

INDIAN LAW INSTITUTE – TAMIL NADU STATE BRANCH & MBA

LECTURE ON '**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN - A GLOBAL SCENARIO AND VICTIMS'S RIGHT**' – 04.12.2013

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE  
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My esteemed sister and brother Judges, Office bearers of Indian Law Institute and Madras Bar Association, Ms.Denice Labertew, Director, California Coalition against Sexual Assault, Ms. Jennifer A.McIntyre, Consul General of US Consulate General, Senior Advocates and Advocates, ladies and gentlemen,

A very Good Evening to you all,

Everybody in this lovely planet owe their existence to the women-folk. Had they not been there, we would not have even seen the light of the day. The women are entitled to greatest respect in the society. It is our solemn duty and obligation to create an environment where they can live with dignity and honour. In our country, we believe that only those persons, in whose house women are treated with respect and honour, prosper and progress. Unfortunately, in the recent past, a very distressing trend is developing which is undermining the values

for which we exist. Violence against women-folk has increased which requires to be nipped in the bud at all costs. The Indian Constitution guarantees all women equality (Articles 14, 15 (1), 15 (3) and 16), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51 (A) (e) and also recommends provisions to be made for security just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief (Article 42). Now, women in India participate fully in all areas such as education, sports, politics, media, art and culture and, at times, even excel in their field.

However, the violence against women continues not only in India but also in other parts of the world. We hear reports of acid throwing, child marriage, domestic violence, dowry, female infanticide, rape and sexual harassment etc. The Governments and the Judiciary are however doing their best in fast tracking the cases relating to women so that the perpetrators of the heinous crimes against women may think twice before committing the crime.

In this context, the 'victim's right' assumes importance. We, through the Legal Aid movement, released series of books titled 'legal literacy and awareness series', and three of the

booklets are titled 'Protection for Women under various laws other than IPC, protection for women under IPC and Child Marriage Restraint Act'. In the State of Tamil Nadu, the Legal Aid Authority is having 53 Centres for Women to guide them on various legal aspects. By virtue of Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, a woman automatically entitles to legal services free of cost. I have very briefly outlined the status in our country.

America also is not an exception when it comes to violence against women and we are going to hear now what is prevailing there so that it will help us in our movement to help women in this aspect.

President Obama has very recently said in an interview that 'we have some amazing female public servants all across the country and there is no doubt that sometime very soon, we are going to have a female President'. India has already taken a lead over other countries by having woman as President, Prime Minister and Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Like all of you I also eagerly await to hear what Ms. Denice Labertew, is going to say. She is an advocate for more than 20 years in the anti-violence against women movement. She is a Certified Sexual Assault Counselor and Self Defence Instructor. Apart from teaching experience in Sexual Assault Law, she has authored, co-authored and contributed to several publications.

Before parting, I thank the Indian Law Institute Tamil Nadu Branch in general and Mr. Justice B. Rajendran in particular, and the Madras Bar Association for arranging this Lecture.

Jai Hind