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Press Release

WGHR releases a Monitoring Tool for Tracking Implementation of Recommendations from the UN's Universal Periodic Review of India

Panelists called on Govt to uphold its Human Rights Commitments



WGHR releases 'Tracking Implementation, A Monitoring Tool for Recommendations from the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review for India'

Preceded by a Panel Discussion on Status of UPR recommendations in India.

The panelists (from left to right): Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities, Justice V Gopal Gawda, Supreme Court of India, Shri Miloon Kothari, WGHR Convenor, Justice Madan B. Lokur, Supreme Court of India, Shri Satyabrata Pal, Member, National Human Rights Commission and Smt Jashodhra Dasgupta, National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights.

In a ground breaking development the *Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN* (WGHR) have released a publication containing a tool designed to effectively enable the monitoring of human rights recommendations made to the Government of India during the UN Human Rights Council's latest Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR is a process whereby all member states of the United Nations (UN) face a comprehensive peer review of their domestic human rights situation and are asked to make specific commitments to improve that situation.

The WGHR tool is unique in both the international and domestic realm and is already receiving inquisitive international attention from United Nations bodies, civil society groups and independent institutions. The publication launched on 22 August 2013, includes both a global as well as an Indian template to assist in the monitoring of UPR recommendations. At the panel discussion WGHR indicated the possibility, therefore, of the tool being adapted for use in other countries. In addition to tracking the implementation of UPR recommendations the tool enables monitoring of the domestic human rights situation and will inevitably lead to greater accountability.



To mark the occasion of the launch of the monitoring tool WGHR, a group of civil society organisations and independent experts working in the field of human rights in India, organised a panel discussion on the UPR and implementation of recommendations. The panel included Justice Madan B. Lokur, Supreme Court of India; Justice V Gopal Gawda, Supreme Court of India; Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities; Shri Satyabrata Pal, Member, National Human Rights Commission; Ms. Jashodhra Dasgupta, National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR); and Mr. Miloon Kothari, Convenor WGHR and Former United Nations Special Rapporteur. In the presence of a large audience Justice Gopal Gowda and Justice Madan Lokur from the Indian Supreme Court, launched the WGHR report.

The panel focused their attention on the benefits the monitoring tool is expected to bring to India. The panelists urged the Government of India to uphold its national and international human rights commitments. The panel discussed the disconnect that sometimes exists between local action and international dialogue on human rights issues. The hope was expressed that the information generated by the utilisation of this tool¹ would enable local action and international discussions to lead to tangible improvements for the lives of people in India. Panelists also spoke eloquently that the experience of the UPR for India was a timely reminder of the enormous unfulfilled agenda for the realisation of a range of human rights across India.

The full version of *Tracking Implementation, A Monitoring Tool for Recommendations from the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review for India* is available at <http://www.wghr.org/pdf/Monitoring%20Tool%20--%20Final%20Version%20200813.pdf>

For more information visit: www.wghr.org

For any assistance, please contact the WGHR Secretariat at contact@wghr.org / 011-24358492; or,

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Advisors | Mr. Anand Grover, Special Rapporteur on the right to health, UN Human Rights Council | Ms. Indira Jaising, Member, CEDAW Committee

¹ For more details on how the tool can be utilised see the attached introduction from the WGHR 'Tracking Implementation' publication.