

PRESS RELEASE

Monday, November 23, 1998

A two-day follow-up meet of the First National Conference of Sexworkers organised by Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC) began in Calcutta yesterday at the University Institute Hall. This National level meet of sexworkers and non-government organisations (NGOs) working among them was participated by 32 delegates from Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Tamilnadu, Mumbai, Delhi etc. It is held in line with the resolution adopted by the National Network of sexworkers during the second phase of the First National Conference of Sexworkers held on March, 1998.

The simple inaugural formalities made way to serious group discussions regarding advocacy at policy level, social sensitization, communication and communication strategies — intra trade and at the national as well as international level regarding the various issues and problems affecting the lives and profession of the sex workers.

In this two day follow-up meet of National Network of Sexworkers, they unanimously adopted a resolution to set up regional offices co-ordinated on a national network basis which will look after their affairs. The aim would be to strenghten local activities and interact on a national and international level with similar forum worldwide, for exchange of views and to increase their skills. These regional office will be run by funds generated locally. This national network of sexworkers will meet twice a year at conferences for exchange of views and to evaluate activities being done in the past and to monitor their progress. Hand-in-hand, National Network of Sexworkers reiterated the demand of sexworkers to treat sexwork as per ILO reccomendation, the right of trade union and self regulatory board along with repeal of *Immoral Traffic Prevention Act*.