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NCW move on lady scribe's case



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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

PRESS NOTE

Expelling of pregnant employee in Guwahati-based news channel

New Delhi, May 26, 2020:

Of all the rights of women, one of the rights is motherhood; however, a recent incident from Assam exposes the double-standards of organizations towards its pregnant employees. The National Commission for Women has come across a media report on May 22 titled “Indian Journalists Union criticises Prag News for sacking pregnant journalist”, wherein it was reported that a pregnant senior journalist was “forced to resign” from the organization.

The report said that the woman's pregnancy restricted her “agility” and Prag News required only “agile persons” as reporters in its organization. The Guwahati-based channel blatantly refused salary to the woman journalist and asked her to put down her papers.

The NCW condemns the insensitive attitude of the channel towards its pregnant employee. The commission, being deeply perturbed by the violation of provisions of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, has asked Prag News to send a feedback on the incident at the earliest.

Guwahati: National Commission for Women (NCW) issues a show-cause notice to a city based satellite news channel for forcing a reporter to resign because she was pregnant. The forum also agrees with NCW that the channel management had shown an insensitive attitude towards the scribe, who worked there for over a decade.

Days back, expressing deep shock and concern 'at the manner in which Guwahati based journalist Ranjita Rabha was forced to resign from her position in Prag News', the Network of Women in Media, India (NWMI) called upon the NCW and the State Commission for Women to take suo moto cognizance of the issue.

Many other organizations namely Indian Journalist Union, North East Network, Asom Mahila Sangha, Sadou Asom Pragatisheel Naari Santha, Assam unit of Students' Federation of India, State unit of All India Democratic Women's Association, etc also criticized the channel management asserting that her case showed the violation of rights and entitlements of working women as envisaged in the Constitution.

Taking a serious note of the incident many senior journalists, who are not associated with local news channels, sought intervention Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal ensuring justice for the scribe. JFA, along with them, believes that the incident would send a wrong signal against the recruitment of women in offices and it would finally jeopardize the campaign for women's empowerment in India.



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Assam Times Staff. editor@assamtimes.org