

High Level Committee on status of Women in India

The Committee of Governors constituted by the President of India to 'Study and Recommend Strategies for speedy Socio-Economic Development and Empowerment of Women', in its report 3rd February, 2009 recommended setting up of a National Commission on Status of Women to look into the current status of women and the outcome of various development programmes relating to women's empowerment. The Group of Ministers which examined the recommendations of the Committee of Governors endorsed this proposal and recommended setting up of a High Level Committee with an eminent expert as a Chairperson.

Based on these recommendations, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India on the 27th of February 2012 approved the setting up of a High Level Committee on the status of women to undertake another comprehensive study to understand the status of women as well as to evolve appropriate policy interventions based on a contemporary assessment of women's needs.

This decision assumes special significance in light of the fact that the last such effort was undertaken by a committee constituted in 1971 to assess the impact of the constitutional, legal and administrative provisions on the social and economic status of women in India. This Committee's report, "Towards Equality" that was submitted in 1974 is a watershed in the struggle for women in India to find recognition and a status of equality.

The current, High Level Committee on Status of Women (HLCW) has been entrusted with the task of preparing a report on the current socio-economic, political and legal status of women in India and to recommend measures for the holistic empowerment of women. The process will include an assessment of the major women centric programmes and to identify areas of intervention as well as recommend measures for affirmative action by the Government of India.

The key tasks entrusted to the High Level Committee on Status of Women (HLCW) include the following:

- a. To undertake an intensive literature survey on the status of women in India.
- b. To examine the overall status of women including the socio-economic, health and nutritional, legal and political status disaggregated by their geographic, economic and social position including their minority status where relevant. In the analysis cross-regional differences and inequalities both within and outside the household are to be focused on.
- c. To assess the impact made by existing policies and legislative changes on equality, security and holistic empowerment of women and to identify inequalities in policy and legislation as well as gaps in implementation.
- d. To prepare an integrated report on the current socio-economic, political and legal status of women in India that captures the interconnectedness of these issues and their impact on women.
- e. To recommend measures for the holistic empowerment of women.

For additional information please visit:

<http://www.hlcwindia.in/>

or contact the Member-Secretary of the HLCW at – contact@hlcwindia.in