

**“Free Legal Aid Service Clinic” in Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women**

Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women has been functioning since 1993 as a statutory body empowered to protect women from issues faced by them. It is functioning on the first floor of the Kalasa Mahal building in Chepauk. The current Women's Commission has been reconstituted since 2022 with a Chairperson and seven members and keep functioning well.

In case the security features and rules established for the protection of women under the political system and other laws are violated against the welfare of women, the complaints received in this regard are investigated or brought to the attention of the relevant authorities and recommended to take appropriate action. Last year, Women's Commission received 3388 such complaints from women victims and took appropriate action on them. Out of these 439 complaints were settled through summons and the women got the necessary relief. Further action is pending with various other agencies on the remaining petitions. Since January 2024 this year, 2107 new petitions have been received and action is being taken.

Just because there are laws for women on the statute books is no guarantee that they will be implemented in society. Therefore, with the aim of making legal assistance easily available to women, the National Women's Commission has been providing financial assistance in phased manner to all State Women's Commissions since 2022 for setting up a free legal service clinic in their premises. Following this, the Tamil Nadu State Women's Commission has also received sanction for Rs. 2, 00,000/- from the National Women's Commission for this work and in coordination with the State Free Legal Services authority has set up a Free Legal Aid Service Clinic in its office on 15.07.2024. All the necessary logistics equipment including computer, wardrobe, table, chairs, refrigerator, fan etc., has been procured for this center. State Free Legal Services Authority will depute advocates for this clinic. The center will function 5 days a week from Monday to Friday from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

The Free Legal Aid Service Clinic was inaugurated today by Mrs.A.S.Kumari, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu State Women Commission. Lawyers from State Legal Service Authority, Chennai District Social Welfare Officers, Centre Administrators of Chennai One Stop Centres, Intern Students from Law Colleges and other officials of Women Commission are participated in the programme.

Established on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Women's Commission, this center will act as a single window system to help women victims get better solutions to their problems by informing them about its bodies and their functions at various levels under the judicial administration.

**Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai – 9**

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