



**‘SAFE CITY IS A SMART CITY’  
HSS ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE  
REPORT**

**ABSTRACT**

Centre for Social Research (CSR) with the support of Hanns Seidel Stiftung (HSS) organized a Round Table Conference on ‘Safe City is a Smart City’ on the 15th of July, 2015 at India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi.

Prepared by Centre for Social Research

Through the Conference, a dialogue was established between high level dignitaries like police officials, activists fighting for women's rights and academicians. Such platforms are crucial for a unified approach to solving issues concerning society as no progress can be made in isolation. The agenda developed during the Conference aimed to chart out new ways to make Delhi a Safe and Smart City.

The Conference was attended by police officials, social activists, politicians and academicians including Mr. B. S. Bassi, Delhi Commissioner of Police, Mr. J. S. Kochher, Joint Secretary Research and Training, National Human Rights Commission, Mr. Robin Hibu, Joint Commissioner of Police Training, Mr. O. P. Singh, Director General,



National Disaster Response Force, Deepak Mishra, Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order), Mr. Taj Hassan, IPS, Mr. P. M. Nair, IPS (retd.), Ms. Flavia Agnes, Co-founder MAJLIS, Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji, Director and Secretary, Joint Women's Program, Prof. Roma Debabrata, President of STOP, Prof. Anand Kumar, former Professor at JNU, Ms. Sharmishtha Mukherjee, member of the Indian National Congress, Adv. Assunta Pardhe, Chief Functionary, Chetna Mahila Vikas Kendra (CMVK), Ms. Scherry Siganporia, Technical Expert, Gender Advisor, GIZ India and many other eminent functionaries along with HSS representative and India Head, Dr. Volker Bauer.

The Conference began with a welcome address by **Dr. Ranjana Kumari, Director of CSR**, where she stressed the need for creation of a dialogue and building partnerships for making Cities Smart.

**Dr. Rajini Menon, Head of the Gender Training Institute of CSR** made an introductory presentation by stating the aims and objectives of the Conference, the current situation of Delhi and India with relation to the rate of crime against women, the initiatives of the Delhi Police, the State and Central Governments, the current challenges in policing and finally the expected outcomes of the Conference.

This was followed by an introduction of the two broad themes under which the Conference would ensue. The themes were as follows:

## City Security: Smart Security and Policing

- How to make streets safer for women
- Transforming policing through digitization
- Role of policing in setting current and future strategies in building safe, secure and resilient cities

## State Response: Law Enforcement and Public Safety

- Identifying urban city threats for women
- Evaluating security preparedness and meeting security challenges
- Building a safe and secure city by allocating adequate funding and implementing timely and cost effective solutions



The suggestions and recommendations of participants on each theme have been mentioned below:

### City Security: Smart Security and Policing

How to make streets safer for women

Ms. Sharmishtha Mukherjee, Member, Indian National Congress, and Ms. Anjali D'Mello, Co-Founder, MAJLIS, initiated discussion on the topic.

- ✚ The following measures were suggested by them-
- i. CCTVs with real time monitoring across the city that are linked to the nearest police stations along with CCTV monitoring of buses, autos and cabs.
- ii. increasing community involvement by creating youth groups in communities or Mohalla Suraksha Samitis to look after the safety of their communities and increasing community responsibility

## Transforming policing through digitization

Ms. Shubha Rajan, Director, Confederation of Indian Industries, Dr. Anjali Mehta, Social Activist and renowned gynecologist, and Mr. Adab Singh Kapoor, Lawyer, provided suggestions in this area-

- i. Establishing public-private partnerships in a bid to install high-tech technology to secure Delhi
- ii. Establishing high-tech forensic laboratories
- iii. Digitizing case records; the documentation of cases should be available to the fellow police officers if an investigating officer is on leave, unavailable or gets transferred.

## Role Of Policing In Setting Current And Future Strategies In Building Safe, Secure And Resilient Cities

Views on this topic were put forward by Mr. P. M. Nair, IPS (retd.), Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji, Director and Secretary, Joint Women's Program, Ms. Praveen Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Kochher, Joint Secretary Research and Training, NHRC, Mr. N. R. Wasan, Director General of Bureau of Police Research and Documentation and Ms. Anita Brandon, Professor & Nodal Officer (PRI Training) SIRD Rajasthan.

✚ The following recommendations were suggested by the above mentioned speakers:

- i. Increasing the proportion of women in the police force
- ii. Sensitizing the judiciary as well as police to bring about a shift in attitudes towards survivors of violence and women in general, so as to shift the blame/shame of abuse from survivor to perpetrator
- iii. Creating a police-public dialogue and transforming public image of the police
- iv. Building a Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS)
- v. Bettering the working conditions and environment of police to increase their productivity
- vi. Increase police trainings, introduce refresher courses to keep police personnel up to date with changes in law and make police training jobs more attractive
- vii. Easy access to helpdesks at all police stations

- viii. Encouraging more research and utilizing existing research relevant to policing and governance
- ix. Developing stronger witness protection protocols to encourage bystanders to end violence

### State Response: Law Enforcement and Public Safety

#### Identifying urban city threats for women

Mr. O. P. Singh, Director General, NDRF, and Dr. Gauri Choudhuri, Founder Member, Action India, expressed their concerns regarding this topic by enlisting the below mentioned factors that make the city unsafe for women.

- i. Poor urban environment
- ii. Traffic and transportation hazards
- iii. Lack of respect and sensitivity (towards women, children and the elderly)
- iv. Insufficient police presence on the streets of the city
- v. Patriarchal attitude for inflicting VAW
- vi. Non efficient functioning of all government apparatus

### Evaluating security preparedness and meeting security challenges

Suggestions under this topic were presented by Ms. Praveen Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ms. Shamina Shafiq, former member of National Commission for Women which are listed below-

- i. A multi-sectoral approach must be ensured
- ii. Setting national targets which could be pursued by civil society organizations across the country in a unified manner to eradicate or minimize problems one by one effectively
- iii. Ensuring that recommendations by national organizations are heeded and used while planning action plans to tackle city's problems

## Building a safe and secure city by allocating adequate funding and implementing timely and cost effective solutions

Mr. Robin Hibu, Joint Commissioner of Police Training, Ms. Flavia Agnes, Co-Founder, MAJLIS, and Ms. Julie Thekkudan, Lead Specialist, Gender Justice, Oxfam India expressed their views and the following recommendations.

- i. Single window clearance for allocating funds for defense, security and health so as to reduce delays in formulation and implementation of schemes
- ii. Creation and passing of gender budgets to avoid holding up of laws due to lack of funds
- iii. Utilizing of Nirbhaya fund for police training/setting up for forensic labs so that existing funds are not wasted

The Conference saw a final presentation by the Delhi Police which was followed by the concluding session of Mr. B. S. Bassi, Commissioner of Police, Delhi. He began emphatically by emphasizing his primary responsibility and commitment to women's safety and security. He declared that so far in 2015, 323 self defense trainings for college girls had been conducted and 74,930 girls trained by the Special Police Unit for Women and Children. He added that since seventy percent victims are between the age of eighteen and thirty-five, this must be the target group for trainings. Stating achievements by the Delhi Police he mentioned an increase in police helpline numbers from the previously existing four to ten, an increase in number of women in the police force with 141 women Superintendants 1205 women constables, uploading data of sexual offenders on the Delhi police website, setting up of One Stop Centres at Sanjay Hospital, GTB Hospital and DDU Hospitals, conducting 5053 trainings so far in 2015 and finally the usage of the Himmat application which since its inception has been downloaded 43,669 times. He also mentioned that the conviction rate is 25.7.

Many of the participants had questions for the Delhi Commissioner about issues such as the investigation procedure, usage of technology, and about crimes by police personnel and his response to the same. He responded to the questions by saying that a lot of emphasis was laid on investigations and chargesheets were filed in not more than twenty days, that technology was being used for a lot of issues and they were developing another application through which a rape



or dowry complaint could instantly be lodged and he went on to stress that the Delhi Police would not entertain violence against women by any cop.



Based on the deliberations made by the esteemed guests at the Conference, a **twenty point agenda** was presented by **Ms. Anubhuti Vatsayan**, Head of Development Division, CSR.

### **Twenty Point Agenda**

1. Removal of stigma associated with women who are abused and assaulted; shift the blame to the perpetrators
2. Ensuring amiable work environment to increase the proportion of women in police forces.
3. Ensure timely justice through setting up systems such as single window clearance for speedy implementation of schemes and policies of the government.
4. Gender sensitization trainings of police to handle cases of violence against women
5. Encourage and incentivize police officials to take up the role of police trainers
6. Work towards for better working conditions for the police force
7. Increase collaborations and partnerships between police and civil society
8. Work towards changing public image of police to inculcate more faith in the police



9. Draft consolidated national goals regarding women's issues that civil society organizations can work towards in a unified manner
10. Specialized hospitals or forensic labs should be set up for survivors of gender based violence
11. Utilize current research and consider recommendations of national organizations and committees while charting action plans
12. Increase new research initiatives on appropriate technologies to combat the prevalent forms of violence
13. Compulsory introduction of gender sensitization for children and youth in school curricula
14. Increase access to special police cells for women and refocus police priority on gender sensitive law response instead of providing unprofessional mediation services.
15. Compilation of national and international level best practices on battling gender based violence
16. Encourage change from below through community involvement and exploring potential for community policing; particularly in urban areas
17. Broaden the working definition of safety to include aspects of general wellbeing, happiness and access to spaces
18. Ensure gender budgeting at the law making stage
19. Ensure an intersectional approach to safety
20. Challenge patriarchy at all levels, beginning with the family

The Conference was concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Volker Bauer, Country Representative, Hanns Seidel Stiftung, New Delhi.

Centre for Social Research extends its heartfelt appreciation to Hanns Seidel Stiftung without whose continuous support and cooperation this Conference could not have been a success and would also like to thank Dr. Ranjana Kumari and the entire team at CSR for its hard work and undying enthusiasm.

**Annexure: List of Participants**

S.NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	LOCATION
1.	Mr. B. S. Bassi	Delhi Commissioner of Police	Delhi
2.	Mr. Robin Hibu	Joint Commissioner of Police Training	Delhi
3.	Dr. PM Nair	IPS, Former Director General, National Disaster Response Force & Civil Defence, Govt. of India	Delhi
4.	Dr. Praveen Singh Kumari	IPS, Former Member, Ministry of Home Affairs	Delhi
5.	Mr. Taj Hassan	IPS, Joint Commissioner, Security	Delhi
6.	Mr. Deepak Mishra	IPS, Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order)	Delhi
7.	Mr. O. P. Singh	Director General, NDRF	Delhi
8.	Ms. Anita Sharma	Delhi Police	Delhi
9.	Mr. J. S. Kochher	Joint Secretary Research and Training, NHRC	Delhi
10.	Dr. S. K. Jain	Senior Research Officer, NHRC	Delhi
11.	Mr. N. R. Wasan	Director General, NDRF	Delhi
12.	Ms. Shamina Shafiq	Former Member, National Commission for Women	Delhi
13.	Mr. Nashijit Dey	UNHCR	Delhi
14.	Mr. Jeevan Kanakhassery	Consultant, UN Women	Delhi
15.	Ms. Kristi Desai	US Embassy	Delhi
16.	Ms. Catherine Sharma	US Embassy	Delhi
17.	Prof. Anand Kumar	Former Professor, Sociology Department, JNU	Delhi
18.	Dr. Bulbul Dhar-James	Faculty, Political Science Department, Jamia Millia Islamia	Delhi
19.	Dr. Arvinder A. Ansari	Associate Professor, Sociology Department, Jamia Millia Islamia	Delhi
20.	Ms. Sharmistha Mukherjee	Member, INC	Delhi
21.	Mr. Adab Singh Kapoor	Advocate	Delhi
22.	Adv. Assunta Pardhe	Chief Functionary, Chetna Mahila Vikas Kendra	Pune, Maharashtra

		(CMVK)	
23.	Dr. Volker Bauer	Country Representative, HSS	Delhi
24.	Ms. Usha Subramanian	Head - Finance & Administration, HSS	Delhi
25.	Mr. Sandeep Dubey	Project Manager, HSS	Delhi
26.	Ms. Soumya Mehrotra	Manager - Finance & Administration, HSS	Delhi
27.	Mr. Rahul Khera	Project Manager HSS	Delhi
28.	Prof. Roma Debabrata	President, STOP	Delhi
29.	Ms. Shalini Tarcha	STOP	Delhi
30.	Ms. Scherry Sigantor	Technical Expert, Gender Advisor, GIZ India	Delhi
31.	Ms. Julie Thekkudan	Lead Specialist, Gender Justice, Oxfam India	Delhi
32.	Dr. Anita Brandon	Professor & Nodal Officer (PRI Trg.) SIRD Rajasthan	Jaipur, Rajasthan
33.	Ms. Gouri Choudhury	Founder Member, Action India	Delhi
34.	Ms Seema Malhotra	Director, Scope Plus	Delhi
35.	Ms. Sanjana	Scope Plus	Delhi
36.	Ms. Shubha Rajan	Director, CII	Delhi
37.	Ms. Richa Audichya	Director, Jan Chetna Sansthan	Mount Abu, Rajasthan
38.	Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji	Director and Secretary, Joint Women's Program	Delhi
39.	Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi	Vice President, Development Alternatives	Delhi
40.	Col. M. K. Aeri	Head HR, Development Alternatives	Delhi
41.	Ms. Flavia Agnes	Co-Founder, MAJLIS	Mumbai
42.	Ms. Audrey D'Mello	Co-Founder, Majlis	Mumbai
43.	Ms. Anju Talukdar	Executive Director, Multiple Action Research Group	Delhi
44.	Ms. Lora Prabhu	Director, CEQUIN	Delhi
45.	Ms. Anindita Chakraborty	Manager, NCIT, CHINTAN	Delhi
46.	Ms. Pauline Gomes	Manager - Curriculum & Leadership Development, Breakthrough	Delhi

47.	Ms. Sancheeta Ghosh	Manager- M&E, Breakthrough	Delhi
48.	Ms. Piali Bhattacharya	Manager - Implementation (Delhi Program),Breakthrough	Delhi
49.	Ms. Radhika Khajuria	Programme Director, WPC	Delhi
50.	Mr. Manak Matiyani	Programme Lead, ComMutiny	Delhi
51.	Ms. Ruchi Pathak	HR Manager, Action Aid	Delhi
52.	Dr. N. Hamsa	Policy Lead, Women and Girls, IPE Global	Delhi
53.	Ms. Prabhleen Tuteja	Project Coordinator, Jagori	Delhi
54.	Dr. Anjali Mehta	Social Activist, Justice Seekers	Delhi
55.	Ms. Usha Negi	Assistant Director, Institute of Cost Accounts	Delhi
56.	Mr. Jagdeep	Sambhawana Times	Delhi
57.	Ms. Sarah	The Indian Express	Delhi
58.	Dr. Ranjana Kumari	Director, CSR	Delhi
59.	Dr. Manasi Mishra	Head, Research Division, CSR	Delhi
60.	Dr. Rajini Menon	Program Coordinator, Gender Training Institute, CSR	Delhi
61.	Mr. Amitabh Kumar	Head, Media and Communication Division, CSR	Delhi
62.	Ms. Anubhuti Vatsayan	Program Coordinator, Development Division, CSR	Delhi
63.	Ms. Mehak Jhingon	Project Coordinator, Development Division, CSR	Delhi
64.	Ms. Prajakta Neelkanth	Senior Consultant, Gender Training Institute, CSR	Delhi
65.	Mr. K. K. Balakrishnan	Administrative Secretary, CSR	Delhi
66.	Mr. Sandeep Gupta	Part-time Consultant, CSR	Delhi
67.	Ms. Sonia Kaur	Secretary, CSR	Delhi
68.	Mr. Vikram Sheoran	Web Manager, Media and Communication Division, CSR	Delhi

<b>69.</b>	Ms. Arnika Singh	Project Coordinator, Media and Communication Division, CSR	Delhi
<b>70.</b>	Ms. Pratishtha Arora	Assistant Trainer, Gender Training Institute , CSR	Delhi
<b>71.</b>	Ms. Ritika Bhatia	Project Coordinator, Gender Training Institute, CSR	Delhi
<b>72.</b>	Ms. Valerie Hohman	Head of Organisational Development	Delhi
<b>73.</b>	Ms. Abhishri Aggarwal	Associate for Grant Development and Fundraising	Delhi
<b>74.</b>	Ms. Ragini Pant	Research Assistant, CSR	Delhi
<b>75.</b>	Ms. Swati Nagar	Intern, Research Division, CSR	Delhi
<b>76.</b>	Ms. Sohini Chanda	Intern, Gender Training Institute, CSR	Delhi
<b>77.</b>	Ms. Kim Van Kastel	Intern, Media and Communication Division, CSR	Delhi
<b>78.</b>	Ms. Vanessa Crawford	Intern, Media and Communication Division, CSR	Delhi
<b>79.</b>	Ms. Upasana Sharma	Intern, Media and Communication Division, CSR	Delhi
<b>80.</b>	Ms. Suhasini Mukherjee	Intern, Development Division, CSR	Delhi