

**One day National Seminar on “Honour Crime in India: Lessons and Cautions” 31.01.2015**

Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, in collaboration with All India Democratic Women Association (AIDWA) and Regional Association for Women's Studies (RAWS) organized a One day **One day National Seminar on “Honour Crime in India: Lessons and Cautions” on 31.01.2015**. Dr.N. Manimekalai, Director & Head, Dept. of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University Welcomed the gathering. Dr. Mangaleswaran presided over the seminar. Ms. Nirmala Rani, Advocate delivered Inaugural Address. Thiru. V. Kathir, Executing Director, Evidence, Madurai delivered special Address. Dr. Anne Vijaya, Superintendent of Police, Southern Railway delivered special address.

Ms. Abirami, a victim of honor killing from Surakottai, Thanjavur shared her experience, She said that she belonged to Kallar Community and had married a SC community man and lost her husband in the name of honor killing to save the family honour. She asked where the honor of the family when their own daughter suffers without any support with the a child and what is the actual fault of her here. Ms. Chitra, AIDWA proposed the vote of thanks.

**Technical Sessions**

“Honour Crimes” have been in vogue ever since time immemorial. It has taken various facets but still goes undefined due to the very nature and nomenclature. This has perpetuated in extremities and invariably affected the right to life and liberty with dignity (Art 21) of the Constitution. The parlance of the very word “honour” narrates a gender bias as read between the lines. The commonality of the word stretches so far that it has been hard to provide a comprehensive and well established definition. Its truth has been buried alive without a trace except for the repetition of the crime against humanity. Keeping in view this violence and atrocity against humanity the

seminar had its framework chartered out. Different stakeholders were brought together to chart out various kinds of interventions. The participants have been divided into three:

- Students
- Teachers
- Members from NGO'S etc

The students group had Adv. Nirmala Rani as its Coordinator. The students group held that till they entered the seminar, they did not know the real meaning of honour crimes. Students initially thought that it was foeticide as they termed it. Some thought it was some form of violence. One student said she came to know of the case from the Dhivya –Illavarasan as flashed in news and other media reports. One person cited the David case which was the result of inter- caste marriage by which the girl died by pouring poison into her ears. The reality of the crime became glaring when Ms. Abirami, a victim of the crime narrated the heinous crime committed against her husband and her, just because her husband belonged to a Dalit and the crime was committed by her own parents and brother. The teachers group had Dr. Kupendran, Assistant Professor, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli as its Coordinator. Members from NGO's, public and women from non-formal sector etc . had Dr. R. Gayathri as its coordinator.

All the group presented various strategies to be followed to address this issue.