

SESSION ON OVERCOMING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The Social Work Forum of the Department of Social Work (Aided), MSSW, in association with the Sisterhood Foundation, Centre for Women's Solidarity Network and Chennai for Women organized a session on, "Overcoming Gender based Violence" with special emphasis laid on the Human Rights Day on 10th December 2018. The session took place from 2:00pm to 5:30pm. The session was inaugurated by Dr. S. Raja Samuel, Principal of Madras School of Social Work, in the presence Dr. K. Sathyamuthi, Forum Coordinator and HOD in charge and Ms. Josephine, CWSs. The welcome address was delivered by Ms. Snowlin Sofia. The guest speakers for the session were Ms. Salma, Writer and Ms. Ovia, Writer. And a special address was given by Dr.S.Raja Samuel, Principal.

The session started with the survivor's talk by Ms. Aarthi Raghavan. Then it was followed by the documentary screening titled, "Mounam Pesumbothu" for an hour. The screening was all about abuses faced by women in the society. It was from child to married women and abuses which led to death. A signature campaign was organized near the wisdom tree as "#metoo", to write their views on the #metoo campaign.

After the documentary screening, Ms.Anisha delivered the profile of the guest speakers. Ms. Salma took over the session by sharing her friend's incident and how she was victimized by the abuser. And added India's average rate of reported rape cases is about 6.3 per 100,000 of the population. Most rapes go unreported because the rape victims fear retaliation and humiliation, both in India and throughout the world. Indian parliamentarians have stated that the rape problem in India is being underestimated because a large number of cases are not reported, even though more victims are increasingly coming out and reporting rape and sexual assaults. After that, Dr.K. Sathyamurthi SWF coordinator honored Ms. Salma with a memento as a token of respect and gratitude.

The session was then handled by Ms. Ovia, she started with the question about the awareness status of sowmiya's case. She exclaimed a well planned, developed, and supported social service workforce is a key component of a strong system needed to address this issue. She spoke about being a social worker how we should take up the society to be a better place. The questions she raised to the students out there, like an eye opener.

Dr.K.Sathyamurthi, Social Work Forum coordinator gave a glimpse of the recent scenario of social workers and the involved of the same. He also stressed the importance for a change in attitude towards the participation in creating a better world. Ms. Elsa requested the students to share their incidents if they are comfortable. Surprisingly more than five people shared their incident and how they were abused by their own relatives, neighbors and strangers in the society. Most of the incidents were heart-broken and rolled with tears. Dr. Amuthalakshmi honored Ms.Ovia with a memento as a token of respect and gratitude. The survivors talk came to an end with the legal awareness and the change of attitude requires towards their-own mothers and sisters. Ms. Elsa delivered the vote of thanks. And the program got over by 5:30pm.

