

# **Charter of Demands for Women (All India People's Manifesto)**

## **1. Equal Political Representation and Participation**

- Implement the Women's Reservation Bill.
- Create a Women's Secretariat at the Panchayat / Ward level to provide technical support for the functioning of Women 'sarpanches' and Elected Representatives, and make it possible for all women to access public programs and policies.
- Create a separate 'Women's Grievance Redress Day' each month at the Panchayat / Ward Office to encourage and enable women residents to approach the local authority with their needs and problems.
- Prevent family members from representing women elected representatives and create special safeguards against the arbitrary removal of women 'sarpanches' / council heads.
- Make mandatory the representation of women in the composition of all Public Committees.

## **2. Protection from Violence**

- Ensure greater public awareness of the Domestic Violence Act and stronger measures for its implementation.
- Ensure training and sensitization of the police system to women's issues and induct more women into the police force.
- Create Special Cells for Women in all police stations to enable and encourage women to use the law protection system.
- Create a Helpline for Women and special mechanisms to enable the police force and judiciary to quickly address cases of atrocities against women from dalit, adivasi and other marginalized communities.
- Provide special protection to women from minority communities against atrocities committed due to communal tensions.

## **3. Priority for Girls' Education**

- Make primary and higher education for girls free and compulsory, and protected by law.
- Girls' education is largely dependent on the proximity of schools to the village. Ensure a primary school within 2 kms and a high school within 4-5 kms of every village.
- Develop Technical Institutes and Computer Education Centres at the Panchayat level.

- Enable the greater representation of women teachers at all levels which will encourage the enrollment of girls in education centres.
- Create a special package to promote the education of girls from minority communities.

#### **4. Equal Property Rights for Women**

- Equal participation of women must be mandatory in all asset building, livelihood promotion and community development programs.
- Enforce the joint ownership of land and housing and provide special incentives such as reduction of registration fees to encourage ownership of property by women.
- Enable women from minority communities to have an equal right to the husband's property after divorce and legal sanction to adopt children.

#### **5. Right to Work and Entrepreneurship Support**

- Ensure Women are given Farmer Status.
- Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work in all sectors (formal and informal).
- Introduce Reservation for Women in the Private Sector.
- Simplify procedures for women to open bank accounts and avail of credit; loans undertaken under Mahila Rashtriya Kosh should be waived.
- Promote Women's Entrepreneurship Development and support women artisans & producers at the village level through the mandatory purchase of women produced products by public offices and agencies.
- Prioritize the management of PDS and Fair price shops by Women's groups.

#### **6. Special Programs for Women**

- Allocate barren or community owned land to women's collectives to promote housing or livelihood, particularly for single, destitute and aged women.
- Create a special program to support working women, including crèche and childcare facilities, work to home transport, health insurance and maternity benefits
- Check ongoing corruption in Maternal Health programs and make them easily accessible to women. Equip every village with quality facilities and personnel for maternal and child survival, nutrition and overall health.
- Enforce stringent measures to end female foeticide and under-age marriages; Promote the development of the girl child in all spheres of life
- Support Women athletes and sports-persons from the local level itself; Create Stadiums for women / girls at the district level

#### **7. Greater Access to Public Facilities and Public Places**

- Ensure the availability of public and household sanitation facilities for women as a key factor in protecting women's health

- Create separate recreational spaces and facilities for women

## **8. Stronger National and State Women's Commissions**

- Increase resources for women specific programs at all levels
  - Create women's policies at the state and national level outlining the development goals and targets for women in a time bound period.
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### **About the All India People's Manifesto:**

A first-of-its-kind effort is being made by citizens' groups and civil society organizations across the country to create a national agenda through a localized process of consultation and dialogue. The '*All India People's Manifesto*', an initiative of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, is bringing local groups together to discuss and develop a 10-point development agenda for each constituency. This effort aims to inspire people to engage with the national elections as an opportunity not only to cast their vote, but also shape the future that they want for themselves and for the country. For more information: [www.peoplesmanifesto.in](http://www.peoplesmanifesto.in)

*Wada Na Todo Abhiyan* is a national campaign working with local partners across 23 states to hold the government accountable to fulfill its promise to End Poverty & Social Exclusion. Our efforts include consistently tracking the performance of the UPA government on its National Common Minimum Program (2004-2009) and its reports have been widely used as a parallel report on the government's performance.