

## PRESS RELEASE

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DR. Charu WaliKhanna, Member, NCW visited Amritsar on 22.06.2012 to discuss “Issues concerning women” with special reference to Domestic Violence. The programme was organised by Punjab State Commission for Women, at Amritsar and included collaboration of NGOs, police official and administration. Present in the meeting were Senior Police Officers, A.C.P. and District programme Officer, Amritsar, CDPO and Narinderjit Singh Pannu, D.S.S.O., Amritsar.

It emerged that no independent Protection Officer has been appointed for the implementation of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The CDPOs have been given additional charge and they are already overburdened with work of pensions and accounts, besides their own duties.

Independent Protection Officers needed to be appointed by the state government under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act for conducting enquiries into cases of domestic violence. She advised the CDPOs that Protection Officers are expected to exercise their responsibility carefully and arrange for counselling between women victims and the spouse or other respondent. Protection Officers on ascertaining the gravity of the situation must make efforts to extend maximum assistance to the women. It was suggested that the Punjab State Commission for Women play proactive role and organize Awareness Seminar in Amritsar in which sarpanch of the village participate so that the message can go down to the village level.

DR. Charu WaliKanna, Member, visited Mahila Police Thana and met the complainants and victims of violence. She noted that mostly cases are registered under sections 498A/406 IPC. Since independent

Protection Officers have not been appointed, the police is playing a major role. Cases which are not compromised get registered and the CDPO/Protection Officer execute the orders of the magistrate.