

Inter Movement Open Forum

The Trafficking Bill (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) 2018

National Network of Sex Workers, SANGRAM, SAHELI SANGH, MASUM, VAMP

16 - 18 April 2018, SM Joshi Foundation, Pune



The second in the series of State training workshops and consultations on the Trafficking Bill “Inter Movements Open Forum” was held in Pune from 16 -18 April 2018. Vibrant community groups from all over Maharashtra participated in the two -day training followed by a conversation with women’s groups and activists from Pune. 45 representatives from Pune, Aurangabad, Jalgaon, Parbhani, Sangli, Miraj, Satara, Kolhapur, Solapur and Nagpur participated in the meeting. Sex workers collectives include Hardasi Swadhar, Jalgaon; Kranti Mahila Sangh, Solapur; Prerana Samajik Sanstha, Aurangabad; Mahila Jagruti Sevabhavi Sanstha, Parbhani; Saheli Sangh Pune; VAMP Sangli. NGOs participating in the training include Adhar Sanstha, Jalgaon; Indian Red Cross Society, Nagpur; Godawari foundation, Jalgaon; Marathwada Gramin Vikas Sanstha, Aurangabad and SANGRAM, Sangli.



The training was focussed on strengthening understanding of sex workers on various aspects linked to the trafficking bill so that they can articulate their issues / concerns, draft their recommendations and lead appropriate advocacy initiatives in the following months. This was followed by Open Forum on the third day where sex workers participated and articulated their concerns with other Pune groups.



The meet began with the discussion on the news ‘Two sex workers fall to death during police raid’ in Mumbai and ‘Rescued Uzbek woman ends life in shelter home’ in Hyderabad. Participants discussed their experiences of raids, rescue, and shelter home and police in general. Further participants deliberated upon collective action against such illegal actions. Unanimously it was decided to approach National Human Rights Commission on behalf of Maharashtra sex worker collectives and NGOs. All demands, concerns and experiences will be compiled to draft a petition by month end.



Participants discussed existing laws such as the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956 and Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code; and the impact of these laws – violence, forced and violent raids, lack of accountability. They discussed the impact of the draft trafficking bill which would increase the violence and impunity against them.



Members of NNSW launched “Raided” a community led study on the impact of anti- trafficking strategies on women in sex work. The research is the first concrete evidence emerging on the impact of forced raid and rescue on sex workers.