

Press Note

NCW Chairperson Reviews Safety Measures at Anna University Following Sexual Assault Case

Chennai, 26th July 2025- The National Commission for Women (NCW) had taken suo motu cognisance of the shocking case of sexual assault that occurred on the campus of Anna University, Chennai, on December 23, 2024. In the incident, the accused trespassed into the university premises around 8:00 PM and sexually assaulted a second-year engineering student after brutally assaulting a senior male student accompanying her and threatening him to flee the scene.

In response, NCW immediately dispatched a fact-finding team to Chennai to investigate the matter thoroughly. During their visit, the team:

- Met with the survivor to extend support and record her statement.
- Held detailed interactions with the POSH Committee and university authorities to assess existing safety protocols.
- Reviewed the investigation progress in a meeting with the Investigating Officer, Inspector Padma Devi.
- Conducted a spot inspection of the university's campus layout, security exits, and vulnerable zones.

Following the inquiry, the Commission submitted a detailed report to the university, outlining critical recommendations to strengthen institutional safeguards and ensure such incidents are not repeated.

To assess the implementation of these measures, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCW, Smt. Vijaya Rahatkar visited Anna University today and chaired a review meeting with senior university officials. The university conveyed its full commitment to ensuring campus safety and reported progress on the following directives issued by the Commission: Hon'ble Chairperson further made some more recommendations to the University today such as

- **Constitution of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) as per UGC POSH Guidelines, and mandatory training of all ICC members.**
- **POSH awareness programmes to be conducted for all students.**
- **Campus safety audit involving student stakeholders.**

- **Installation of signage at dark and vulnerable spots on campus.**
- **Formation of WhatsApp groups connecting students with police personnel (PIs/constables) for timely reporting of concerns.**
- **Creation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure proper visitor entry/exit records are maintained, and that all visitors exit the premises within specified hours.**

In a major development, the accused has been convicted and sentenced to 30 years of imprisonment without parole. The Commission welcomes this decisive step toward justice. Additionally, the survivor has received the compensation awarded by the Hon'ble High Court on 28th January 2025.

The Chairperson reiterated that the safety and dignity of women in educational spaces is non-negotiable. She urged university administrations across the country to treat this case as a wake-up call and proactively implement robust safety mechanisms and gender sensitisation initiatives. NCW will continue to monitor the situation and extend its full support in fostering safe and inclusive academic environments.