

# A Statement By Feminist Groups & Individuals On The Going #MeToo Wave In India

## How Much More Must Survivors Do? Feminist Groups & Individuals Stand In Solidarity With #MeToo In The Media & Film Industries

It's almost a year now since the **#MeToo** hashtag broke through whisper networks on sexual harassment and initiated a worldwide movement. While the initial exposés were instances of assault and misogyny by men in high places in Hollywood, subsequent revelations have come in waves from women across the world in various kinds of workplaces – from academia to activism to film and media. These are narratives of women speaking truth to power about the violence and transgressions they have been subjected to by male colleagues and seniors, as well the complicit actions/inactions of institutions and individuals. The power of this moment lies not just in the individual narratives that are being shared, but in the public discourse that is being created. An open challenge to the pervasiveness of a culture that allows men to harass women, intimidate and exploit them, with impunity.

As feminist groups and individuals, we stand in support of the numerous women in India who have spoken out with courage and candour. Over the decades, these battles have taken many forms within workplaces, on the streets, in the courts, etc., as well as #LoSHA (List of Sexual Harassers in Academia) almost a year ago. Today, we also stand in solidarity with women in media and the film industry who have been exposing the systematic abuse of power by well established editors, reporters, co-actors, colleagues, and their political partners, as well as the deeply normalised misogyny of the newsroom and studios.

It is disturbing, though not surprising, that many among these women who tried to raise these issues within the organisation, were neither believed nor supported, and some even brazenly dismissed. Despite women's movements' campaigns and subsequent legal reforms to put redressal mechanisms in place at workplaces, many institutions of 'repute' today stand exposed for not even having functional complaints mechanisms. It is not sufficient for them to only now 'take action' or 'sideline' the accused. It is imperative that sexism and misogyny at the workplace be brought to an end. While there is an urgent need to put the redressal mechanisms in place at every workplace, it is equally important that survivors and complainants are actively supported in their quest for justice. Institutions cannot continue to stand in the way of the law, until survivors are compelled to go public. Time and time again. Industry by industry. Institution by institution.

We need to consider at what emotional, personal, professional cost each survivor speaks out. Is this the only way in which workspaces can be made safe for women? Is the fight for justice only women's burden to bear? How much more work must we all do before workplaces begin to implement the law, in letter and in spirit, and the powers-that-be finally acknowledge this epidemic of sexual harassment?

We believe that these difficult questions also offer an opportunity for all of us, survivors and activists (and many, too many of us are both) to get together and forge new alliances. To create safe spaces for the sharing of such experiences, the reviewing of older strategies and the evolution of newer ones. To take our shared struggles forward so that women may speak out and be believed. To collectively evolve codes of behaviour for interpersonal interactions between genders, both within the workplace and outside. So we can all begin to live and work in an environment where such male entitlement can no longer flourish.

Hence we are sharing coordinates of some activists/groups who are willing and waiting to meet/speak/email/FB/DM to start these new conversations, singly, collectively or who knows, even as hundreds of women taking over a public space to address what is clearly not a personal problem, but a political one!

Because for every woman who has spoken out about such violence, there are likely tens of thousands of others, especially in the unorganised sector and semi-formal workspaces, who are yet to find an avenue to speak out. And despite the rhetoric of Beti Bachao, we still live in a world where just a few days ago, **34 minor girls** were beaten up by a mob when they opposed sexual advances of the men from a nearby village in Supaul district, Bihar.

There is much to be done. And the only way for us to do it, is together.

No.	<b>ORGANISATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL ENDORSEMENTS</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>SUPPORT OFFERED</b>
1.	Feminism In India	info@feminisminindia.com	A platform for survivors to share their stories
2.	SAHELI Women's Resource Centre, New Delhi	saheliwomen@gmail.com 011-24616485 (Saturdays only)	A Delhi based feminist collective.
3.	LABIA – A Queer Feminist LBT Collective, Mumbai	stree.sangam@gmail.com	

4.	Nazariya – QFRG	<a href="mailto:nazariya.qfrg@gmail.com">nazariya.qfrg@gmail.com</a>	
5.	All India Progressive Women's Association AIPWA	<a href="mailto:aipwa@yahoo.co.in">aipwa@yahoo.co.in</a>	
6.	Anuradha Kapoor, SWAYAM, Kolkata	<a href="mailto:swayam@cal.vsnl.net.in">swayam@cal.vsnl.net.in</a>	
7.	Shubhangi, ASSOCIATION FOR ADVOCACY AND LEGAL INITIATIVES (AALI)	<a href="mailto:aali@aalilegal.org">aali@aalilegal.org</a> Facebook – @aalilegal  Phone – +91 8005499927 (available on whatsapp);  +91-9161454706	
8.	HAQ: Centre For Child Rights, New Delhi	1) Bharti Ali – <a href="mailto:bharti@haqcrc.org">bharti@haqcrc.org</a> 2) Enakshi Ganguly – <a href="mailto:enakshi@haqcrc.org">enakshi@haqcrc.org</a>	
9.	YWCA, Vinodhini Moses, National General Secretary, YWCA of India	10, Sansad Marg, New Delhi Tel# 11-23340294, 23345235  Email: <a href="mailto:ngs@ywcaindia.org">ngs@ywcaindia.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:headoffice@ywcaindia.org">headoffice@ywcaindia.org</a>	
10.	SEWA, Nalini Nayak, Trivandrum	0471.2476734	
11.	NEW TRADE UNION INITIATIVE, Gautam Mody, General Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretariat@ntui.org.in">secretariat@ntui.org.in</a> B-137 FF Dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar IV, New Delhi  Tel: +91 11 26486931, 26214538	
12.	Anchita Ghatak, Kolkata	<a href="mailto:anchita.ghatak@gmail.com">anchita.ghatak@gmail.com</a>	
13.	Anubha Rastogi,	<a href="mailto:anubha.rastogi@gmail.com">anubha.rastogi@gmail.com</a>	

	Advocate, Mumbai	+919820527453	
14.	Ena Panda, Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Delhi	<a href="mailto:enarish.jnu@gmail.com">enarish.jnu@gmail.com</a> , G7, Dwaraka Trendz, Vinayak Nagar Colony, Hyderabad, Telengana, 500032  Tel: 9971933714	Would like to extend my support to anybody who needs it in form of counselling, etc.
15.	Kavita Panjabi, Kolkata	<a href="mailto:kavitapanjabi@gmail.com">kavitapanjabi@gmail.com</a>	
16.	Madhur Bhartiya	<a href="mailto:madhurbharatiya@gmail.com">madhurbharatiya@gmail.com</a> 9871234212	I can offer legal assistance.
17.	Manjima Bhattacharya, Mumbai	<a href="mailto:manjimab@gmail.com">manjimab@gmail.com</a>	
18.	Nandini Rao, New Delhi	<a href="mailto:nandini014@gmail.com">nandini014@gmail.com</a>	
19.	Nirupama Sarathy, Chennai	<a href="mailto:nirupama.sarathy@gmail.com">nirupama.sarathy@gmail.com</a>	I have been in NGOs that work on gender and women's rights but do not personally have experience in counselling or in supporting survivors of violations. But am available to provide an empathetic, non judgmental, safe listening space to anybody who feels the need. I will also be happy to connect them with support agencies. I am located in Chennai, but am well connected with groups in Delhi and Odisha as well, and can understand English, Hindi, Tamil and Kannada.
20.	Rakhi Sehgal, Delhi	<a href="mailto:rakhi.sehgal@gmail.com">rakhi.sehgal@gmail.com</a>	
21.	Seema Baquer, Delhi	9899746545	I work in the disability sector, so can offer any help needed in this area
22.	Vijay Rukmini Rao	<a href="mailto:vijayrukminirao@gmail.com">vijayrukminirao@gmail.com</a> 9440860271	I have been supporting the women cine artists in the Telugu film industry. I will be available for any other support.

	<b>OTHER ENDORSEMENTS</b>		
	A Mangai, theatre activist and writer, Chennai		
2.	Aarthi Pai, Lawyer, Bangalore		
3.	Abha Bhaiya, Feminist Activist, Dharamshala		
4.	Anita Ghai, Prof, School Of Human Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi		
5.	Adv Mini Mathew		
6.	Amita Pitre, Consultant, Public Health & Gender Justice		
7.	Amrita Nandy		
8.	Ankita Pandey, Assistant Professor, Indraprastha College for Women. University Of Delhi		
9.	Anupama Potluri, Assistant Professor, Univ. of Hyderabad		
10.	Anuradha		
11.	Arundhati Dhuru, NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF PEOPLES' MOVEMENTS (NAPM)		
12.	BAILANCHO SAAD, Sabina Martins, Goa		
13.	Bidyut Mohanty, Head, Women Studies, Institute Of Social Sciences, New Delhi		
14.	Bindhulakshmi Pattadath, Associate		

	Professor, Advanced Centre For Women's Studies, Tata Institute Of Social Sciences, Mumbai		
15.	Bindu Menon, Delhi University		
16.	Bittu Karthik, WSS – WOMEN AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND STATE REPRESSION		
17.	Deepa		
18.	Dhiviya D		
19.	Divya Kapoor, Panjab University, Chandigarh		
20.	Dr Charulatha Banerjee		
21.	Dr. Chitra Sinha, Centre For Gender Research, Uppsala University, Sweden		
22.	Dr. Indira Hirway, Director And Professor of Economics, Center for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad		
23.	Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji, Director & Secretary, JOINT WOMEN'S PROGRAMME		
24.	Dyuti, Socio-Legal Researcher, Activist		
25.	Farah Naqvi, Writer & Activist, New Delhi		
26.	FORUM AGAINST OPPRESSION OF WOMEN, Bombay		
27.	Gabriele Dietrich		
28.	Helam Haoki, Manipur		

29.	Hemangi Joshi		
30.	JAGORI, Geetha Nambisan		
31.	Janaki Abraham, Delhi University		
32.	Janaki Srinivasan, Panjab University		
33.	Japleen Pasricha, Feminism In India		
34.	Jaya Sagade		
35.	Kalpana Kannabiran, CSD,Hyderabad		
36.	Kalpana Viswanath		
37.	Kamayani Bali Mahabal, Feminist and Human Rights' Activist, Mumbai		
38.	Karuna D W, Chennai		
39.	Kavita Krishnan, AIPWA		
40.	Kavita Srivastava, Jaipur		
41.	Kavya Murthy		
42.	Lata Singh		
43.	Laxmi Murthy, Journalist, Bangalore		
44.	MAATI, Malika Viridi, Uttarakhand		
45.	Manisha Gupte		
46.	Manshi Asher, Himachal Pradesh		
47.	Mary John, CWDS		
48.	Meena Seshu		
49.	Meera Sanghamitra, NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS (NAPM) and WSS		
50.	Mini Mathew		

51.	Mirai Chatterjee		
52.	Mohan Rao, Delhi		
53.	Mumtaz Shaikh, CORO INDIA		
54.	Nalini Visvanathan		
55.	Nandita Gandhi, Co-Director, AKSHARA, Mumbai		
56.	Nandita Shah, Co-Director, AKSHARA, Mumbai		
57.	Neha Dixit, Journalist, Delhi		
58.	Nikita Sonavane		
59.	Nisha Biswas		
60.	Niti Saxena		
61.	NoMore Campaign		
62.	Noor Enayat, Delhi		
63.	Padmaja Shaw		
64.	Pallavi Gupta		
65.	Ponni Arasu, Researcher And Activist		
66.	Poonam Muttreja, POPULATION FOUNDATION OF INDIA (PFI)		
67.	Poulomi Pal, Researcher, New Delhi		
68.	Prabha Nagaraja		
69.	Pramada Menon, Gurgaon		
70.	Priya Pillai, Social Environmental Activist, New Delhi		
71.	Pushpa Achanta, Bangalore		
72.	Pyoli Swatija, Advocate, Delhi		
73.	Radhika Chitkara,		



	Independent Legal Researcher, Delhi		
74.	Radhika Desai, Hyderabad		
75.	Radhika Khajuria, Delhi		
76.	Rajashri Dasgupta, SACHETANA, Kolkata		
77.	Rajesh Ramakrishnan		
78.	Rajshree Bedamatta, Indian Institute Of Technology, Guwahati		
79.	Rama Srinivasan		
80.	Ravi Verma and Subhalakshmi Nandi, INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN (ICRW), Asia Office		
81.	Renu, STREE MUKTI SANGTHAN, Delhi		
82.	Rinchin, WSS – WOMEN AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND STATE REPRESSION		
83.	Rita Manchanda, Delhi		
84.	Ritu Dewan		
85.	Rituparna Borah, Queer Feminist Activist, Delhi		
86.	Runu Chakraborty		
87.	Sagari R. Ramdas, Veterinary Scientist		
88.	Sarojini N., New Delhi		
89.	Saswati Ghosh, Academic And Activist, Kolkata		
90.	Shakun M Doundiyakhed, Bangalore		

91.	Shalini		
92.	Shalini Krishnan, Delhi		
93.	Sharanya Nayak, Koraput		
94.	Sharmila Sreekumar, IIT Bombay		
95.	Sheba George		
96.	Shipra Nigam, Independent Researcher And Activist, New Delhi		
97.	Shobha Raghavan, Human Rights Activist, Bangalore		
98.	Shweta Vachani, Delhi		
99.	Snehal M Shah		
100.	Sohini Bhattacharya, President & CEO, BREAKTHROUGH		
101.	Sona Mitra, Activist And Independent Researcher, New Delhi		
102.	Sujata Madhok, Journalist, Delhi		
103.	Sumi Krishna		
104.	Suneeta Dhar, New Delhi		
105.	Sunita Sheel, FORUM FOR MEDICAL ETHICS SOCIETY, Mumbai; VIDHAYAK TRUST, Pune		
106.	Svati Joshi		
107.	The Food Sovereignty Alliance India		
108.	Ujwala Kadrekar		
109.	Uma V. Chandru, Bangalore		
110.	Urvashi Butalia		
111.	Vahida Nainar, Mumbai		

112.	Vimochana, Bangalore		
113.	Zubaan Books, New Delhi		