

## Women's Safety Week - UWA

Ujjawal Women's Association organised a three day Women's Safety Week programme, which included webinar on day one, two lectures and a nukkad natak on the second day, and a drawing competition on the theme of women and their safety on the third day. .

Main speaker on day 1, was Ms. Sharda Sharma an Advocate of High Court and former Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and in the UPSC. The audience were made aware of various laws, and means by which young women and girls can protect themselves and also the various agencies that are active in this field. Highlighted the case of Ayesha dowry death and real life examples from schools and neighbourhood .

**On day two, March 6, 2021 there were two lectures followed by a nukkad natak**



Mrs. Bulbul Das, MIC Women's Safety informed the gathering about 8<sup>th</sup> March, celebrated globally as International Women's Day, a focal point in the movement of women's rights and is a celebration of the social, cultural, economic and political achievement of women. The first Women's Day was celebrated in 1909 by the women workers of America on getting pay parity in a textile unit. Later the UN declared 8th March as the International Women's Day. Even today, women suffer in the name honour, dowry, they are molested, raped and murdered. During the Covid 19 lockdown, violence against women has increased.

Ms. Ritu Raina, who is currently working with HT Media Ltd , with over 25 years of corporate work experience was the second speaker of the day. Talking about safety of women at work place she explained Section 21 (1) Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) of Woman at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. She emphasized that it is very important for women to know their rights and the process of raising a concern under POSH.

1. As per the POSH act every women has a right to protection against sexual harassment at every work place in India.
2. This applies to domestic help as well.
3. There is an internal complaints Committee which is dedicated to the process of investigation
4. Lack of evidence does not mean that she cannot complain

5. Any unwelcome, uncomfortable touch, look, gesture, behaviour falls under the definition of sexual harassment

6. POSCO act enacted in 2012 is for the protection of children from sexual advances. This is against any kind of sexual overture or behaviour or touch. The children both boys and girls have a right to complain

7. A special committee overlooks the investigation process. It is important to make children aware and teach them to differentiate between good touch bad touch and behaviour. Awareness and Education is the key to creating a safe environment for children.

*Nukkad natak* performed by the girls of D-Star group was the next programme. The play revolved around the subject of empowerment of girls and how they are discriminated against since birth or even before birth. Play also depicted how a girl or woman has to face several biases and taunts in society as she moves ahead with her life and career goals, but in the end she makes it through as she is a good struggler and through her courage and wit is able to surmount all difficulties thus emerging stronger.



**On day three, March 8, 2021 a Drawing Competition was held,** about 10 children from the neighborhood participated. They drew very meaningful drawings straight from the heart.

