



**Save Indian Family Foundation**  
...promoting family harmony and fighting "legal terrorism"

[www.saveindianfamily.org](http://www.saveindianfamily.org)

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**Memorandum to the Honorable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Sri. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy  
Abuse of women and elders through misuse of IPC Section 498A – Dharna on 6 April 2008**

Dear Sir,

We are a global organization formed in response to the large number of arrests of innocent citizens and the alarming rise in the number of broken marriages, fatherless children and abused elders, owing to the rampant misuse of Indian Penal Code (IPC) Section 498A.

In spite of the standing orders issued by the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, that no man, woman or child should be arrested under IPC Section 498A without the written permission of the DCP, an increasing number of innocent men, women and children are being arrested, sent behind bars based on mere allegations, and subjected to long-drawn trials before being declared innocent. Many falsely accused persons, especially **women and elders**, have ended their lives unable to bear the humiliation and trauma.

Several authorities noted that in 98% of cases filed under IPC Section 498A, the accusations are false and the complaints were filed with ulterior motives. There is ample evidence to show that more harm than good is being done to women because of IPC Section 498A. According to the World Health Organization, misuse of IPC Section 498A is one of the major reasons for abuse of the elderly in India. Through IPC Section 498A, the Government, Police and Judiciary are protecting unscrupulous women who indulge in perjury, blackmail, extortion and harassment of husbands along with elders and women in the marital family.

In this regard, we organized a **Protest against abuse of women and elders through misuse of IPC Section 498A on April 6, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. near Indira Park**. The purpose of this protest was to highlight the causes, magnitude and consequences of misuse of IPC Section 498A and to urge the Government, Lawyers, Judiciary and Police to end this legal terrorism.

We hereby present our demands to the Government of India, and request you to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to spare innocent citizens from needless legal harassment in the State of Andhra Pradesh:

1. Strictly enforce the standing orders issued in the memo by the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, in 2002, and allow NO arrest under IPC Section 498A and related "women-protection laws" without written permission of the Deputy Commissioner of Police.
2. Ban Police involvement in marital counselling.
3. Pass directives to resolve all marital disputes under civil law.
4. Confer equal protection upon men and women against verbal, emotional, economic, physical and sexual abuse at home and in the workplace.
5. Make civil and criminal laws applicable to men and women equally. Specifically, provisions of IPC Section 498A, Domestic Violence Act, adultery laws, laws against rape and sexual harassment and family laws (divorce, maintenance and child custody) should be made gender-neutral.
6. End the "legal terrorism" perpetrated through the misuse of anti-male, anti-family laws. Specifically, Section 498A of IPC should be made bailable. It should also be made non-cognizable to prevent arrests of innocent citizens based on mere complaints unsubstantiated by evidence or investigation.
7. Grant joint custody of children to both spouses upon dissolution of marriage.
8. Make provisions to punish those who abuse the judicial process irrespective of gender. Specifically, heavy penalties should be imposed on people misusing IPC Section 498A and Domestic Violence Act as weapons for settling personal scores in marital disputes..
9. Establish a Ministry for Men's Welfare to cater to the needs and welfare of our fathers, brothers, husbands and sons.

Thanking you,

Save Indian Family Foundation