

## PRESS RELEASE – BLACK SEPTEMBER FOR INDIAN MEN in 2018

Men Welfare Trust (Regd NGO) is part of Save Indian Family (SIF) Movement which is the biggest representative of Men's Rights Movement of India. SIF is a conglomerate of over 40 NGOs across India & Abroad, working tirelessly to bring Human respect for Male Gender in India. SIF has been working for Empowerment of Men at Legal, Policy, Health, Budgeting level. SIF works with huge amount of representations to the Government of India to help and support Men in distress and also takes actions on various Policy making decision of the Government, effecting the health and security of Male Gender. SIF operates over 40 NGOs and conduct weekly Support group meetings at over 30 places in India, 5 places outside India. In addition, SIF also runs multiple Websites, Blogs, Email support groups and even Whatsapp First Aid groups to help and support Indian men and boys. SIF runs the world's largest Private Helpline for Men in Distress, "SIF One", which gets over 6000 calls every month. SIF One Android Mobile app also allows Men/Boys in distress to connect with SIF. September 2018 would always be remembered as **BLACK SEPTEMBER** in the lives of Indian Men.

This Month, India witnessed 2 major blows to the rights and dignity of men because of following:

- Hon'ble Supreme Court reviewed it's own Judgement of "**Rajesh Sharma vs State of UP**" and removes "Family Welfare Committee" in cases dealing with Matrimonial Cruelty u/s IPC 498A
- Central Government cleared "**The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance 2018**" Announcing giving Triple Talaq BY HUSBAND ONLY as Non-Bailable offence along with other penalties too

Both the above announcements/judgments have used the same Statement as the reasoning for making/changing the pre-September 2018 scenario.

Whereas the Hon'ble Supreme Court used the logic that "*since it is impermissible, hence we are removing it*"; the Central Government's action reads, "*though it is impermissible, we are still making it more draconian*".

### **SUPREME COURT REVIEWS "FAMILY WELFARE COMMITTEE" w.r.t. *Rajesh Sharma vs State of UP*:**

A three Judges bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, headed by the Chief Justice of India, removed the Family Welfare Committees (FWC) which were made as per the guidelines issued by a 2 Judges Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "**Rajesh Sharma vs State of UP**". The Hon'ble Supreme Court said that such guidelines or committee cannot be made by Judiciary.

MWT expresses it's grief on the review done by the Court for following reasons:

- Mediation inside Mahila Thana or CAW Cells was always a very Anti-Male procedure, which was generally done more as forced interrogation and not reconciliation/Mediation process. FWC was filling this gap by making the process more Humane and unbiased for a Husband.
- The earlier judgment has already taken the work of reviewing the same Guidelines within 6 months so any further review ought not have been taken up.
- FWC was helpful to a great extent as it was able to bring down the load of the Indian Courts for False Matrimonial cases and plethora of Anticipatory Bail cases.
- FWC was also able to ensure that IPC 498A, which has earned it's nicknames of *Legal Terrorism, Assassin's Weapon* and similar names by the magnitude of it's misuse, is to some extent controlled in unnecessarily dragging innocent Husband and Families into Criminal Procedure on basis of mere allegations.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court also removed the part of earlier order which allowed the Magistrate to not force all accused to be present in person in IPC 498A. Removal of this clause as well brings in lot of Harassment to IPC 498A accused, who are already fighting a Criminal case, which has lowest conviction rate of about 12% and highest misuse rate as well.

