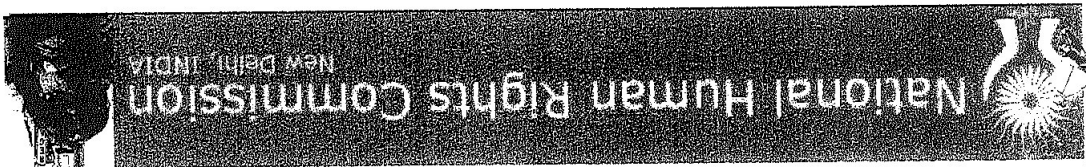


Annexure IV

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NHRC Human Rights Day function

New Delhi, 10th December, 2009

The Union Home Minister Mr. P. Chidambaram, has called upon NHRC to pay special attention to the violation of the minorities' rights. Addressing a function organised by the NHRC in New Delhi to mark the Human Rights Day today, he said that it is the responsibility of the majority community to protect the human rights of minorities wherever they are. Mr. Chidambaram said that the scope of protection of human rights is expanding with several new areas of interest to the human beings. Indigenous people have the right to acquire all modern amenities and become part of the mainstream while preserving their indigenous culture. Mr. Chidambaram asked the NHRC to explore new rights saying that special rights of girl child need to be explored more. The Home Minister said that India is a unique country in the world having unity in its diversity. Given the multi-lingual and religious countries having one language and one religion.

He said, "even small countries that have homogeneous population, speak one language, practice one faith and belong to one race and raise issues concerned to human rights. So, how a country as large and complex like India not face challenges of human rights every day".

Earlier, welcoming him, the NHRC, Acting Chairperson, Mr. Justice G.P. Mathur said that the Commission is committed to protecting and promoting the human rights of all. It has significant achievements in different areas of human rights, including rights of children, women, disabled persons, detainees, displaced persons among others. He said that the deep-rooted structural inequalities in the Indian society like caste and gender based discrimination are a major impediment to the realisation of human rights by all. The scourge of militancy and terrorism has made special efforts to ensure that the disposal of complaints keeps pace with the intake as number of complaints of human rights violation since its inception has increased manifold. He said that while celebrating the historic day, we all must promise to create a human rights culture first by inculcating the values of humanity and love for others in an environment where there is a sense of responsibility but without any fear and discrimination of any kind and to set an example for others.

In a message, read out on the occasion, the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon said that abstract commitments towards protection and promotion of human rights are not enough. He must continue to confront inequality intolerance wherever they are found.

Several dignitaries including Mr. Buta Singh, Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Mrs. Urmila Singh, Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Members of NHRC were present on the occasion.

Note: For further details kindly contact National Human Rights Commission, Faridkot House, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi, PIN 110001 Tel.No. 23382742 Fax No. 23384863 E-Mail: govdnhrc@nhrc.in, lonhrc@nhrc.in

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