

Important information about #KnowYourRights

Only 1 out of 100 women who face sexual violence every report it to the police. (*National Family Health Survey (2005-06) – most recent results*)

This poor reporting rate is because of reasons such as fear of approaching police, poor or no knowledge of laws, procedures and procedures, fear of courts and lawyers.

Must-read (2 minutes) or must-watch (10 minutes) for bloggers

Read (below) or watch 10 minute course (Go to learn.amnesty.org.in -> Login using Gmail, FB, LinkedIn)

- Sexual violence does not only include physical harm. The law was changed in 2013 to cover a broader range of offences, including sexual harassment, voyeurism and stalking
- One can file an FIR against sexual violence in any police station, not necessarily the one nearest to the incident.
- One can register a complaint either over phone or e-mail. But to complete the FIR registration one must visit a police station
- An FIR can be filed by a friend, witness or a family member too. But they must have the full consent of the survivor and the survivor must be willing to be part of the investigations later.
- If a survivor of sexual violence is physically or mentally disabled, a police officer must visit the survivor to register the FIR
- Police cannot refuse to file an FIR. If refused the police officer can be punished under law and you can register a complaint with higher authorities.
- A woman police officer must be present when you file an FIR against sexual violence
- After registering an FIR, one is entitled to a court-appointed lawyer. But it is good to consult your own lawyer.

E/ What is our approach to improving reporting rates against sexual violence?

1. Bring the police and the local communities closer to make police stations friendlier for women to report sexual violence without fear and with dignity
2. Inform people (via Know Your Rights) of laws, procedures and individual rights related to reporting sexual violence.

We started the initiative in July 2015 as a pilot with Bengaluru police in which the police encouraged the community to approach them without fear (visit amnesty.ketto.org/KYR for more). Now we are scaling up this initiative.

F/ Notes on 'Know Your Rights'

'Know Your Rights' is an initiative by Amnesty International India to inform people of laws, procedures and individual rights so that we are confident to act.

Our first module under 'Know Your Rights' aims to inform people about reporting sexual violence so that when needed they are confident to act or help a friend.

Objective is to get individuals and communities involved in helping each other learn because one organization cannot do this alone. We need everyone to get involved. If each of us helps 10 people learn and stay informed we can achieve this collectively.

G/ About Amnesty International India

Amnesty International is a Nobel Peace Prize winning global movement of 7 million people committed to defending people's rights. In India, Amnesty International India started work 3 years ago and already has 3 million supporters.

Only 1% of women who face sexual violence and want to seek help end up reporting it to the police according to the National Family Health Survey, 2005-06. Nearly two-thirds of women who have ever faced violence (physical and sexual) never seek help.

In cases of only sexual violence, only 15% have ever told anyone about their experience and only 8% of women ever seek help!

In all, 35% of women aged 15-49 in India have experienced physical or sexual violence.