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Change In Society´s Mindset Key To Women´s Safety: Kiren Rijiju

Women´s Peace & Security Conference

New Delhi, India, 21.09.2015, 15:53 Time

USPA NEWS - Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Kiren Rijiju addressing at the inauguration of the South Asia Women Peace and Security Conference, in New Delhi on September 20, 2015. The Minister said that the efforts of the Government, Judiciary and the Police alone will not be sufficient to curb menace.

The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Mr. Kiren Rijiju said that the society must change its mindset towards improving Women´s Safety. Addressing representatives from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, the Philippines and Myanmar at the South Asian Women´s Peace & Security Conference on September 21, the Minister said that the efforts of the Government, Judiciary and the Police alone will not be sufficient to curb the menace. Gender bias and inequality are very grave in the country. I cannot imagine such atrocities still happening to women in the 21st century, he added.

Pointing out that the registration of Crimes against Women have reported an alarming rise in the recent years, Mr. Kiren Rijiju said that claiming that this spurt is due to the tightening of the legal provisions and the mandatory registration of such crimes alone will not help. he said, the fact is that such incidents are happening and there is no change in situation on the ground. Observing that crimes against women is a result of a deep rooted social problem, the Minister said that a country cannot claim to progress where women are not safe in the society. It is not a question of man or woman, it is a matter of humanity!

The community, family members must be sensitized, the cause and the solution to this issue is also within each of us, the Minister added.

Mentioning that India is a signatory to various regional and global conventions on Women´s Equality, the Minister said no country has such elaborate legal provisions as we have on the issue of Women´s Safety and Equality. India has a number of legal provisions for the protection of women, but the problem still lies in the mindset of society. We need to come together and collectively resolve this issue, he said.

The Minister received from the organizers of the conference, Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI), a draft memorandum on the issue of women and security in India and urging for a National Action Plan. Assuring that the Government will seriously consider the recommendations made by the Conference to enhance Women´s Safety, Mr. Rijiju remarked that the women are the first and worst sufferers in conflict zones worldwide and in the Disturbed Areas whether in the North-East or J&K. In contemporary conflicts, as much as 90 percent of casualties are among civilians, most of whom are women and children, he added.

“I am here to show solidarity on these issues. Consider me part of your movement: let´s work together to ensure peace and security for women in these countries“, said the Minister Mr. Rijiju in his concluding remarks.

Article online:
https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-5414/change-in-societys-mindset-key-to-womens-safety-kiren-rijiju.html

Editorial office and responsibility:
V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Doruvu Paul Jagan Babu

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Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619