

January 8, 2013

H.E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee
President - Republic of India,
Rashtrapathi Bhavan,
New Delhi – 110 004.

Dear Sir,

Sub: 'Woman's Honour Day' – December 29th

Among us are grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses & children of women. It is indeed sad that there is a feeling of insecurity among women in our country, following media reports of the various atrocities against women involving heinous crimes.

It is the *dharma* of the Government of India to ensure the safety and security of its citizens. The steps taken in the last month are indeed commendable, but there is much left to be done. Dress, keeping late hours and visiting different places are a matter of personal discretion and choice. We are not a totalitarian state, where these can be imposed. Of course, it proves a challenge to any government to ensure safety alongside freedom of habits. Good governance is indeed not an easy task, albeit an absolute necessity.

It is not only women's rights that are a matter of concern today but women's honour itself. We urge you to instruct the government to take some long-term steps in this direction:-

1. Impose stronger deterrents and ensure effective law enforcement
2. Amend laws pertaining to juvenile delinquents in the age range of 12 to 18 years
3. Instal cameras and have police patrols at potentially dangerous places

The martyrdom and sacrifice of many of India's daughters, symbolised last month by '*Amanat*', should not go in vain. We should educate the public to follow the golden rules of **Awareness, Abstinence & Amelioration**. It is our suggestion that *December 29th* be observed as '**Woman's Honour Day**'. Each year, on this day, the Government as also NGOs should hold seminars on the following points both in rural & urban India:-

1. **Awareness** on subjects like women's rights, women's safety, women's health, women's education and women's representation
2. **Abstinence** to be practised both by men and women in their thoughts, words and deeds as a matter of personal discipline
3. **Amelioration** of the condition of women who are deprived of rights and opportunities and are vulnerable in any way

As citizens of this great country and in the spirit of patriotism, we the undersigned pledge to cooperate with the government in the various constructive measures it may take to accomplish the above-mentioned objectives.

Yours truly,
[Signatures follow]
Citizens of India

Copy to:

1. Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India
2. Shri Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India
3. Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker, Lok Sabha
4. Smt. Sonia Gandhi, President, the Indian National Congress
5. Shri Arun Jaitley, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha
6. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha
7. Shri Ajit Seth, Cabinet Secretary
8. Justice J.S.Verma