

## **NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**

### **Complaint handled by Gurpreet Kaur, JTE**

**Complainant/Victim** – Ms. T

**Respondent** – Ms. T's Parents & Family Members

The National Commission for women having taken cognizance of a Complaint dated 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 purporting to be from Ms. T regarding Right to Exercise Choice of Marriage the Commission constituted a two member Fact Finding Team to inquire into the matter. The team comprised of Mr. Praveen Singh Counsellor and Ms Gurpreet Kaur, Junior Technical Expert of NCW.

### **Details of the Complaint received by NCW**

After NCW taking cognizance of the case, a letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 was written to Member Secretary, Rajasthan Women Commission. The complainant had telephonically informed on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 to NCW that the boy she wanted to marry belongs to another caste and that her parents were threatening both herself and the boy. She was not clear in her mind about seeking Police/Court or DALSA help. The Rajasthan State Women Commission on a war footing took up the matter with the police in Udaipur on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. A reply dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 was sent by SP, Udaipur to Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Women Commission which expressly stated that the parents of the girl have assured that if the girl "Ms. T" did not want to marry, Mr. P the boy, selected as a match by them, then they would not carry out the wedding. Also, the report stated that on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, the Rajasthan State Women Commission forwarded a communication by the Complaint stating "I would like to withdraw my complaint against my family as the problem is solved and I sincerely thank all the authorities for helping me".

As the suitor, Mr A, through an email dated 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 alleged that the police is demanding money from Ms. T's parents and that the girl's parent's plan to file a case on him. There was also allegation of Cyber Crime being done on Ms. T. Also, he claimed to have contacted Ms. T elsewhere, it is being said that her mobile phone is taken away.

As there were contradictions in the Police, Rajasthan State Women Commission Report and the Suitor Mr. A's Statements, therefore a fact finding team was constituted to get the first hand information from the girl herself.

### **Observations of the Fact Finding Team**

As the fact finding team met the concerned SP Office on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 in his office, the SHO was called who informed that the girl Ms T had withdrawn her complaint. She was neither under any house arrest nor under any fear. She appeared to be quiet normal. SHO, had asked the girl that if there is any threat or pressure from her parents side, therefore, as per provisions of law, we can bound down your family but she refused. However, the NCW Officials requested SP to arrange Police Officials in civil dress to accompany us at Ms. T's House.

Thereafter, the team met parents of the girl, her uncle, mother briefed about the entire scenario. They said that there was no pressure from them but as parents they could think best for their child and that's why they are advising her to think about her future prospective.

After meeting the parents and counselling them, the team requested them to let us meet the girl and talk to her separately. Upon discussion of the case with the girl, she briefed about the entire case. She told that her parents had fixed her marriage with Mr. P 4 years back and last year in November, there was some misunderstanding between the two. Due to which they had communication gap. During this, Mr. A being a close friend she had discussed the entire issue with him.

Later in April, 2018 after completing her course in Ahmedabad, she came back home. Her parents started making pressure for marriage with Mr. P, however, as misunderstanding was between both of them, therefore, She was not ready. Because of her parent's pressure to marry her early, one day during outburst she told her parents that she wanted to marry a boy named Mr. A. He belonged to Bokaro, Jharkhand and was studying with her at University.

Then her parents counselled her but due to her pressure, they spoke to Mr. A and asked Mr. A, whether he is willing to marry her? To which he said "yes" but not right now, he will marry her after a gap of two years. Because his elder brother is yet to get married and also, his Career is not settled. He also refused to let Ms. T's parents talk to his father to discuss and plan their marriage.

Due to this dilemma, Ms. T's parents after taking Ms. T's consent, fixed her marriage dated 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 with Mr. P and started marriage preparations.

Thereafter, Ms. T shared all this with Mr. A and drafted an email that she is being forced to marry Mr. P by her parents. Later, both Mr. A and Ms. T connived and wrote emails dated 19<sup>th</sup> September, 201 to the different departments including Ministry of Women & Child development, National Commission for Women & Rajasthan State Women Commission.

She also said that there was no threat from her family and she was living absolutely peacefully with them. All her issues with her family are resolved and there are no difference in between them. As far as marriage is concerned, she has already laid her point of view about Mr. P and Mr. A. Presently, there are differences with both the boys so she needs time to take her decision. She is not in a haste to marry Mr. P and her parents have agreed to marry her as per her choice at the time when she would be ready for marriage. Also, she had filed the complaint and no one was misusing her email ID. She had changed her email ID password so that no one else except her, can use it.

### **Findings:**

The team concluded that

1. The girl wanted to withdraw her complaint and She did not want any action on it.
2. The boy Mr. A had connived with her and therefore, she made this complaint.
3. At this stage, she did not want to marry anyone and her family had agreed to give her time for decision making.