



Prajnya to kick-off 16-day campaign against gender violence

Chennai to host series of activities and events across the city (Nov 25-Dec 10)

Chennai, November 17, 2008: *'The Prajnya 16 Days Campaign Against Gender Violence'* seems all set to take Chennai by storm. Plays, seminars, competitions, workshops, documentary screenings, book exhibition will be held across colleges and public spaces – all focusing on raising awareness in the different ways women in particular are vulnerable to violence, whether in their homes or other zones of conflict.

The events will be held from November 25 to December 10, 2008. (Schedule attached)

The events and initiatives of the Campaign have been planned and arranged in partnership and support with a number of organizations across Chennai.

Some hallmarks of the campaign are:

- ◆ A broad, inclusive, structural and human rights approach to gender-based violence
- ◆ Partnerships that forge a network for action
- ◆ Diversity of audiences, from the campus to corporates to civil society organizations
- ◆ Multiple media and programme formats

Prajnya, a non-profit think-tank based in Chennai, came into being in 2006 to work in areas related to peace, justice and security. **Swarna Rajagopalan**, Managing Trustee of Prajnya says, *"Gender violence shrinks an expansive universe into a small fenced field full of landmines for women. This campaign, which is part of Prajnya's public educational outreach work, raises this issue from various angles, in a wide range of settings and with both engaged groups and those who may not have given it any thought before."*

It is evident from the response received from citizens that this cause has many supporters. **Nirupama Sarathy**, Campaign Coordinator says, *"The response from colleges, corporates, the media and NGOs has been encouraging. They have come forward to support the campaign and say NO to gender violence through the various events and programmes across the 16 days. Ultimately our goal is for people to take ownership of this cause and spread the message."*

While the Campaign's own financial base consists largely of individual contributions from Rs 101 onwards, professionals from a variety of fields have taken time out to help. Some partners have also raised funds for specific events and initiatives.



ABOUT PRAJNYA

Prajnya is a non-profit think-tank in Chennai that works in areas related to peace, justice and security. Established in 2006, the Trust promotes values of peace, justice and security by facilitating scholarship, advocacy, networking and educational outreach on related issues.

The Prajnya vision is to build a centre of scholarly excellence and creativity, known for its engagement with policy and its commitment to collaborative endeavour.

It has been registered under sections 12AA (695/06-07) and 80G (2(573)/2006-07, 26.09.2008) of the Income Tax Act 1961.

Prajnya's initiatives are structured around a cornerstone project that will form its core agenda. The 'Politics, Security and Women in South Asia Initiative' and 'Education for Peace Initiative' have commenced. The 16 Days Campaign is a public educational outreach project of the Politics, Security and Women in South Asia Initiative.

Trustees

- ◆ Swarna Rajagopalan, Ph.D., Managing Trustee, is a Chennai-based political analyst and consultant.
- ◆ Shilpa Anand is a partner in Eastern Engineering Company, a leading textile machinery manufacturer based in Mumbai and Bangalore.
- ◆ Sudha Ramachandran, Ph.D., is an independent researcher/journalist based in Bangalore, India. Her interests include South Asian politics and security issues.
- ◆ K. Jayalakshmi, or Jaya Menon as she is better known, is Political Editor, Times of India, Chennai.

Advisors Stephen P. Cohen, Rajmohan Gandhi and Ingrid Srinath.

For more details on **Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence**, contact:

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Campaign Queries: askabout.16days@gmail.com

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Phone: 91-44-2815-2954 (call between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday-Friday)
Swarna Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee, 98400-79133.

THEY SAY NO TO GENDER VIOLENCE

HONOUR ROLL OF CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

(in alphabetical order)

Alliance Française de Madras
Blank Noise
Café Coffee Day
Chennai Live 104.8 Live
Confederation of Indian Industries
International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care
Internews Network
L.V. Prasad Film and Television Academy
Loyola College
M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women
Nalli
New Indian Express
Odyssey
Okapi
Queen Mary's College
Spencer Plaza
The Marappachi Trust
WE CAN Campaign - TN (PCVC)
Women Lawyers' Association

PRAJNYA 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE 2008: DETAILED SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	EVENT	VENUE & TIME	PARTNER
1.	Tue 25/11	Intercollegiate Oratorical Competitions in English and Tamil	Partner Campus 2:00-6:00 p.m.	English: Loyola College Tamil: Queen Mary's College
		Public Essay Competition Announcement	Submit by 12:00 noon, December 1, 2008	New Indian Express
		November 25-December 10 'Because I Care' Ribbon Plants November 25-December 10 'Ending the Silence' Message Boards November 25-December 10 'No More Violence' flyers	Café Coffee Day, Okapi (Spencers), Odyssey Café Coffee Day outlets, Odyssey Nalli outlets	Café Coffee Day, Okapi, Odyssey Café Coffee Day, Odyssey Nalli
2.	Wed 26/11	Piecing Together Women's Rights: Collaborative Collage Creation	Colleges, by invitation	Participating colleges
3.	Thu 27/11	Violence against Women and Cinema: Symposium and Screening	Alliance Francaise de Madras Workshop 2:00-5:30 p.m. Screenings 6:00-9:00 p.m.	LV Prasad Academy of Film and Television Alliance Francaise de Madras
4.	Fri 28/11	Poetry Reading and Special Book Exhibit	Odyssey, Gandhi Nagar, 5:00-6:00 p.m.	Odyssey
5.	Sat 29/11	Exploring Gender through Theatre : Workshop for Corporates	Participation by invitation and registration only	The Marappachi Trust Confederation of Indian Industries
6.	Sun 30/11	Step-by-Step Guide To Unapologetic Walking: Action against Street Sexual Harassment	Pondy Bazar (All women invited)	Blank Noise
		December 1-5: Feature articles on Women Defenders of Human Rights	New Indian Express	New Indian Express
7.	Mon 1/12	Spotlight on violence against women and HIV and AIDS	Radio	InterNews Network
8.	Tue 2/12	Creating Safer Spaces: Workshop For Human Resources Professionals	Participation by invitation and registration only	Confederation of Indian Industries
9.	Wed 3/12	Gender Justice, Gender Violence and Police: Panel Discussion	WLA Library Hall, High Court, Chennai 4:30-6:00 p.m.	Women Lawyers' Association
10.	Thu 4/12	Reporting Gender Violence: A Workshop for Journalists	Loyola College, 2:00-6:00 p.m.	Loyola College
11.	Fri 5/12	Workshop on Domestic Violence for unorganised sector women workers	Participation by invitation and registration only	International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care
12.	Sat 6/12	Symposium on Power, Politics and Violence: A Gender Perspective	Participation by invitation only	An in-house Prajnya PSW Event
13.	Sun 7/12	"No More Silence" Solidarity March and Rally	Triumph of Labour Statue to Gandhi Statue, Marina Beach, 4:00-6:00 p.m.	WE CAN Campaign - TN (PCVC)
14.	Mon 8/12	Spotlight on Female Foeticide Discussion on Violence Against Women	Electronic Media Chennai Live 104.9 Breakfast Show 10-11a.m.	A Prajnya PSW Project Chennai Live 104.8 FM
15.	Tue 9/12	Pointblank: A debate on media representations of women	MOP Vaishnav College, 10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	MOP Vaishnav College
16.	Wed 10/12	Public Display on 16 Days Campaign	Spencer Plaza, Ph -2 Atrium, 9:30 am- 4:30 pm	Spencer Plaza
		Prajnya 16 Days Campaign Public Lecture by Sheela Rani Chunkath, IAS followed by Candlelight Vigil	Bala Mandir German Hall, 6:30 p.m.	New Indian Express
Events and communications projects highlighted in yellow are open to the public. Others are by invitation only.				