

**Centre for Social Action, Christ University and Center for Women Studies, Dhamaram Vidya Kshetra** in collaboration with **Vimochana** are organizing a national level programme titled:

***Daughters of Fire-***  
**India Court of Women on Dowry and Related Forms of Violence against Women**

The programme is on the **27<sup>th</sup> July, 28<sup>th</sup> July and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009** and will focus on the issue of dowry and the related violence against women.

We are pleased to invite the deans, faculty members and students for the three-day programme.

The details are as follows: .

**The aims of the programme are**

- bring back to the center of public consciousness and conscience the phenomena of dowry violence that has become invisible, normal and routine
- initiate a rethink on our analyses of what constitutes dowry in the present context and understand its links not only to other forms of violence against women but also to the larger culture of violence and marginalisation inherent in the contemporary processes of development and globalization.
- reflect on and review the methodologies of redress including the law and revision a mass movement that is multi layered thereby taking deeper root in people's collective consciousness and in public polity.

**The programme has the following components-**

1. A silent demonstration called Women in Black- **26<sup>th</sup> July**
2. Pre-court activities which include an inaugural and roundtable discussions-**27<sup>th</sup> July**
3. Court of Women, which will present testimonies of women who have experienced violence-**28<sup>th</sup> July**
4. The follow up events include Community conversations and consultation **29<sup>th</sup> July**

Some of prominent persons associated with the programme besides many others are Dr. Ruth Manorama, Women's Voice, Bangalore, Vidya Nayak, NST, Belthangady, Gouri Choudhry, Action Aid India, New Delhi, Akhila Sivadas, Centre for Advocacy and Research, Saboo George, Girl Child Activist, Aarti Mundkur, Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore, *Nivedita Menon*, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, *Praveena Kodoth*, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, *Grace Shatsung*, Naga Women's Union, Manipur, *Poonam Kathuria*, SWATI, Gujarat, *Prem Chowdhry*, Centre for Contemporary Studies, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti, New Delhi, *Veena Oldenberg*, Department of History, Baruch College, USA, *Bina Paul*, Chalachitra Academy, Kerala, *Sara Joseph*, Author/activist, Kerala, *Anita Gurusurthy*,

IT for Change, Bangalore, *Shangon Dasgupta*, Centre for Development and Learning, Bangalore, *Vandana Shiva*, Physicist and environmental activist, Navdanya, New Delhi  
*Ranjana Padhi*, Worker's Solidarity, Saheli, New Delhi, *Lida Jacob*, Retired Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Kerala

## **ATTENDING THE PROGRAMME-Relevant Details**

### **Demonstration on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2009**

Women in Black protest demonstration in MG Road (near Mahatma Gandhi Statue)  
Open participation

### **Inaugural Programme on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2009**

Open entrance.

The programme will be held in Christ University Auditorium from 9-30am to 11am.

### **Roundtable Discussions on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2009**

Parallel Roundtable discussions will be held from 1130 hrs on the 27<sup>th</sup> July

Faculty and students are can choose any one of the roundtable topics as listed below and register with the CSA office for attending the following roundtable discussions. Register early as seats are limited and a significant number of outside participants are expected.

The seven round table discussions are on the following subjects:

**Roundtable One:** *Reviewing and Revisioning the family and marriage in the context of growing economic and cultural fundamentalism*

**Roundtable Two:** *The changing face of dowry and related forms of violence in post colonial societies*

**Roundtable Three:** *Media reconstruction of violence, identity, representation and autonomy*

**Roundtable Four:** *Reviewing social legislation in the context of legislative responses to dowry violence*

**Roundtable Five:** *Globalisation and Violence against Women: Reviewing government policies in the context of the changing nature of the State*

**Roundtable Six:** *Femicide: The role of science and medical technology*

**Roundtable Seven:** *Gathering the Spirit of Resistance*

### **Court of Women Testimonials 28<sup>th</sup> July**

Anybody is welcome. No prior registration.

**Community conversation and dialogue:**

Intimate the organizers before joining.

Faculty and students can be encouraged to participate in the various activities of the three- day programme in accordance with the plan given above.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely,

**Prof. Johny Joseph**

Director