

The Hindu - 14 Aug - 2001

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Dharna to uphold human rights

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, AUG. 13. Activists of nearly 40 organisations including women's and human rights groups, civil liberties group, lesbian and gay organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGO) working in the field of HIV/AIDS today held a dharna at Jantar Mantar here to protest against human rights violations based on sexual orientation and the State's failure to protect NGO workers involved in HIV/AIDS related issues.

The demonstration was held in the context of the arrest of the workers of Bharosa Trust and Naz Foundation International in Lucknow on July 7 by the Lucknow Police and have been in custody since. Both organisations have been working for combating the threat of HIV/AIDS within the MSM (men who have sex with men) community. The workers were charged under sections relating to obscenity laws, the Copyright Act and the Indecent Representation of Women Act.