



OBR 2017-18 CAMPAIGN

OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

The One Billion Rising Campaign 2018

By the International and National Secretariat

Globally, we are coming into a time defined by a fierce escalation of fascist, imperialist and neo-liberal attacks on the lives of people around the world. Hate politics, increased state repression, militarization and a large scale of internal and territorial displacement is the order of the day and lends to other forms of violence.

The magnitude of women's oppression and suffering continues to generate creative and political resistance in the One Billion Rising campaign like we have never seen before. This year OBR is seeing a new, dynamic and radical vibrancy that is opposing and rising against such repression and oppression.

The current political regime that we are living in India is not different in any way from the global political and economic crisis. The current situation in our country can only be described as one of the darkest periods in our independent Indian democracy.

हम फिर से एक नई ऊर्जा और प्रतिबद्धता के साथ आए हैं। समय की यही मांग है। नफरत की राजनीति, राज्य का बढ़ता दमन, सैन्यीकरण, देश के अंदर व सीमाओं पर भारी तादाद में विस्थापन हो रहा है।

हिन्दुस्तान का वर्तमान राजनीतिक शासन भी जिसमें हम रहते हैं वैश्विक राजनीतिक व आर्थिक संकट से किसी भी तरह अलग नहीं है। हमारे देश की वर्तमान स्थिति भारतीय लोकतंत्र की सबसे ज्यादा स्याह अवधि के रूप में परिभाषित की जा सकती है। सबसे ज्यादा गंभीर मामला है राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर लड़कियों व औरतों पर बढ़ती हिंसा/पुरुषवादी दम ने सारी सीमाओं को तोड़ डाला है।

एकजुटता व एकता के बगैर कोई भी बदलाव संभव नहीं।

SOLIDARITY IS RADICAL CONNECTION!

SOLIDARITY
Rise, Resist,
Unite

एकजुटता

**उठो
विरोध में
एक जुट हो कर
उठो।**

As the 2018 OBR is being launched, we decide to make the primary focus this month's newsletter a sharing of national and regional events that are already going on, even though they are not OBR events.

The political situation we are watching unfold is dangerous, and it is important that we join in and solidarize with ongoing struggles and campaigns across the country.

हम सभी जानते हैं कि देशभर में कई अभियानों और आंदोलनों ने अनेक समुदायों को अपनी मांगों के समर्थन में जोड़ा है।

ओबीआर के इस न्यूजलेटर में हम ओबीआर सहभागियों की आरंभिक योजनाएं जानेंगे। देश में ओबीआर के अलावा कई और अभियानों के बारे में जानकारी भी इस न्यूजलेटर में आपसे बाँट रहे हैं क्योंकि ये हमें नये विचारों व नई रणनीतियों से उत्साहित कर रहे हैं।

నहीं NO ఇल्ले नाही ഇല്ലे না নহী হোइन না
 இல்லை না നഹీ नहीं ना తುಂಬುవుల NO
 नहीं ಇಲ್ಲ NO ನಾ YOUR HONOUR, ನਹੀ ಹೊइन ನಾ
 না নহী नहीं না NO ತುಂಬುవుల ನಾ
 नाही இல்லை MEANS ನਹੀ ನಾ नहीं ಇಲ್ಲ
 ഇല്ല ಹೊइन ಇಲ್ಲ NO ഇല്ല இல்லை
 *NO MATTER WHETHER IT'S FEEBLE OR NOT
 TheQuint.com

The Delhi high court made a regressive decision when director Mahmood Farooqui was acquitted in a rape case against him by a foreign researcher, based on the judgment of a feeble NO from the woman.

Girl students in Kolhapur Maharashtra have been protesting thousands of incidents of sexual harassment on MSRTC buses. They have been filing cases against bus staff and other boys, and demanding a separate bus for girls.



Girls of Benares Hindu University (BHU) have been protesting and organizing a Liberty Festival after incidents of sexual harassment that were ignored by the Vice Chancellor.



Three employees of Balika Ashram, a government orphanage, in Chamba district, Himachal were arrested for sexually abusing and harassing six minor girls.

OBR friends in Chamba district are planning a survey to check the implementation and running of sexual harassment committees in schools.



24 year old Hadiya was denied the autonomous decision to get married following the Kerala High Court's nullification of her marriage. The court's decision mirrors many Hindu-right wing claims of Love Jihad. Recently, the Kerala Women's Commission reported that Hadiya is living under extreme torture in her family house.

Other campaigns...

#I Am Gauri- Following the murder of veteran journalist Gauri Lankesh on Sept. 5th, thousands of people have taken a stand against hate politics and violence against women and a stand for rationalism



#Not in My Name- This campaign began after the killing of 15 year old Junaid Khan on a train, bringing together Indians who do not stand for hate politics, the killing of innocent people especially Muslims, Dalits, Adivasis, LGBTQ community, women and many more

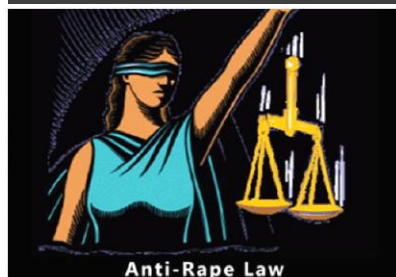


#Me Too- This campaign started by veteran feminist Tarana Burke from the US has sparked many debates in India. At the first level it created a solidarity network of women who have survived sexual harassment. This led to the subsequent #I Pledge where men joined in. Yet many feel that it is not enough to solidarize amongst survivors but it is necessary to #Name and Shame the perpetrators. After senior Dalit lawyer Raya Sarkar released a list of sexual assaulters in Indian

academia, there has been a debate between some who feel that "due process" should be followed and others who state that we cannot wait for the system given the corruption that exists.

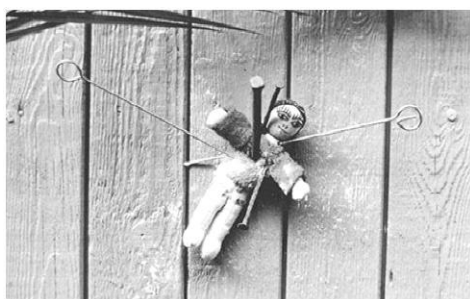


OUR CONSTITUTION



Supreme Court verdict...

declared that sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, who is below 18 years of age, is rape. With this judgment the SC ended a decade old disparity of laws that protected unmarried but not married girl children.



Prevention of Witch Hunting...

Various local groups have been working in Bhilwara and Ajmer regions of Rajasthan to fight Witch Hunting of Dalit women. This work is now strengthened due to recent sting operation on witch hunters, the undying courage of Dalit women to speak out and the 2015 law for the Prevention of Witch Hunting.

OBR CAMPAIGN 2017

80%

Of the events were collaborative. Can we raise the bar this time around?

71%

Of the events were in Urban areas. How can we rise this year in solidarity with rural struggles?

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Jagori Rural launched OBR 2018 on the 22nd of October with Karvan-E-Mohabbat, walking in a caravan from village to village to spread the message of love in the face of hate politics.

Action Plans for 2018 RISING



The Red Brigade, Lucknow is wrapping up the '100 schools 100 day's program, which included self-defence classes and an introduction to 100 women leaders. For this year's rising, they are planning a gathering of 10,000 girls and self-defence displays.

Development Action Society, Kolkata is planning to work with local SHGs to identify shortcomings in govt. schemes, present their demands to the Corporation Officer on 14th February 2017 and hold a larger forum of women's demands.

The Rajasthan Women's Network is launching its OBR campaign on the 25th of November- the UN day of elimination of violence against women.



NAWO-Odisha is launching with a creative rising on 25th November along with Maya Rao.

Ekta-Madurai is planning to launch on South Asian Women's Day- 30th November.

SRED- Chennai is planning a rising in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Women's Forum and Tamil Nadu Dalit Women's Movement to fight for the most marginalized women and to demand rights.



Given state elections in December, the national OBR secretariat has proposed to the Gujarat OBR network to carry out a women's convention to put forward the charter of demands to political parties based on the Woman's Charter developed through the OBR campaign last year.



This year our **RISINGS** will be even more creative, collaborative and political.

Creative: The creative, multi-media activities and radical public events with large scale mobilization is integral to the campaign in order to escalate our public presence, strength and voice. ART. Using art forms from storytelling to theatre, poetry and music, dance, monologues, spoken word, song, music, and dance and films as radical calls to action and to escalate political consciousness.

मौलिक: कहानी से नाटक कविता से संगीत , नृत्य , एकाभिनय , बोलकर गाकर संगीत नृत्य फिल्म जैसी किसी भी कलात्मक विधा के प्रयोग से लोगों की राजनीतिक समझ को बढ़ाना व उन्हें कुछ करने को प्रेरित करना।



Collaborative:

Collaborative risings are the most effective way to mobilise a large number of people. As a first step, we must organize a state level planning meeting of as many people and organizations. Next, let the national secretariat know about the date of the state level preparatory meetings, the plan of action and the date of the event/ or series of events.

Political: With election due in a number of states in the near future, it is also the time to demand insertion of women's' agenda as a legitimate demand from the contesting candidates, to increase women's' participation in political processes not only at the level of Panchayats but also at the assembly and the parliamentary levels.

राजनीतिक : आने वाले दिनों में कई राज्यों में चुनाव होने वाले हैं। यही वो समय है जब हम उम्मीदवारों से महिलाओं की जायज मांगों को चुनावी घोषणा पत्र में शामिल किए जाने की भी मांग करें। हम मांग करें राजनीतिक प्रक्रियाओं में औरतों की अधिक भागीदारी की। यह भागीदारी केवल पंचायती राज संस्थाओं तक ही सीमित न हो। वरन् विधानसभाओं और संसद तक महिलाओं की अधिक भागीदारी हो।



Girls protesting in the J&K

This year's student protests in Srinagar following the Pulwama clash of students with security forces took a new turn with many women joining the struggle in the valley. More recently, our **J&K partners** have condemned the 450 cases of braid chopping



Adivasi and Dalit school girls

Prakriti-Nagpur is rising this year in solidarity with Adivasi and Dalit school girls in Chandrapur who are living in ashram schools (hostels). The rising is to research, advocate and fight for their rights.



Himachal Pradesh state planning meeting

On the 27th of October, 25 people representing 10 organizations from 3 districts of Himachal Pradesh met at Jagori Rural to plan for OBR 2018.

In this meeting it was decided to work on the following :

- 1) To move as a Karvan-e-Mohabbat to various districts to talk against hate politics.
- 2) To work with students of 50 colleges and senior secondary schools on constitutional rights and to focus on working with boys and young men.
- 3) To work along with our experienced friends from Kangra working with Dalit women, we will escalate the demand for women's land rights.
- 4) To carry out a survey in Chamba district on the set-up and implementation of sexual harassment committees in schools.
- 5) To start a social media photography campaign to make friends from another social background called « Selfie nahi, Kisi aur ko jaano »



Intl. Conference Anti-Human trafficking

The **Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre** is organising, outside of its OBR plans, this conference on November 25th and 26th 2017. Many international, national as well as regional participants from both Bengal and the North east will be moving together 'from theory to practice'. Subsequent to the conference, an OBR rising in Kolkata's red light district is planned.



V-Day celebrates 20

It has been 20 years since Eve Ensler's play the Vagina Monologues released to shatter boundaries. For this OBR campaign 2018, the texts of both the **Vagina Monologues** play as well as **A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, A Prayer** will be available for those who wish to adapt and stage the shows in February.

Kissa Yoni Ka

Regional & International OBR risings

OBR South Asia Launch in Nepal

On 2nd September 2017, OBR 2018 was launched in Nepal with the attendance of 10 countries. The call was made for Aazaadi for women in South Asia and for an end to the violence caused by the brutal civil war in Nepal.

Bangladesh rises for migrant domestic workers

In a first of its kind event, a Public Hearing for migrant domestic workers will take place in Bangladesh.

Croatia rises with women factory workers

OBR in Croatia launched on the 20th of September 2017, with women workers from the textile factory in Kamensko. These women have been on protest for fair wages, in a situation where privatization has led to the shut-down of many factories.

South Africa rising "Your Child, My Child"

This year's campaign will rise against the killings of many women and children.

Taiwan stages the play Chidi

Taiwan will rise this year with a staging of an adaptation of the Vagina Monologues titled Chidi

Mexico rises on screen

A soap opera on the theme of human trafficking will be launched as part of the OBR 2018 campaign.

"We need people to truly try and imagine — once and for all — what it feels like to have your body invaded, your mind splintered, and your soul shattered. There are approximately one billion women on the planet who have been violated. ONE BILLION WOMEN. Can we rise together? Can we change the paradigm? Can we rebirth the culture because we know that when women are free, safe, equal and allowed to be alive in all their intensity the whole story will finally change?" - Eve Ensler in her piece 'Over it Redux' [In the Huffington Post dated 18/10/2017]

Things to do in November!

Organise Local/
State/Regional Level
planning Meeting

Decide the key issues
and objective

Make an action plan
Make a budget and
community
contribution plan

Start RISING

Keep documenting,
spreading the word
and escalating the call.

In Solidarity!

