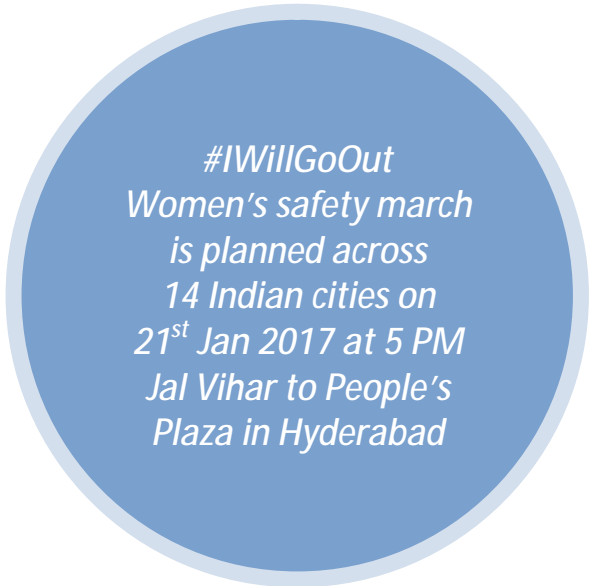


FAQs about #IWillGoOut

1. What is the 'I Will Go Out' event about?

#IWillGoOut is a nationwide march on 21st January, 2016, in solidarity with the survivors of Mass Sexual Harassment that took place in Bangalore this New Year's eve. We're a collective of individuals and over 20 organizations across various cities in India.

We have marches being planned on 21st January at 5 pm in 14 cities and towns - Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Puducherry, Ahmedabad, Silchar, Jaipur, Kashmir and Karimganj. We are also being joined by individuals in Kashmir for an online campaign simultaneously. Details on locations of these marches in cities will be updated soon on our Facebook page.

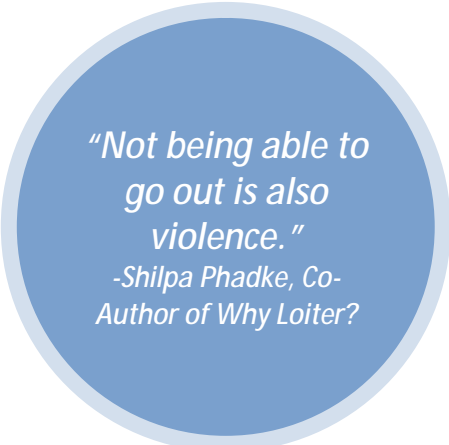


#IWillGoOut
Women's safety march
is planned across
14 Indian cities on
21st Jan 2017 at 5 PM
Jal Vihar to People's
Plaza in Hyderabad

2. What do we expect/hope to achieve?

Our vision for this movement is for everyone to :

- reclaim public spaces for women and girls;
- ensure that women have equal access to public spaces, public modes of transport without the fear of being sexually abused or facing violence and hostility;
- highlight poor infrastructure, poor lighting on roads, inadequate safety measure such as functioning women's only helpline numbers that severely limit a woman's access to public spaces, especially post dawn;
- create a violence free world for women;
- ensure that gender sensitization takes place in institutions, organizations and courts of law;
- ensure inclusive and safe infrastructure that will make women's access to public spaces easier (for example, 24 hour public transport, well-lit streets, public toilets and so on);
- vehemently reject all sorts of victim-blaming and shaming that we often see politicians indulge in;
- help women exercise their sense of agency and autonomy and live a life of equality, dignity and respect.



*"Not being able to
go out is also
violence."*

*-Shilpa Phadke, Co-
Author of Why Loiter?*

The reason we are taking to the streets is best captured by this quote by **Shilpa Phadke**.

"What many people don't seem to get is that the choice is not between violence and no violence. Even when one's homes are not violent, the choice being offered is either to go out in public and negotiate violence or to experience the violence of restricted mobility. Some might choose to go and and negotiate the violence. Some might choose to stay in and feel

enraged or just resigned to this state of affairs. But this rage and resignation are also part of the experience of violence. ."

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3. Which organisations are part of Team #IWillGoOut?

Some of the organisations we have on board at the moment are Fearless Collective, Red Dot Foundation (Safecity), The Red Elephant Foundation, Menstrupedia, Take Back The Night Calcutta, Why Loiter? Mumbai, SAMYAK, Pitrusatta Virodhi Purush, Maharashtra, Why Loiter? Pune, KrantiKali, Feminism in India, Women Making Films, Voice4Girls, Tharuni, The Spoilt Indian Woman, One Billion Rising, Telangana Hijra Transgender Samiti, Human Rights Law Network, Jagori, Jagori Rural, Hyderabad for Feminism, Telangana Hijra Intersex Transgender Samiti, Kasturba Gandhi College for Women. We are also actively reaching out to other organisations across the country to make this movement as inclusive as we can.

4. How do we think the Bangalore molestation situation will end?

Currently the Bangalore Police has made arrests and noted statements from perpetrators for the molestation caught on CCTV at Kamanahalli. What we are fighting for is not merely justice for the crime, but to hand a mirror to every Indian citizen and show that we are all complicit in how cities are unsafe for women. The Bangalore molestation case is not a single incident found in a vacuum. It is a visible part of systemic inequality that prevents, hinders, and shames half the population from moving around their cities, their homes. It is time to stake a claim in our landscape and our rights to own the streets and go out!

*"We support #IWillGoOut movement and acknowledge that street harassment is a reality in Hyderabad."
-Vyjayanti Vasanta, Telangana Hijra Transgender Samiti*

5. Were we hopeful after Nirbhaya? Are we hopeful now?

Nivedita Menon wrote that *"from the most complacent patriarch to the angriest feminist, all would declare rape to be a terrible crime. But the apparent consensus is mythical, for the reasons behind arriving are diametrically opinion. For patriarchal forces, rape is evil because it is a crime against the honour of the family, whereas feminists denounce rape because it is a crime against the autonomy and bodily integrity of a woman"*. In the

wake of the Nirbhaya case, the nation was in fervor- taking to the streets, debating on various media outlets, some blamed her and her partner; in homes- families grappled with articulating their emotions. Some fathers vowed to never send their daughters out again because the world was cruel to them. Is this how we deal with assault? By limiting the freedoms and mobility of half the population? Many called for the execution of the rapists, but as horrendous as their crime- these are violent and visible cases in a larger crisis with misogyny. How many cases go unreported? How many become hypervisible on television and then lead to moral policing of the survivor? Rape is misogyny and hatred in action, but what of all the inequalities that limit and hinder women? Patriarchy is often subtle, structural, veiled, 'well-intentioned', 'for honor'. We need to expose patriarchy from every household, from every street. Nirbhaya's death will never be in vain, and we honor her memory as we fight for our right to be present and visible everywhere. Never lose hope, never lose your fire, never cease to be angry.

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6. What do you say about the people who say #NotAllMen?

We are not going to thank the men who do not assault us. **Privilege is often not recognised by the privileged.** This is true when thinking about race, caste, class, religion, and gender. All people of privilege- and in this case men- need to understand their privilege and do what they can to deconstruct systems that oppress others. In the case of gender issues, men must participate in making public spaces safer for all genders. Not by acting like a protector, we don't need protection, but by letting us be without invading our private space. You need our consent for everything that has to do with us. This is women's collective voices. Yes all women have experienced harassment in one form or another, whether our laws recognise it as harassment or not. And if there are a few good men, we are not here to reward them or pat their backs for not harassing us. As humans we expect our rights to be protected anyway. What the gender equal guys can do is be our allies and make sure that our voices are heard and not hijack the movement. Feminism In India addressed this brilliantly. You should take a look at this. <http://feminisminindia.com/2016/07/22/open-letter-notallmen/>

Men have the privilege to think that violence against women is not a problem, because it is not a problem to them personally.

7. Do you think going out on streets will help women feel safe?

First we need to recognize that restricting women and girls from going out is a clear violation of rights. We condemn this on all counts. We have equal right to access public transport and spaces without the fear. Today women hesitate to venture out alone because the streets are not safe. But the underlying problem is the law enforcement should ensure that streets are safe for all genders. Current situation of living in fear is detrimental for the growth of the nation. There is only one way to eradicate and uproot the fear – Go out and reclaim public spaces for women. This is our right. We women chose to exercise our right, and it shouldn't be anyone's problem what time of the night or day it or what we are wearing when we go out.

The question is not what she was wearing or why was she out at that hour?

The question is and should be why did he do that?

8. How can society stop victim blaming when such incidents happen?

Just stop talking and analysing why, how, where and when it happened and by punishing the perpetrators using law enforcement immediately. The question is not about what she was wearing or why she was there at that hour. The question is and should be why did he do that? Changing the narrative is in everyone's hands, media, politicians, you and me... all of us.

9. What can a group of women like this do about reducing gender based violence?

Gender based violence is not a women's issue. It is in fact, a men's issue as violence against women is incited by men. A quick look at NCRB data confirms that men commit

the majority of gender based crimes. While there are women who are criminals too, but the number is miniscule compared to male criminals. So, to start with we are steering the conversation towards men, pointing out that something is inherently wrong or missing in the way we are addressing violence against women. Our

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government, society, culture and everything we did so far failed to look at violence against women in this direction. It is time to recognise where the problem is originating from and address it.

4

10. How can you steer the conversation towards men?

We do not have to reinvent the wheel. Jackson Katz already suggesting a few questions we should be asking, which sounds more like common sense. In his own words:

"We have to ask a different set of questions. You can see where I'm going with this, right? The questions are not about women. They're about men. The questions include things like, why do men abuse women? Why is gender based violence still a big problem all over the world? What's going on? Why do so many men abuse, physically, emotionally, verbally, and other ways, the women and girls, and the men and boys, that they claim to love or total strangers? What's going on with men? Why do so many adult men sexually abuse little girls and little boys? Why is that a common problem in our society and all over the world today? What's going on with men? Why do so many men rape women in our society and around the world? Why do so many men rape other men? What is going on with men? And then what is the role of the various institutions in our society that are helping to produce abusive men at pandemic rates?"

"Why do so many men abuse, physically, emotionally, verbally, and other ways, the women and girls, and the men and boys, that they claim to love or total strangers?"

-Dr. Jackson Katz, Educator on issues of Gender & Violence

11. Are you including men to join your initiative?

Men, LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual) members all are welcome to support our initiative without hijacking or undermining the violence and sexual harassment meted on women. If you look at the gender of the perpetrators who incite violence in general, it is predominantly men and the victims are women, children, men and other genders. So, yes, men are welcome to join us if they recognise that solution to minimise and eradicating violence, lies within men.

12. What can government do to make women feel safe in public spaces?

- Have a women's only help-line number that is functioning across all states and cities. Currently 103 works only in select cities.
- Did you know that it takes 4 telephone calls to report a sexual harassment incident to She Teams in Hyderabad? This should be made easier.
- Release a sex offenders' registry online of those convicted under the relevant sections of the IPC and make it public. We don't see a reason why we should protect the offenders' identities.
- Ensure survivors of sexual abuse have free and full access to quality healthcare in Government and Private Hospitals
- Use the money allocated under the Nirbhaya Scheme, currently the corpus of Rs. 3000 crore is not being allocated for on-ground women's safety measures or towards rape survivors.
- Improve facilities and security at safe houses and shelters which offer protection to abused women.
- Make Comprehensive Sex Education and Gender Equality classes mandatory in schools and colleges

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- Ensure that action is against those police officials who wrongfully deny filing of FIR for cases of sexual offence and hold them accountable.
- Ensure that a victim's identity is not disclosed by media personnel. Even though we have provisions in law that expressly forbid victim's identity being disclosed, we do see cases where this is breached and Government or Police Authorities not taking Suo Moto cognizance of the same.
- Increase the number of fast track courts that handle cases of sexual abuse with victim protection program
- Focus on increasing the conviction rate for crimes against women, current conviction rate is in the 20% range. We surely can do better than this.
- Ensure streets are well lit up with clean and walkable footpaths and substantially increase the number of CCTV cameras in public places.
- Spread awareness on how women can file FIR's online against certain cases of sexual abuse.
- Sensitize police personnel and ensure that they do not put the survivor/ victim's family through lines of questioning that further re-victimises them and subjecting them to victim-blaming and shaming.
- Refrain from linking sexual offenses to the way women dress or to culture.

13. What can men do to make women feel safer?

Most of us could say, 'just let us be'. But we agree that the responsibility of making public spaces safer is with men too. We want them to be our allies. Respecting women doesn't mean that women should be put on a pedestal and worshipped as goddesses. It just means understanding and acknowledging that we are equals and are entitled to have our own opinions about sexuality. It goes without saying that we will be very happy if they just stop harassing us. In addition men can,

1. Stop street harassment in all forms, including leering, catcalling, passing comments, touching without consent, exposing (flashing) themselves and so on.
2. Refusing to participate in street harassment and overcoming peer pressure in that aspect.
3. Understand consent and equate it to "full enthusiastic consent"
4. Take 'No' for an answer gracefully and leave us be.
5. Be aware of the physical space they take up in public. Respect personal space of others and not intrude into that.
6. Call out other men harassing others to reinforce moral support to the victims of harassment
7. Refuse to use sexist language, and call out men who do. Hyper-sexualizing language often leads to objectifying women through language and gesture.
8. Engage in discussing how detrimental male entitlement and patriarchy is with other men and boys
9. Teach boys about consent with age appropriate examples and exercises.
10. Understand that harassing women equates to misogyny, Acknowledging without arguing that women and other genders endure harassment everyday is a good place to start.
11. Stop saying 'Not All Men', and do a reality check on crimes committed by men compared to other genders
12. Educate themselves more about street harassment, consent from following resources:
<http://www.stopstreetharassment.org/> ; <http://everydayfeminism.com/2013/05/what-men-can-do-street-harassment/> ; <http://indiasdaughter.com/home/> ;
<http://everydayfeminism.com/2017/01/leave-behind-toxic-masculinity-2017/>
<http://everydayfeminism.com/2015/06/how-society-treats-consent/>



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This can be good start!*