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All India Men's Welfare Association (AIMWA) Regd.

Press Release on International Men's Day

"People all over the world are used to relating to men as protectors and providers, but how often do we consider the actions we can all take to protect Men and Boys from harm and provide them with a safe world where they can thrive and prosper?"

The theme for 2013 is, "Keeping Men and Boys safe".

The nominated target areas are:

- Keeping men and boys Safe by tackling male suicide;
- Keeping boys safe so they can become tomorrow's role models;
- Tackling our tolerance of violence against men and boys;
- Boosting men's life expectancy by keeping men and boys safe from avoidable illness and death;
- Keeping men and boys safe by promoting fathers and male role models.

Do Men need to have a separate Day to Commemorate?

Men's rights groups and allied organisations across the country are observing the International Men's Day on Thursday, the 19th November 2013 in all major cities in the country viz, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bangalore, Lucknow, Nagpur, Delhi, Chennai. The aim of this is to highlight and honor the selfless sacrifices of men and to celebrate MEN's invaluable contributions to the welfare of Families and the Society at large.

Objectives of International Men's Day

include a focus on men's and boy's health,improving gender relations, promoting gender equality, and highlighting positive male role models.

It is an occasion for men to highlight the discrimination being perpetrated against them and to celebrate their achievements and contributions in spite of heavy odds.

Since the beginning of human history, the male gender of our species has been forced to take up the role of perpetual "protector and provider". In fact, the very survival of the human race depended on this role. But ironically, the society takes this role for granted and fails to recognise the great achievements and sacrifices that men have made.

In fact the traditional role of **Protector and Provider** has been turned into a burden and nemesis of men by the various organs of the society. The whole attitude of the society is adverse towards the man.

Do Men have Problems?

Ask about men's problems and all that one could see is blank faces!
Ask someone about the problems of women and a list would emerge that would never seem to end!
Does that mean that men do not have any problem?



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Or is it that there is no awareness of it amongst the general public, or that men are simply taken for granted?

Or, is it just that they do not deserve any such recognition?

1. If we look back, in the last 66 years of Independent India not a single rupee has ever been allocated for Men's Welfare from the Union Budget
2. Not a single constitutional or quasi-constitutional body has ever been formed to identify, address or redress problems peculiar to men.
3. Not a single attempt has ever been made to recognize that men too have problems and misery
4. Not a single scheme ever been envisaged for men's welfare ever.

On the other hand, men are always discriminated against in the guise of women empowerment and social obligations.

Hence, in the backdrop of this emptiness, the MEN of India thought Enough is Enough

Men have to join together and have their voice heard!

And it is this void of non-recognition that has led to the formation of "**All India Men's Welfare Association**"

(AIMWA), to fight for men's issues and demand, inter alia, for a National Commission for Men and Men's Welfare Ministry.

Persecution of MEN is REAL!

Today, expectations from men have skyrocketed and acceptance levels of their trials and tribulations have nosedived. In fact, there is no limitation to expectations from men and no acceptance of their limitations.

In every sphere of activity, men have only duties and obligations but not even an iota of rights! Today men are expected to,

1. Take care of extended families of parents, siblings, wife, in-laws and provide for them,
2. Shoulder a huge financial burden and risks by undertaking various kinds of advances like home loan, car loan, education loan for the sake of others and live perpetually under stress
3. Undertake the primary financial responsibility of the house even if the wife is well-qualified, well-earning and capable of sharing financial load of the family.
4. Sponsor the education of young in-laws and their expensive visas and foreign degrees.
5. Bow down before their wives or face Legal Terrorism viz. misuse of Section 498A of Indian Penal Code and Domestic Violence Act.
6. Act as FREE ATM MACHINES even to estranged and divorced wives and used as mere SPERM DONORS.

It is a striking fact that men alone are expected to undertake the most risky and laborious jobs since time immemorial and also have been expected to be the de-facto PROTECTOR as well.



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It is not unusual to expect a 10-year-old male child to escort and protect 30 years old able-bodied female aunty.

While shelters for women and even animals have been established on public funds, even destitute, disabled and abandoned men are left in the lurch since they are considered disposable by the society!

Stereotyping of men

Men are routinely portrayed as:

- idiots, cheats, selfish, stingy, irresponsible, boorish, drunkards, violent, wife-beaters, dowry-seekers, always obsessed with sex, mental cases and inadequate at best;
- pimps, criminals, murderers, bride-burners, rapists, perverts, drug-peddlers, terrorists, at worst;
- pathetic, uncouth and inferior creatures who are constantly in need of rescue by their "superior" wives, girlfriends or female relatives who are set to overhaul them;
- as oppressors and aggressors, while women are always victims of men It is considered "acceptable" behavior for women to kick, punch and slap men in public.
- Even worse, men are being depicted as sexually deviant and murderous.
- Besides, men are characterized as reckless and irresponsible and that they are incapable to care of their children. That is the underlying mindset that denies the fathers being denied of child custody in case of divorce!

It is acceptable to the society to consider men as an expendable disposable commodity at the time of crisis. For example, the phrase "women and children" is commonly used when describing people affected by a particular crisis.

Men take the last place in the queue for rescue!

Domestic Violence against Men

Besides, men face domestic violence in the hands of their wives and in-laws in the form of physical, emotional, mental, verbal and economic abuse right from day one of his married life. However, driven by the ulterior motive of promoting family destruction, radical feminists have traditionally and deliberately created a facade that women alone are victims and men are eternal abusers!

This kind of incessant propaganda by such feminists have made the whole society apathetic to the plight of married men and he is presumed to be the offender by default in all family disputes in total disregard of the factual position.

None of the organs of our polity viz, the executive, legislature, judiciary, media, law-enforcement and above all the Judiciary is sympathetic to men but have developed an inherent adverse disposition towards the male of the species.



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Brazenly biased laws have been enacted e.g., D.V. Act (Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act), based on this false premise. This is a highly draconian law that dispossesses the husband and his parents on a mere complaint from the wife.

The fact that men are also facing domestic violence is blatantly and systematically suppressed.

Here are some facts to consider:

According to a survey, more than 90% of Indian men face emotional, economical, verbal and physical abuse at the hands of their wives, if the definition of domestic violence as per D.V Act is taken as the benchmark.

- Women and men assault each other with roughly equal frequency. But India alone has a special D.V which provides total immunity to women and punishment to men alone. This bizarre provision of immunity incorporated in this law has given the wife a veritable license to commit any kind of violence against husbands and in-laws and get away with it!
- Men are usually reluctant to call the police in a domestic dispute for fear of ridicule. Also, police will often arrest the man even when it is the woman who committed the assault!
- Men are subjected to third degree methods at the police stations in domestic issues to the extent that the DGP of Tamil Nadu has ordered that no weapons including lathis /physical force be used while handling such cases.
- Child abuse, a related issue, is committed by women more often than men (and even less often by a biological father). Domestic violence hurts us all, either directly or indirectly. While it is important to maintain assistance to women-victims, proportionate aid should also be given to male victims, by making the laws governing them gender-neutral. It is irrational and unjustifiable in a civilized society to divide and differentiate between its citizens on the basis of their sex on matters that are common to both.

Workplace Discrimination

- The gender-biased Law enacted by Supreme Court in Vishaka case on sexual harassment and violence at workplace Act has caused immense harm to the morale of men and has created distrust among co-workers.
- Men are especially suspect under these government policies, which tend to favor women. An offhand comment or misunderstood gesture can now cost a man his job and ruin his career, land him in jail, create a social stigma. As in other areas like divorce or domestic violence, a man has little or no recourse in defending himself in such cases.
- Preferential treatment is afforded to women at the cost of men, either out of sympathy or fear. It is acceptable for women to ridicule and abuse men at the workplace with impunity.

Health and safety

The status of Men's health and safety lags behind that of women's in several areas. Men are more likely to die from heart disease, prostate cancer, stroke, infectious diseases, accidents, suicide, and homicide. The "de-facto protector" is left unprotected, unsung and uncared for as the following data would reveal:



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- Males have a higher overall mortality rate than females at all ages (roughly 1.6 times greater). Also, men have higher mortality rates for the top 10 causes of death.
- Men represent more than 80% deaths due to workplace hazards, road accidents, terrorism, manslaughter etc., annually as a result of being concentrated in the most hazardous professions.
- Men have a life expectancy roughly 6 years less than women. Additionally, men are emotionally castrated right from the age of 6 as they are discouraged from expressing their pains and feelings.
- Dialogues like, "Do not cry like a girl", "Be a man" are quite common for chiding an expressive boy whose psyche and identity is just evolving.

And the impact of these suppressive salvos have a traumatic effect on the boy and the hurt is so deep that the boy develops a fear of self-expression and turns numb to abuse rest of his life!

Alarming Suicide by Men

As a result, men are finding emotional confrontations extremely painful when they grow up and most men contemplate suicidal tendencies during the emotional turmoil in their marital relationship and a substantial percentage of them actually commit suicide.

The fact is corroborated by the published statistics of the Government in the National Crime Records Bureau:

1. 2007: 57593 married men committed suicide vis-à-vis 30064 married women.
2. 2008: 57639 married men committed suicide vis-à-vis 30224 married women.
3. 2009: 58192 married men committed suicide vis-à-vis 31300 married women.
4. 2010: 61453 married men committed suicide vis-à-vis 31754 married women.
5. 2011: 62433 married men committed suicide vis-à-vis 32582 married women.
6. 2012: 63343 married men committed suicide vis-à-vis 31921 married women.



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Other forms of harassment and discrimination faced by men:

1. Men pay more taxes than women at the same income level.
2. Men are provided no protection against sexual harassment at workplace and against rape and seduction.
3. Men do not have the choice of vocation. He is expected to subordinate his preferences to the needs of others in the family. That is because he is always the provider to others at the cost of his own personality. He has to just slog. He lives and dies for others. He is forced to don the mantle of the bread winner for the whole family (including the extended family upon marriage) or else face a social death.
4. Men are not allowed the luxury of being the master of their own destiny.
5. Men are not accepted by the society the way they are – just normal human beings. He is reduced to the role of a robot – the eternal protector and provider with no desires of his own!
6. Men are not provided with a free and un-choked communication channel – a channel that listens to them without invalidating their feelings or ignoring or trivializing their problems.
7. No schemes are being furthered either by the Government or eminent social celebrities for boys the way they are happening for girls. This has led to more boys dropping out of school resulting in increase of juvenile delinquency. Shunned by the society, such boys grow up with gross inadequacy and ultimately turn criminals.
8. There is no concept of MEN'S RIGHTS, only RESPONSIBILITIES and DUTIES enshrined for them!



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WE Demand on the occasion of the INTERNATIONAL MEN's DAY,

"AIMWA" seeks to end Blackmail and "Emotional castration of male gender".

It also demands, inter alia, the following:

I. Seeking amendments to Constitution of India

- Abolish all anti-male and gender biased laws and make all laws gender-neutral
- Substitute the references to men or women with the term "person" and references to wife or husband with the term "spouse" in all the existing legislations
- Amend Article 51(E) of the Constitution of India to protect the modesty of men too.
- Amend Article 15(3) of the Constitution of India to eliminate the special provision exempting women from punishment for crimes committed by them.

II. Changes in Rape laws

- Legalize consensual sex at the age of 15 for both genders duly recognizing biological factors since live-in relationship has already been recognized and encouraged by the society
- Make statutory Rape law (IPC 376) equally applicable in cases where women have consensual sex with a promise to marry a man and deserts him
- Make laws to stop illegal sperm trade and abolish sperm banks which in effect castrates all men except **studs** used for milking sperm

III. Reforms in family laws

- Decriminalize the institution of marriage and de-traumatize the family system.
- Amend CrPC Table 1 to make IPC 498A non-cognizable and bailable (<http://stats.498a.org/>)
- Amend Sec. 31(B) of D.V. Act to remove the provision that makes the sole testimony of women enough to send men to jail
- Amend IPC 304-B to make the suicide of men within 7 years of marriage also punishable as presumptive murder by wife
- Amend IPC 497 "Adultery Law" to punish women also for committing adultery
- Abolish draconian multiple maintenance provisions for women under CrPC 125, Divorce laws, DV Act, HMA Act etc.
- Make the Government to house the so-called destitute and abandoned wives in "Destitute Shelters" run by Government and pay maintenance and relieve men from the burden of maintaining estranged wives under the Swadhar Scheme of Govt. of India
- Recognize the husband's role as a parent and grant him equal custody of his children in case of divorce.
- Make it mandatory for daughter-in-law to maintain the parents-in-law and abolish old age homes



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IV Social Welfare measures for men

- The court-enacted Vishaka Law be scrapped and in its place, a fresh legislation with due process and presumption of innocence is to be enacted to address the issue of workplace discords realistically without bias.
- Immediately form a National Commission for Men to study the issues that men face and bring forth comprehensive recommendations for ensuring equality and for redressal of men's grievances.
- Institute Men's Welfare Ministry that will implement the recommendations of the National Commission for Men on behalf of the Government and also attend to the welfare of men on a regular basis
- Rationalize the tax provisions to make them gender-neutral.
- Form welfare schemes for boys and girls equitably.
- Form an ombudsman to regulate the anti-male slant and negative stereotyping indulged in by media, television and films against men.
- Do not force men to don the role of the sole breadwinner against their wish and give them a right to choose their way of life.
- Address health issues of men like prostate cancer, short life expectancy, high suicide rates, cardiac problems, diabetes etc with seriousness.
- Health Products specifically targeted to diseases affecting men in large numbers like heart attack, prostate cancer are to be developed after a thorough research
- The World Economic Forum should start recognizing men as human beings and conduct a study and publish Gender Index of Men similar to that of women.
- Shelters should be provided for uncared men by the Government.

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