



सत्यमेव जयते

**RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR**  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence  
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04<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

Dear Shri Siddaramaiah avaré,

**Subject:** Safety of all our Citizens is the Duty of your Government

I write to you about the failure of your government on New Year's eve in ensuring safety of women in Namma Bengaluru. I have written earlier and on multiple occasions to you about another important issue ie. about the safety of Children in our city, only to find your Government continues to be rooted in inaction.

It cannot be disputed that your Government has let down the many women who instead of experiencing the simple joys of bringing in the new year, had to face the horror of mass molestation. Adding insult to injury is your minister's blaming the victims and their dress sense for the crime, instead of rushing to support them in the quest for justice.

But be that as it may – some hard facts need to be brought to the attention of you and your Government.

A simple but important fact that seems to have been forgotten - an Elected Government, its Ministers and the Police are obliged to provide law and order and safety to all its citizens. This is a constitutional mandate and responsibility imposed on any self-respecting Elected State Government. This responsibility is unambiguous and covers every man, woman, child and senior citizen. This kind of forgetfulness of their duties seems to be repeating itself frequently with this Government.

To the Home Minister of Karnataka, I point out respectfully there is no provision in Constitution or indeed in the laws of this state that dilutes his and the police's responsibility to provide protection based on sex, or dress code. India is not Saudi Arabia and Bengaluru isn't some city out there. It is part of a constitutional democracy that provides rights to all citizens.

As you are aware, I have long fought to protect various constitutional rights like Freedom of Expression, Voting Rights for Armed Forces including agitating these in Supreme Court. This recent incident is yet another instance of an attempt to trample on the rights of our women citizens. The framers of our Constitution, while providing for the equality clause under the constitutional scheme, had in their mind that women and children require special treatment and in this view of the matter, protective discrimination and affirmative action were contemplated in terms of clause (3) of Article 15 of the Constitution.