

We welcome the opinion expressed by the Chairperson of NCW, Ms. Lalita Kumarmangalam, in favour of legalization of sex work, in line with the recent communication made by ILO (International Labour Organization). Since last 65 years of independence, existing outdated law (ITPA) which neither help curbing trafficking of women in sex work, nor has protected sex workers from abuse and violence. It has rather helped a section of police, local goons and others in the name of addressing trafficking to exploit, harass and abuse sex workers and their children physically and otherwise.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

We must come out of this draconian anti people and anti women ITP Act, and to focus and respect the agency of the women and their rights to self-determination. Mrs. Kumarmangalam has rightly touched the chord of women empowerment issue.

It shows that the pro development policy and approaches of the new government keep trust on individual men and women and their ability to build better future and empowered India. Women in sex work must be given a space to express their views and to enjoy their rights like any other citizens of the country. Considering them as workers of the unorganized labour sector and framing rules and legislation in line with the existing labour laws like Unorganized Labour Act, Construction Worker Act, Bidi worker Act etc. could be a strategy to develop the framework of the Act. We urge strongly that the NCW and Supreme Court Panel may please work on these issues so as to fully decriminalize sex work and activities around it and provide a platform in support of more than 4 million women headed families of the country who work as sex workers and raise their children including other members of their extended family e.g. parents, brothers, sisters etc.

We trust, enacting laws within the broad framework of labour laws and policies would help stop trafficking of women in sex work. It would help sex workers and their family members to access education and other social entitlements and program benefits.

The existing act unnecessarily conflate trafficking with sex work what would be removed through the new act and things will be transparent which will allow communities, social action groups and various government departments to create avenues to protect rights, dignity and welfare of sex workers' community as well as prevention of minors and trafficked women in the sex work.

We urge NCW and Supreme Court Panel to carry out consultative process through active engagement of sex workers' representatives in all these forums before finalizing any act.