

'RECLAIM THE CITY BY NIGHT WALK IN DELHI ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY'

Invitation

You are invited to participate and speak at the 'Claim Your City ' walk that will take place in the National Capital on Saturday, December 10th, 2011 on International Human Rights day. The walk will begin at 7:00pm in front of Statesman Building and move towards Jantar mantar via Tolstoy Marg. At Jantar Mantar there will be a sit in that people can speak or give cultural expression to their concern.

On December 10th, 2011, International Human Rights day a group of Community members, students and any other interested individual who wants to join, will gather in front of Statesman house at Brakhamba Road end point, to march in as symbolic effort to 'claim the city by night'. The expected participants are mobilized by youth groups like Manzil, Pravah, Youth Collective, and workers and excluded peoples networks like, Nirmana, Nacdor, Rashtriya Dalit Mahila Andolan, Muslim Women's organization, Sathi all for Partnerships, National Alliance for Labor Rights, Habitat International Coalition, along with academics, students and civil society groups. This is an opportunity for all of us to resolve to work towards our empowerment and to conserve the natural resource of the city for climate change adaptation. While doing this we need to respect the right of all to essential services, infrastructure, for a woman's right to access the resources her city has to offer through government schemes, for workers to ask for migration and placement centres and youth to plan spaces for their learning and fun.

This walk was initiated last year on 10th Dec, 2010 and had a tremendous media and people's response. The participants at the walk last year had decided to organise the "claim the city by night walk" as an annual event and promised to work the year through on their vision of developing their local neighbourhood to claiming their city through elected leadership as their own. The students of Barcelona and Jamia school of architecture developed a urban plan gender plan for Okhla area. Their Dean and faculty as well as the National Women Empowerment Mission, Government of India have appreciated their work.

Mahila Dakshata Samiti, Savera, Muslim Women Forum, Women Farmers, Tribal Domestic workers and Rashtriya Dalit Mahila Andolan have agreed on demanding for women resource zone in local area planning. Community Youth Collective and other groups has worked on gender and violence the whole year through. SAFP, Aman trust and NACDOR have researched on women and resource gap where as National Allaince for Labor Rights, Prahari and Nirmana have recorded what workers in the city want as their space. The Consult for Women and Land Rights has provided input to district plans, city development plans as well as National Planning process in India and internationally to promote inclusive planning. This is a further step in the initiative taken to empower youth and women not only across Delhi or the whole of India but also across the world.

The collective organizing this 'Claim your city by night' will be making the following demands from local authorities and Parliament, and will aim to raise awareness amongst the population on:

- The right to the city as having space to participate and grow
- The right to take risks to move freely in the city
- The right to propose and win projects to conserve resources for sustainable development.

This event began as a learning of other 'Take back the night' events that were organised cross the world, such as Bangalore, Sidney, London, San Francisco and Vancouver. This initiative was organised in Delhi by groups who feel strongly about gender equality as well as access to public space. This generation has the potential to change the current situation and attitudes of which women bear the brunt in Delhi. This event is meant to give people a platform to express their vision and demands to authorities and question the generation and gender gap in ownership and access to resources.

"Claim Your City By Night Walk Is Back " facebook event page has also been created for updates on the event and its build up. Detailed contact information has been provided at the end of this mail.

We ardently hope our message reaches thousands of people to ensure maximum participation on 10th of Dec, 2011.

looking forward to hearing from you soon.

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