



National Commission for Women **Press Note**

National Commission for Women organizes a one-day consultation regarding law review of guardianship rights for mothers

New Delhi, 31 Aug, 2019: The National Commission for Women (NCW) organized a one-day consultation today regarding law review on guardianship rights for mothers in view of Section 6 of “Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956” and Section 19 of the “Guardianship and Wards Act, 1890” today at the India International Centre, New Delhi.

The National Commission for Women as per its mandate has been reviewing legal safeguards for women, and recommending remedial legislative measures. The National Commission for Women felt the need for reviewing select sections of these laws to bring in gender equity under law.

In compliance with its role and function of safeguarding the interests of women across all spheres of life, the Commission has undertaken review of the existing guardianship and custody laws in India to ensure that there is equality between the rights and legal position of both the parents of a child. The existing law was reviewed to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to eliminate discrimination against women with reference to the right of a mother to be a natural guardian without any precondition. Experts from various disciplines like representatives from the Government, State Women Commission of various states, lawyers, activists, academicians, civil society organizations, sociologists, etc. discussed the existing legal provisions of the Section 6 of “Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956” and Section 19 of the “Guardianship and Wards Act, 1890” and the amendments required to make it non-discriminatory for women.

Opening the review meeting, Chairperson, NCW, Ms. Rekha Sharma said, “Ms. Meenakshi Gupta, Member Secretary, NCW said, “”.

Experts like xxxx and various other stakeholders attended the meeting to deliberate on the various lacunae identified in the Section 6 of “Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956” and Section 19 of the “Guardianship and Wards Act, 1890” Act and made recommendations for the proper implementation of the Act in addressing the issues of granting equal right to a mother to be the joint guardian of the child.
