



National Commission for Women

Press Note

New Delhi, 20th September, 2019: On September 15th 2019, a news item was published in News 18 report captioned **“Former Inmate of Muzaffarpur Shelter Home 'Raped' by 4 of a Family in Moving Car”** wherein it was reported that a woman, who had been an inmate of the Muzaffarpur shelter home, was allegedly raped by four men in a moving vehicle in Bettiah town of West Champaran district, less than fourteen months after rehabilitated and reunited with her family on the Court orders. On the basis of this media report, the National Commission for Women took Suo-Motu cognizance of the case and constituted an Inquiry Committee under Section 10(1) read with 10(4) of the NCW Act, 1990, to visit Patna to look into the matter.

On the 19th of September, 2019 this Inquiry Committee, which was headed by Chairperson of the NCW, Smt. Rekha Sharma, proceeded to Patna where she had an in-depth discussion with DGP Bihar and SP, Bettiah. A comprehensive inquiry report will be prepared by the commission and submitted to the Home Ministry, the Ministry of Women and Child Development along with other concerned ministries. The commission has made the following observations prima-facia:-

- Victim was not reunited with her family despite the orders by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. She was sent to Mokama from Muzaffarpur shelter home. Her father had to apply for her release in Mokama to get her back in Bettiah, her hometown



- Victim was not given any protection after she moved back to Bettiah from the shelter home
- There seems to be many discrepancies in the complete system in Bihar
 - The age proof of the victim is not valid – her Aadhar card denotes her age to be 11 years while as per the medical examination it should be between 16-17 years though she claims her age to be 18 years
 - She was operating her bank account on her own despite it being a minor account
 - She got school admission in a class as per her choice without the right age proof
 - She got married despite she being a minor

The Chairperson also met the victim and her family and counseled her. She has directed SP Patna to send the victim to a rehabilitation centre with full protection. She also discussed other pending cases in the commission from Bihar with the police officials and stressed the need for gender sensitization of police officials particularly SHOs, IOs and SPs who handle cases related to crime against women and women convicts.