanism for enforcement. Challenges included lack of awareness among workers and the public, and potential opposition from employer groups.



A SUMMIT ON A CYBER CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

On February 28, 2023, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women and the National Cyber Security Research Council held a Cyber Crime Against Women Summit'23 in Chennai. The event aimed to raise awareness about the increasing threat of cybercrime against women and discuss prevention and mitigation strategies. The summit featured discussions from experts in law enforcement, cyber security, and women's rights, and highlighted the government's efforts to strengthen cyber security laws and provide support to victims.



AWARENESS ON LEGISLATIONS FOR WOMEN WELFARE

In March 2023, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women held an awareness program in Chennai and Chengalpattu Districts, for 120 Self-Help Group leaders. The panelist discussed women's rights, laws protecting them from violence, rights in marriage, divorce, and inheritance, available schemes and programs, and the Commission's role in women's protection.



AWARENESS AND SCREENING PROGRAM ON BREAST CANCER

In May 2023, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women and the National Commission for Women held a breast cancer awareness and screening program at A.S.K Mahal in Ponneri, attended by Self Help Group women leaders aged 40 years and above. The program emphasized early detection, treatment causes, symptoms, and prevention.



CONCLAVE ON CYBER CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

In June 2023, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women in association with the National Cyber Security Research Council held a high-level Committee on 'Cyber Crime against Women Conclave' in Coimbatore, Thoothukudi and Trichy districts. Hon'ble Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, Member of Parliament, was invited as the Chief Guest.

The conclave was attended by a distinguished group of experts from the fields of law enforcement, cyber security, and women's rights. The conclave aimed to discuss the challenges of cybercrime against women and to develop strategies to prevent and mitigate such crimes.

The Chairperson of TNSCW highlighted the increasing prevalence of cybercrime against women. She said that cybercrime against women is a serious challenge that needs to be addressed urgently. She also called for the need for a coordinated effort from all stakeholders to prevent and mitigate such crimes.

The conclave featured several panel discussions on various aspects of cybercrime against women. The panelists discussed topics such as:

- The different types of cybercrime against women
- The impact of cybercrime on women

- The challenges of investigating and prosecuting cybercrimes against women
- Strategies to prevent and mitigate cybercrime against women



AWARENESS PROGRAM ON WOMEN RIGHTS AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

In 2023, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women and the National Commission for Women organized an awareness program on women's rights and women empowerment for North Chennai College students in Chennai. The event aimed to raise awareness about women's rights and empower them. Experts discussed various types of women's rights, the importance of empowerment, and challenges faced by women in India. The panel discussion focused on creating a gender-sensitive campus environment and advocating for women's rights.



CONFERENCE ON EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women and the National Commission for Women organized a conference on "Empowering Women through Technology" at Government Medical College in Ooty. The conference focused on technology's potential to empower women, including improving access to education, employment, gender equality, health, entrepreneurship, and leadership. Experts also discussed making technology more accessible, addressing gender gaps in STEM fields, and creating a supportive online environment for women.



WALKATHON ON “STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN”

In July 2023, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women and the National Commission for Women organized an awareness walkathon in Madurai on July 29, 2023, aimed at raising awareness about violence against women and girls. Over 1000 college students participated, carrying placards and banners with messages like “Stop Violence Against Women”, “Women’s Safety Is Our Priority”, and “Respect Women”. The event received media coverage, promoting a more gender-equal and violence-free society. The walkathon was flagged off by Justice. R.N. Manjula, Judge, Madras High Court, and called for an end to violence against women, urging the youth to play a role in creating a more gender-equal and violence-free society.



FREE MEDICAL CAMP FOR WOMEN POLICE INSPECTORS

In August 2023, the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women (TNCW) held a free medical camp for over 100 women police inspectors in Chennai. The camp provided medical services like checkups, blood tests, eye tests, and dental checkups, as well as consultations on women’s health issues like breast cancer and cervical cancer. The camp was well-received by the women police inspectors.

WORKSHOP ON POCSO ACT FOR WOMEN POLICE INSPECTORS

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women (TNSCW) held a workshop for women police inspectors on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in Chennai. The workshop, attended by over 100 women police inspectors, covered topics such as the definition of child sexual abuse, types of abuse, victim rights, investigation procedures, and the role of women police inspectors in supporting victims. The workshop was well-received by the women police inspectors.



04

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

'EMERGING TRENDS IN CRIME AGAINST WOMEN'

Crimes against women are constantly evolving due to societal dynamics, technological advancements, and other factors. The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women and the National Cyber Security Research Council are hosting this international conference on 'Emerging Trends in Crime against Women' on December 11, 2023. The government has made significant efforts to prevent crimes against women, setting an example for gender equality and women's safety for the nation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

Crimes against women are a global concern, with one in three women experiencing violence. In 2021, the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), 428278 cases of crimes against women were reported, a 15.3% increase from the previous year. The International Conference aims to create a forum for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation to address these issues, involving law enforcement, experts, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers. United by a common goal, various

stakeholders including law enforcement, experts, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers, will have the opportunity to collaborate with the government to share knowledge on reducing crimes against women globally.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

- To raise awareness about emerging trends in crimes against women, such as everyday violence against women, domestic violence, cybercrimes, sexual harassment, human trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and labour exploitation, economic exploitation and financial abuse, and transnational crimes against women.
- To facilitate the exchange of information, research findings, and best practices in responding effectively to these crimes.
- To empower the stakeholders involved to take proactive measures in their spheres of influence to address crimes against women.
- To strengthen international collaborations among governmental bodies, law enforcement agencies, and civil society organisations to improve the safety and protection of women's rights.

THEMES AND SUB-THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

This international conference will cover a range of themes including but not limited to the following-

- United National Conventions on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
 - Laws and legislation on the prevention of women from everyday violence
 - Government schemes
 - Strategies and best practices
 - Law enforcement crime prevention strategies
 - Increase in different types of crimes against women.
 - Survivor Advocacy
 - Psychological and societal impact
 - Empowerment and support systems
 - Policy and advocacy initiatives
2. Identification of innovative strategies and best practices for intervention and prevention.
 3. Development of a global network of partners committed to collaboration and exchange of information to address crimes against women.
 4. Understand how survivor advocacy influences decisions and policies.
 5. The attendees' commitment to continued collaboration, knowledge sharing, and inspiration to act in their respective roles and regions.

The International Conference on Emerging Trends in Crimes Against Women is an essential first step in addressing the constantly evolving challenges that women face in the modern world. This conference seeks to empower women, raise awareness of these issues, and spur international action against these new crimes by bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders. This presents an opportunity for all participants to strive towards a more secure and equitable future for women and girls across the globe.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The conference is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Enhanced understanding of complex nature and emerging trends in crimes against women.



CONTACT US:

Chairperson: TMT. A. S. KUMARI

Direct Phone: 044-28551155

Office Phone: 044-28592750, 044-28551155

ADDRESS DETAILS:

Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women,
Kalas Mahal, 1st Floor, Chepauk, Chennai 600005.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of Section 3 of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women Act, 2008, (Tamil Nadu Act 31 of 2008), the Governor of Tamil Nadu hereby constitutes the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women and nominates the following persons as Chairperson and Members of the Commission.