

India: Amend the Bill for Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at the Workplace

Sunday 26 December 2010, by [Radical Socialist \(India\)](#) (Date first published: 15 December 2010).

To introduce bills for the protection of women has been a standard device by governments intent on proving how progressive they are. This is nothing new, since even the colonial rulers did this. Yet, from the colonial imperialists to the present, such bills are very often intentionally flawed ones. The “protection” is all too often aimed only at better off sections, or is couched in such language that protection means the women are seen as inferiors.

In the case at hand, the proposed bill for the protection of women against sexual harassment at the workplace, the exclusion of domestic workers, the empowerment of district officers in cases where small bodies cannot set up their own committees, and the threat of punishment to be given to the woman if the charge cannot be proved, all add up to silencing all but the most determined and/or more or less privileged women.

We therefore endorse the AIDWA statement published here [\[1\]](#), and urge women’s organisations, trade unions, and democratic rights organisations to all take up the issue.

Radical Socialist

Wednesday, 15 December 2010

Footnotes

[\[1\]](#) Available on ESSF: [India: Muslim women face multiple discrimination: AIDWA](#)