



Who Killed the Women? &lt;whokilledthewomen@gmail.com&gt;

## Demand from women's groups in Karnataka: Need transparent probe into the unnatural deaths of women in Dakshina Kannada district

1 message

ಕೊಂದವರು ಯಾರು? Who Killed the Women in Dharmasthala?

Thu, Sep 4, 2025 at 2:04 PM

&lt;whokilledthewomen@gmail.com&gt;

To: 10janpath10@gmail.com

Cc: cpoffice@inc.in, cm.kar@nic.in

Dear Ms. Gandhi avare,

We, the representatives and supporters of the recently launched campaign in Karnataka called “**Kondavaru Yaaru? Who Killed the Women in Dharmasthala?**”, write in deep distress regarding recent developments around ongoing investigations into a series of unresolved crimes in Dakshina Kannada district that brought to focus the endemic issue of violence against women. **The complete letter is attached to the email but summarized below are our key concerns and demands.**

Many of us, as concerned citizens and activists who had been raising these issues from earlier, were hopeful that the constitution of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) would help to bring justice and healing for those families seeking answers to long standing trauma and questions. Unfortunately, not even a few weeks into the investigation, the matter has become the subject of intense and often salacious media coverage and political grandstanding. As a result, what should have been a moment for truth and accountability has instead spiraled into intimidatory tactics and attempts to bury justice once again.

Amidst all this, remarks by Congress ministers have added to the furore and invite scepticism of a fair and just investigation. Statements by important Karnataka Government functionaries even before the SIT has completed its investigation, trivialize the lives lost over several decades and undermine the SIT's ability to function independent of political pressure.

The primary concern of our campaign is to ensure that the entire inquiry must focus exclusively on delivering justice to women and other victims. And this focus, cannot and should not be sacrificed, as always, at the altar of religious and political expediency. As one of the senior most women leaders in the opposition and in the Congress party that is in power in our State, we reach out to you, to enlist your support in ensuring that:

- a. **The focus of the SIT remains steadfastly on investigating the perplexing pattern of unnatural deaths and sexual assault cases in the region. RTI reports as well as the Ugrappa Committee report (2018) have pointed to these unnatural deaths, and the lack of action and complicity by the local police and other authorities with regard to the same. Justice must be served to the victims, perpetrators booked and authorities who failed their duty held accountable.**
- b. **State government leaders from the Congress Party refrain from issuing statements that undermine the functioning of the SIT and a fair and just investigation. They must instead play a proactive role in bringing the focus back to the issue of justice for the victims and dismantling deep-seated structures that perpetuate such violence.**
- c. **The State government expedite action against the erring officials responsible for the bungled investigation in the Soujanya case in order to ensure accountability as per the ruling of the Karnataka High Court, in its judgement dated September 13, 2024.**

Ms. Gandhi, we would like to reiterate that this is not just about one town (Dharmasthala), one taluk (Belthangady) or one district (Dakshin Kannada) - despite the violence there being the current focus. It is about whether the State can confront its systemic complicity in violence against women and whether women in Karnataka can believe that their lives truly matter.

As a political leader who has tried to bring ethics and empathy to the centre of politics, we firmly believe that your intervention is critical – not only to secure justice for the women of Dharmasthala but also to restore our faith in the State Government of Karnataka and the law enforcement agencies that are meant to protect, not silence the vulnerable.

Sincerely,



Campaign ಕೊಂದವರು ಯಾರು? Who Killed the Women in Dharmasthala?



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