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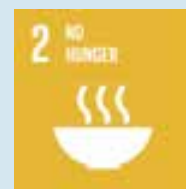
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UN INFORMATION CENTRE, NEW DELHI



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Women's Safety highlighted on SheSays web site

A new web site that seeks to focus on women's safety issues was launched on 8 August in Mumbai during International Youth Day week. The website, **shesays.in**, developed in partnership with UNIC and the German Consulate in Mumbai, is a useful compilation of laws, procedures and common sense measures women can take to ensure their safety in cities. Launching the website founder **Trisha Shetty** said: "Unfortunately we've built a tolerance towards sexual offences. We need to learn to say NO from the very beginning, from the first act where a woman's privacy is breached."

Several eminent personalities spoke at the launch event. Addressing the youth audience, Member of Parliament **Dr. Satyapal Singh** said: "We have an illustrious past, heritage and culture. But we aren't teaching the right values today," to which the event hosts, **Karan Talwar** and **Brijul** renowned comedians and youth influencers countered with: "Looking back, couldn't it be possible that sexual abuse was still rampant but now, more so than ever, society is speaking up vocally against it hence the increase in reported cases."

A panel discussing the theme 'Equal and Full Participation of Women is the Greatest Unfinished Business of the 21st Century' had radio host **Erica D'souza** in conversation with **Anju Pandey**, Head, Ending Violence Against Women, UN Women, **Zarina Screwvala**, Managing Trustee, Swades Foundation and **Robin Chaurasiya**, Social Activist & Founder, Kranti discussing if in fact women had gone from being anonymous to autonomous, and probed the role of economic empowerment in the larger question of women's empowerment.

Chancellor of Kalasalingam University in Tamil Nadu, **Thiru Sridharan** said



that educational institutions need to incorporate women safety as part of their curriculum.

UNIC NIO **Rajiv Chandran** moderated the panel on 'Analysing the Current Culture and Attitude towards Sexism and Gender.' He advocated inclusiveness and diversity as key UN values, and warned against "crushing the rainbow." **Parmesh Shahani**, Head, Godrej India Culture Lab said that the concept of India was too wonderfully big to be looked upon in any monochromatic way. **Dr. Nandita Shah**, CoDirector, Akshara Centre, spoke of the need for activism that would redress the imbalances of present times.

Legal luminary **Mrunalini Deshmukh** advocated the need for a uniform civil code as a tool for gender equality. Elaborating on the findings of the Justice Verma Committee, Ms. Deshmukh supported the proposed legislation on marital rape and emphatically stated:

"Rape is a rape, irrespective of whether within marriage or outside."

Mr. Chandran thanked the team responsible for putting the website together: **Neha Shetty** (Co- founder), **Nishiki Bhavnani** (Operations Director), **Krutika Pursnani** (Outreach Coordinator) and **Natasha Dalal** (Website Developer). ■

www.shesays.in