

# Database to monitor violence against women

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Right from the womb to the tomb, women traverse a path of violence. The threat of violence manifests itself even before the girl child enters the world as she is subjected to foeticide and infanticide, physical violence in parental home, dowry harassment, and the list is endless.

Study after study have substantiated the harsh ground realities of violence against women. Several measures have indeed been initiated by the enforcement agencies, NGOs and individuals to address the problem, but unfortunately not many of them have the sufficient strength and back-up to take on the evil practice.

Keeping this in view, the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), one of the country's premier multi-disciplinary research institute based in the City, in association with the United Nations Development for Women (UNIFEM), has brought out a comprehensive

directory of support services to counter violence against women in Karnataka.

The directory, in Kannada and English language, was released by Chief Secretary Theresa Bhattacharya here today.

Brought out with the intention of providing the citizens with all the required information on 'where to go?' and 'what to do?' in case of violence against women, the directory includes

The comprehensive directory of support services, to counter violence against women in Karnataka, in Kannada and English

addresses and telephone numbers of police stations and senior police officials; laws pertaining to violence against women; rights of women; and a detailed list of non-governmental organisations working for the welfare of women, family counselling centres, short stay homes, production and skills training centres.

The directory is the result of a project conducted by the NIAS in association with UNIFEM, which is facilitating a world-wide

campaign against violence on women. The project covered 13 districts of Karnataka in a span of six months- Bangalore Urban and Bangalore Rural, Bidar, Belgaum, Dakshina Kannada, Dharwad, Kodagu, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya, Mysore, Shimoga and Uttara Kannada. For details on the availability of the directories, contact the Department of Gender Studies of NIAS on telephone number 080-3604351.

Mrs Theresa Bhattacharya, speaking after releasing the directory, said that a massive re-orientation programme should be conducted to sensitise men's perception about women.

"We have virtually come to such a situation where violence against women is considered an inevitable problem," she lamented.

It is sad to know that one in every four women is subjected violence in one form or the other, at some point in her life.

There is a dire need for re-orientation programme in the administrative and judicial set up to change the perception about women.