



swatantra party

national headquarters

sassoon building, 143, mahatma gandhi road, bombay 1.

phone: 251424
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5434

August 14, 1972

General Secretary's Letter No. 289

Dear Friend,

An organisation "Ad Hoc Committee on Women's Rights" has taken up cudgels against the proposed clubbing of incomes. They have launched a campaign to send mass petitions to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi opposing the proposal.

We should mobilise women members of our Party to take active interest in this campaign.

* Enclosed is an appeal by the "Ad Hoc Committee on Women's Rights" as also a specimen petition.

Each petition should contain 20 signatures and should be posted directly to the Prime Minister.

Since this campaign has cut across Party lines, we should do it on a non-party basis.

At the same time, it would be useful if we at the National Headquarters are kept informed of the progress in the campaign: The ideal thing would be to send us, from time to time, lists containing the names and addresses of women who have signed the petition.

Yours sincerely,

Madhu Mehta
(Madhu Mehta)
General Secretary

Encl: *

SWATANTRA PARTY, BOMBAY

Received on.. 18.8.72

Serial No.

Mr. Narayan

As discussed send a copy of this with a covering letter signed by me to each lady member.

18/8/72 4-15 PM

AD HOC COMMITTEE on WOMEN'S RIGHTS

(A non-party, non-political, non-sectarian Committee)

12, Shiv Shanti Bhuvan, 146, Maharshi Karve Road, Bombay-20

7-7-1972

A woman is able to develop her potentiality and become a significant member of society only when she is recognised as a person in her own right entitled to engage herself in trade, profession or service, to hold property and to earn income on her own. Attempts to put restrictions on these rights by clubbing her income with that of her husband, or any such measure, will be derogatory to her dignity as an independent human being.

It has come to our attention that the Government of India intends to introduce legislation to combine the incomes of husband and wife for purposes of taxation.

Such legislation would be a retrograde step and nullify the independence barely achieved by women in the last 25 years, with so much difficulty. The individuality and personality of a woman should not suffer due to any act of legislation. The status woman has achieved so far, must, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, reach out to further heights and not be reversed.

The representatives of the associations listed on the reverse met to discuss the consequences of such a move. Arising out of the discussions, an Ad Hoc Committee on Women's Rights was subsequently formed in order :

- (1) to educate the public on the consequences of such a move
- (2) to bring the adverse consequences of such legislation to the attention of Parliament and the Government.

We earnestly request individuals and associations to support the Committee in its programme to achieve the above objectives.

Maniben Kara	Shakuntala Jagannathan	Sulabha Panandikar
Lakshmi Menon	Indumati Joshi	Lilyben Pandya
Sumati Morarji	Dhun Jahina	Thangam Philip
Dhanvanti Rama Rau	Kamal Karmarker	Chitra Pooviah
Premilila Thackersey	Mani Kamerkar	Sita Pooviah
Deena Ahmadullah	Krishna Khatgu	Saudamini Prabhakaran
Kafawanti Alreja	Shernaz Kharas	Jaishri Raji
Gulestan Billimoria	Kookie Kheswala	Amy Rustomjee
Sarala Bannerjee	Amrit Khalsi	Dulcinea Rodrigues
Lilavati Banker	Jaloo Karanjawalla	Minal Saran
Kamalini Bhansali	Coomi Katgara	Annie Saraiya
Behroze Cursetjee	Mithan Lam	Padmavati Saraiya
Suma Chitnis	Dolly Masani	Feroza Seervai
Gunavati Chinnappa	Sujata Manohar	Gool Shavaksha
Zarina Currimbhoy	Kusum Maluste	Sarala Shah
Sushila Choksi	Ziya Maskati	Madhuri Shah
Sheela Chhabal	Zuleikha Merchant	Kulsum Sayani
Aloo Dastur	Hemlata Mariwalla	Krishnabai Sathe
Sharda Divan	Tehmi Masalawala	Mitha Shroff
Tarulata Dave	Meher Master	Neregh Sidhwa
Tarunica Dehejia	Nergiz Mehta	Prerana Thakore
Gulab Dalal	Usha Mehta	Hema Thakore
Deviben Dalal	Usha Modak	Nirmala Tilak
Hilla Dadina	Mahboob Nasrullah	Zubeida Tyebji
Shirin Fazalbhoy	Zulie Nakhoda	Nergesh Vesavewalla
Rohini Haksar	Khairunissa Mecklai	Avabai Wadia
Irene Heredia	Malti Pawar	Nibha Walawalkar
Fatima Ismail	Sushila Pandit	Lalit Walawalkar
Prema Jeevandas	Vimla Patil	Jayawanti Wagle

**List of Associations Whose Representatives Attended a Meeting on 23-6-1972,
at the Invitation of the Women Graduates Union**

All India Women's Conference, **Bombay Branch**
Altrusa Club of Bombay
Association of Medical Women in India, **Bombay Branch**
Bhagini Samaj
Bharatiya Stree Seva Sangh
Consumer Guidance Society
Defence Colony Women's Association, **New Delhi**
Family Planning Association of India
Indian Association of Trained Social Workers
Indian Council of Social Welfare, **Maharashtra Branch**
Indian Federation of Women Lawyers
Indian Merchants' Chamber **Women's Wing**
Inner Wheel Club of Bombay
International Women's Association
Ismailia Helping Society
Joyland Nursery
Lionettes Club of Bombay
Maharashtra State Women's Council (**Affiliated to National Council of Women in India**)
Mahila Sanghatan Mandal
Udyachal High School, **Vikhroli**
United Women's Organisations Committee, **Bombay**
Vanita Samaj, **Dadar**
Women Graduates Union (**Bombay Association, Indian Federation of University Women's Associations**)
Women's Social Service Club
Young Women's Christian Association
Zonta Club of Bombay

Date:

To
The Prime Minister of India,
Teen Murti Marg,
New Delhi.

Dear Madam,

We view with grave concern the move to impose Income-Tax on the combined incomes of husband and wife. Such an imposition would severely set back the position and status of women and also of the social and economic progress of our country.

The system has been wisely abandoned in Britain.

We appeal to you to uphold the individual personality of the Indian woman and to ensure that she will continue to have her income taxed separately from her husband's instead of having to bear the unfair burden of a tax on joint incomes.

We make this appeal to you, because your efforts to raise the status of women and to secure fair and equal treatment of women against age-old prejudices, are well known.

Yours truly,

Name & Address

Signature

Status/Designation/s
(Housewife, (Paid or
teacher, unpaid
professional, positions
clerk, etc.) held)