

**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
(LAW DIVISION)**

**A REPORT ON THE
OPEN HEARING/CAMP SITTING AT BENGALURU, KARNATAKA
(2nd and 3rd August, 2018)**

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been holding 'Open Hearings and Camp Sitzings, in different States and Union Territories of the country, in order to address the grievances of people speedily as the Commission is committed to safeguard the human rights of every individual. These also provide an opportunity to take up pending cases of respective states for hearing and disposal on the spot. The aggrieved persons, NGOs etc get a platform to express the problems being faced by the people on account of omissions/commissions on part of public authorities. Another objective of these 'Open Hearings and Camp Sitzings' is to sensitize the public authorities about the issues involving human rights.

2. In this series, the Commission held its two day Open Hearing and Camp Sitting at Bengaluru, Karnataka(2nd and 3rd August, 2018).
3. Shri Sunil Arora, Incharge Joint Registrar (Law), Nodal Officer for Open Hearing/Camp Sitting visited Bengaluru as an advance party to liaise with the State Government officials for finalization protocol and logistic arrangements and other support work in connection with the organization of the Open Hearing and Camp Sitting.
4. Notices were published in national and local dailies of Karnataka inviting complaints for public hearing at Bengaluru on the problems and grievances of schedules castes and scheduled tribes from the persons belonging to those sects who have a complaint of atrocity committed by a

public servant or of negligence by a public servant in prevention of alleged atrocity. In response to public notice, 174 complaints were received. All these complaints were placed before the Commission. On consideration, 60 complaints were dismissed 'in limini' as they were not entertainable. 29 matters were disposed of with appropriate directions to the concerned authorities for remedial measures at their end, whereas 8 matters were transferred to the State Human Rights Commission for disposal in accordance with the provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act. 185 cases were taken up for consideration during the Open Hearing. Besides the complaints received in response to the said public notice, the Commission also decided to take up some of the cases of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes victims, already under consideration of the Commission, apart from some other sensitive cases during its Camp Sitting/Open Hearing. The authorities concerned were asked to remain present at the time of hearing of these cases. The complainants of the cases taken up during Open Hearing were also invited to attend the hearing to place their grievances in person before the Commission.

5. The two-day Camp Sitting/Open Hearing began with the inauguration of the Open Hearing by Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC on 02.08.2018. While inaugurating the 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting', Justice H.L. Dattu said that apart from being a significant initiative to improve governance and creating public awareness, the Camp Sittings pave the way for greater participation and relief for marginalized sections, provide an opportunity for a look at Human Rights Violation in the State, address them collectively and contribute to the implementation of Socio-economic Flagship programmes and provision of basic facilities.

6. Justice Dattu said that the 'Open Hearings and Camp Sittings' of the Commission are vital for strengthening the partnership between the NHRC, States, NGOs, different stakeholders, including the media, for the protection and promotion of human rights and building awareness about the importance thereof.

7. Shri T.M.Vijay Bhaskar, the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka stated that the Camp Sitting was a platform for hearing and providing remedy on the spot for the grievances and assured the Commission of prompt action on the various complaints received from NHRC.

8. Mr. Ambuj Sharma, Secretary General, NHRC informed the gathering that the Camp sittings/Open hearings provided an occasion to the Commission to come to grass root level and interact with people, NGOs, Human Rights defenders and Media. He said that the Commission was also involving various stake holders through workshops/Seminars.

9. After inauguration, the Commission took up 185 cases in three benches, headed by Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC and Hon'ble Members of the Commission Justice Shri D. Murugesan and Smt. Jyotika Kalra. 106 cases were closed since the Commission was satisfied with the action taken by the State government for redressal of the grievances. The Commission recommended compensation of Rs. Five Lakhs in one case and also issued Show Cause Notices to the State government in seven matters for providing monetary relief for, prima-facie, violation of human rights. In some cases, reports received from authorities were ordered to be sent to the complainant for their comments and, in some cases, further reports have been called for.

10. The nature of cases considered in the single benches included atrocities on SC/STs, relief according to law, water drainage in Hassan

district, compensation and rehabilitation for acquisition of land for metro rail by KIADB in Bengaluru, allotment of land to scheduled castes, construction of homes for scheduled caste in Gadag, alleged suicide by a person due to police torture in Gulbarga, release of retirement benefit and rape on dalit minor girl, release and rehabilitation of bonded labours, death in main hole, electrocution death, failure by the police to take action, death of children due to vaccination in Mandya District etc.

11. On the 2nd day, 11 cases were taken up by the Full Commission. These included matters pertaining to illegal quarrying in Shimoga district and Mandya district, atrocities by a mob on a Tanzanian national women in Bengaluru, rescue of slave farmers from Mysore district, police atrocities on villagers in Belgaum district, contaminated water supply in Shivamogga district and air and water pollution caused by land fill garbage in Mysore. The Full Commission was informed that Rs. 4.53 lacs have been paid to victims of police atrocities from Mandya district and Rs. 1.50 lacs paid to the victim from Bengaluru district. Further, in the case of contaminated water supply, an amount of rupees two lakhs each have been paid by the State Govt. to the families of the four deceased. The Commission also recommended monetary compensation of Rs. 5000/- each for 35 victims who were taken ill by consumption of contaminated water. Upon consideration of the reports, the Full Commission closed four cases and called for further reports in the remaining cases.

12. The Full Commission meeting was followed by an interaction with the NGOs, Human Rights Defenders and LGBT community representatives. During the interaction, the civil society representatives raised sensitive issues such as victimization of barber community members, problems faced by transgenders, human trafficking and bonded labour, delay in

registration of cases by police, problems faced by human rights defenders including threats to their life, physical violence and sexual harassment against women at work place including in corporate sector, improper functioning of one stop centres etc.

14. The meeting with the NGOs, Human Rights Defenders and LGBT community representatives was followed by a briefing of media persons by Hon'ble Chairperson and Members of the Commission.

15. The two days Open Hearing & Camp Sitting concluded with the meeting with the senior officers of the State Govt. including the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Principal Secretaries, Commissioners, District Magistrates/Senior Superintendents of Police of various districts. The Commission took up with the State Govt. the various issues, raised during its meeting with the NGOs, Human Rights Defenders and LGBT community representatives and the media.

16. The Chief Secretary assured the Commission of prompt response to its directions/recommendations. He also apprised the Commission of the steps being taken for the protection of rights of SC/ST and prevention of atrocities on them. He informed the Commission about constitution of Committee on Bonded Labour and the steps being taken for sensitization and survey of bonded labour at district level by the officers. It was also mentioned that PDS system was fully computerized and every registered family was being provided food grains and pulses. As regards Ashrey Homes, the progress for construction of houses during the last year and current year was informed. The Chief Secretary assured the State Govt.'s total commitment for protection of human rights of all in the state.

**LIST OF NGOs, HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
AND LGBT COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

S.No	Name of the participants & Organisation
1.	Lakshminarayana Nagavara, State Convener Karnataka Dalitha Sangharsha Samithi, Banglore
2.	Prof. N.V. Narasimha, Karnataka Savitha Samaja, Banglore
3.	B.Channa Krishnappa, State President, Karnataka Samatha Sainikdal-KSSD, Banglore
4.	Yashodha & State President, Karantaka SC/ST Balavardam Samithi, Banglore
5.	Kamamma, State Mahila President, Karnataka Samatha Sainik Dal-KSSD, Banglore-26
6.	P.William Christopher, Associate Director, IJM-International Justice Mission
7.	Muni Byrapp Jay Buuy Ddol Kavry Samiti Karnataka
8.	Jai Bheem
9.	R.Mani Krishna, Industrial Samiti
10.	Ramakrishna V Jeevika Advocate
11.	Mrs. Gayaathri Raveesh Helen Keller, Integrated Educational Society (R)
12.	B.A Lahore Advocate Sagaf Roza Vijaypur
13.	S.B.S Quadri MMC Member JMR Tippusultan, Bijapur
14.	Ashika Shetty Enfold Prodetive Health Trust, Banglore
15.	Dr. Shaibya Saldanha Enfold Trust Banglore
16.	K.Daspragash President, Karnataka State Govt. of SC/ST Employees Federation
17.	N. Kristrappr Kodipahhe Director (SSP) KDPR
18.	Annadanaiah Supd/FDC Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru, Cauvery Bhawan Pin 56009
19.	Veena Jadhav Legal Advisor & consultant UNICEF for Karnataka State Child Right Protection
20.	B.R Muniraja State President Jai Bheem ABD K.S Banglore
21.	Kiram Kamal Prasad Jeevika
22.	Prasanna V R Sikshana Foundation
23.	K. Vaijayanti Akshara Foundation
24.	Mavalli Shankar DSS
25.	D.G Sagar DSS Kalaburbi
26.	Sreedhara Kaliveera founder Member DSS
27.	Matturaikar Ahinda Horta Samithi
28.	Maragare Sampaths, SICHREM No. 35 Anjayanappa Complec H.M road, Lingaragapuram Banglore
29.	Dr. Akkai Padmarhali founder of ONDEDE
30.	Saranya S.Megda President Mahila Dakhsala
31.	Vijaykumar Seethappa Karnataka Sarnaavogya Choluvoli
32.	Aulila Vasan Karnataka Janaanogya Chaluvoli
33.	R. Manohar Regional HRDA Human rights defenders alert, Banglore
34.	Dr Ramesh Chakravarthi Sambhava
35.	Chandrashekhar H. Banasode C/o Indira Education & Welfare Association Kalaburgi