

SPECIAL CHILD FRIENDLY COURT TO COME UP AT BHAROSA, FIRST OF ITS KIND IN INDIA

Bharosa support center for women and children was launched on 7th May, 2016, with the sole aim of providing support to the victims of severe cases of violence like rape, serious cases of domestic violence and child sexual abuse victims under POCSO Act 2012.

The center Bharosa is a one stop center in its true sense and spirit, wherein the victims are provided with all required facilities under one roof without moving from pillar to post and thereby avoiding the re-victimization of the victims.

Unlike other one stop centers, Bharosa is not a part of either hospital or police station. It is established at a neutral place in the heart of the city away from hospitals or police stations. Victims freely walk in to Bharosa without any inhibitions.

Since its launch, more than 2900 cases of different types have been dealt with and many victims were provided with counselling, support, legal aid, medical examination, police and prosecution help, shelter, compensation as well as placements in order to make a victim of violence who enters Bharosa go out smiling with confidence and new hope in life.

The Centre provides, counselling by expert clinical psychologists, advocate for legal counselling, women police officers to provide police help, record 161 Cr.P.C. statement, medical help with doctors on call and ANM available, shelter if needed at shelter homes and compensation in coordination with Govt. Departments. and NGOs. Court liaisoning and legal support officers are also available to provide prosecution help. There is a video conference facility for victims, at Bharosa to record 164 Cr.P.C. statement by the Magistrate, through video mode without appearing in the open court, which is being implemented for the first time in India.

Now taking this one step further, the High Court has accepted the proposal submitted by Bharosa for permitting the designated Court, i.e the Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge court, Hyderabad for offences to be tried under the POCSO Act in the premises of HACA Bhavan, at Bharosa Centre for speedy disposal of child sexual abuse cases. This special child

friendly court, following child friendly practices will not only conduct speedy trials but also reduce re victimization of the victims.

The court will be a child friendly court and will be set up as per the guide lines provided in the POCSO Act 2012. It will have all the required facilities in order to make the child feel comfortable and at ease to speak to the Judge and advocates. Apart from the innovative and child friendly Court hall, designed according to the principles and guidelines laid down, a special child room having video conference facility and rest room for the victims of violence will be there. Rooms for the judicial officers, prosecutors, defence advocates, waiting area for common public, will be set up.

The court will ensure that the child is not exposed in any way to the accused at the time of recording of the evidence, while at the same time ensuring that the accused is in a position to hear the statement of the child and communicate with his advocate. For this purpose one way mirror would be used. There will also be a provision for live-link television testimony of the child to be taken in a room outside the court hall and be televised to the court room. There will be a separate entry for the child for this purpose.

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