



सत्यमेव जयते

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee, Bengaluru Urban District

September 16, 2017

Shri Kailash Satyarthi ji,

I welcome you taking up the issue of child safety and launching the nation-wide movement against violence, rape, abuse and trafficking of children. Needless to say, I am completely in support of your initiative. I commend your resolve, dedication and your objective to sensitise and energise millions of people in India against the issue of Child trafficking and Child Sexual Abuse. I agree with what you rightly said in your speech on receiving Nobel Peace Prize for 2014, "Slavery, trafficking, child marriages, child labour, sexual abuse, and illiteracy have no place in any civilised society".

As you are aware, I have for the last several years relentlessly drawing the attention of media, govt and Parliament to the menace of Sexual crimes against Children and measures to ProtectOurChildren. This started in 2014 when I was approached by parents of a child victim - the whole experience opened my eyes to the helplessness of victims and parents and general apathy of our system and lack of awareness in society about these crimes and those that perpetrate it.

I firmly believe that crimes against children are the worst forms of cruelty, especially because they violate the basic trust and care that a child expects from an adult. I have worked hard with others to create awareness and responsiveness.

A three-pronged approach is required to be adopted against the malaise of Child Sexual Abuse - increased Accountability, better mechanisms for Prevention, and swifter Prosecution. We must adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards crimes against children.

To take this forward to a larger platform, I, together with several NGOs, key-stakeholders and institutions came together to form National Coalition to Protect Our Children (NCPOC) in the



year 2015 with the objective of helping the government frame policies that will ensure safety and well-being of children. I invite you to join the NCPOC and help strengthen our common fight to end the scourge of Child Sexual Abuse.

I have great confidence that your Bharat Yatra will be a resounding success. I support your efforts and wish you all the best for this important initiative and look forward to meeting you once you complete the Yatra.

Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR