



HOW can WOMEN in India be safer?

The **Ask**  **HOW** Analysis

Popular debate today asks ...

Has India become less safe for Women?



Or, Are Crimes against Women getting greater coverage?

Unfortunately official statistics are not reliable, so no one really knows!

For every 100,000 people
The number of Rapes reported by women, in these countries are



30.2
In United States (2006)

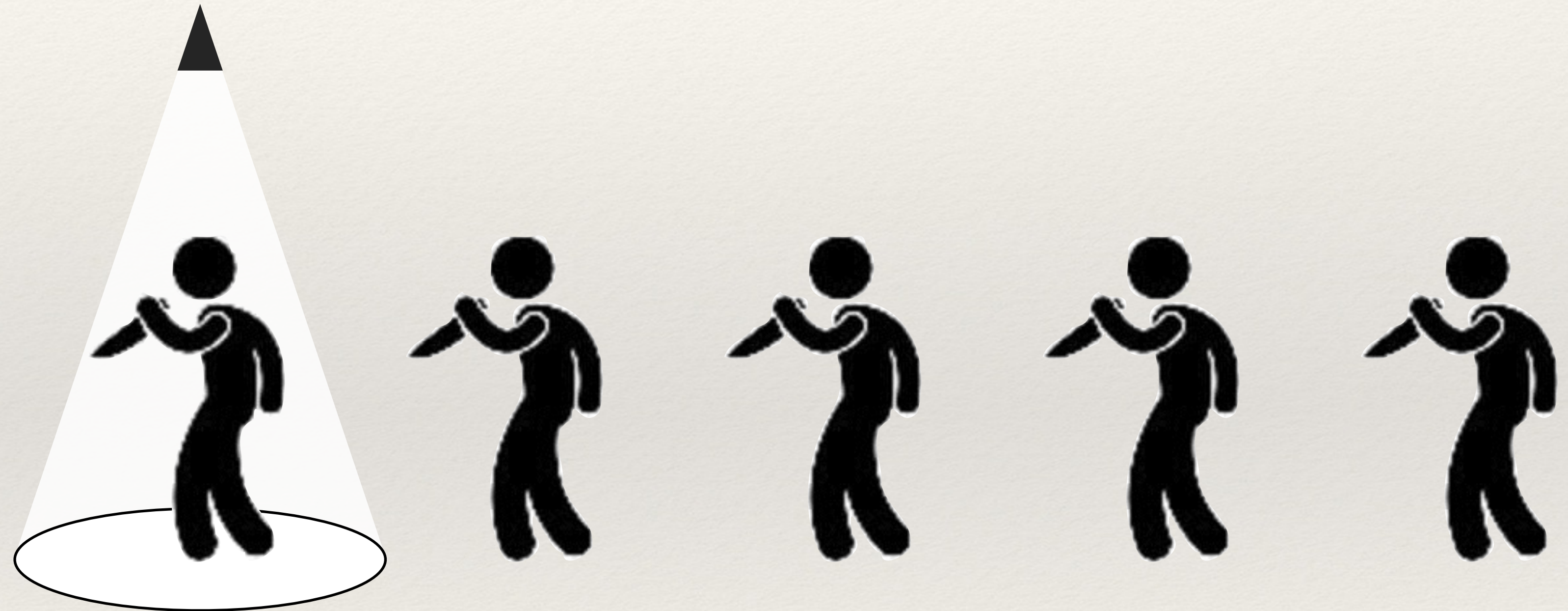


17.3
In France (2004)



1.7
In India (2006)

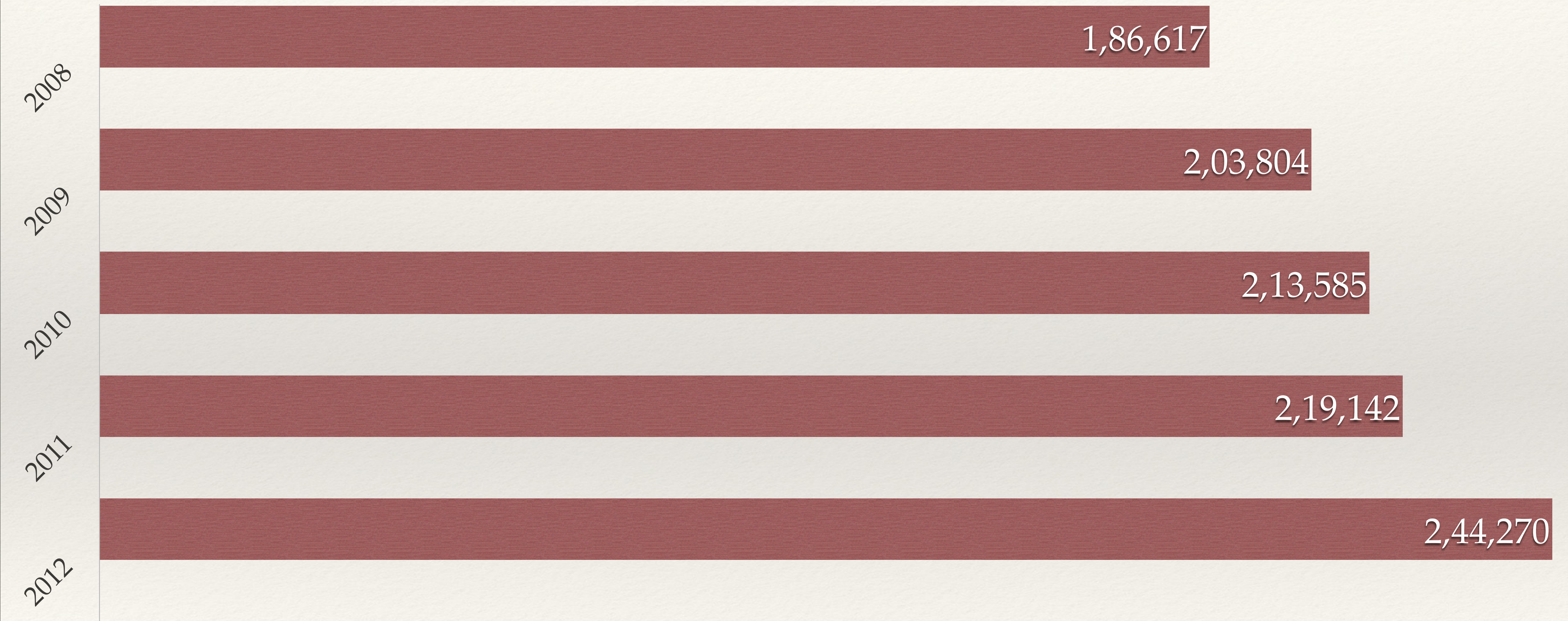
Clearly these are not true numbers
due to severe under reporting



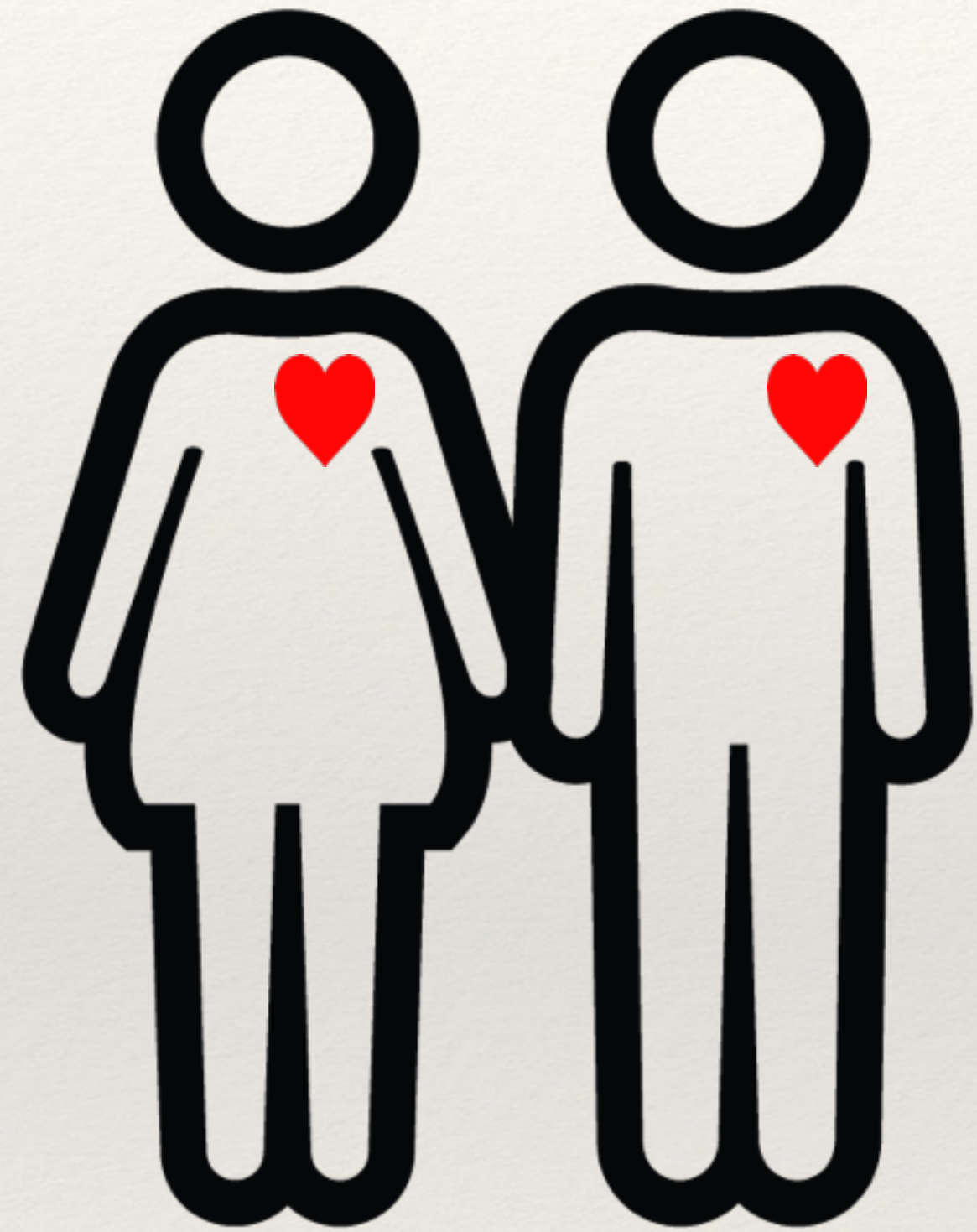
When an SP in Jalpaiguri instructed policemen to record all complaints and register FIRs, the crime rate shot up by 500%!

Safer India for Women

WHAT IS TRUE, is that there is a slow but sure rise even in the under reported numbers of cases registered



WHAT IS TRUE, is that in a village in India,
A young couple is found guilty of falling in love,



and when the 20 year old girl
could not pay the Rs 25,000 fine...



The Panchayat orders the girl
to be raped by 13 men

WHAT IS TRUE, is

The gang rape of Nirbhaya in a public transport bus, and subsequent death



...in India's capital Delhi.

So rather than less safe or more safe, the questions need to be

Is India as safe for women as it should be?



Why do some men think it is OK to rape a women on the streets of India's capital?



Why do some village elders think that they have the right to punish women with death and rape?

AskHOW believes that there are 2 detrimental reasons

1) The Law and Order machinery is nowhere near what it should be for a modern democracy



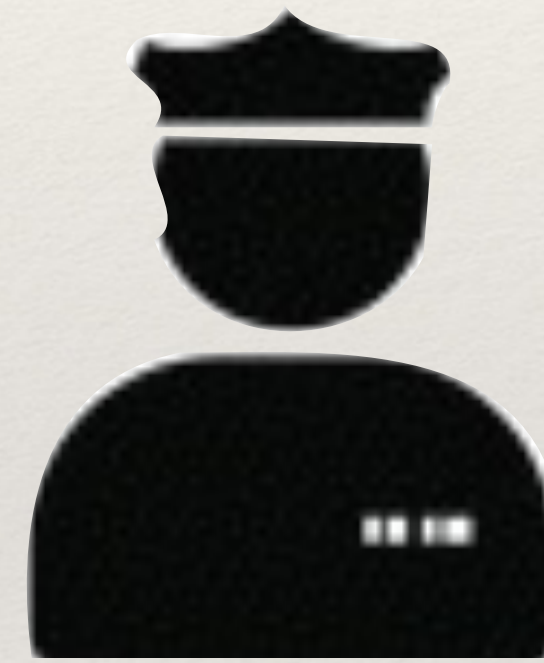
2) Women are considered second class, property or worse, in large parts of India.

Reason 1 for an unsafe India for Women

The Law and Order machinery is nowhere near what it should be for a modern democracy



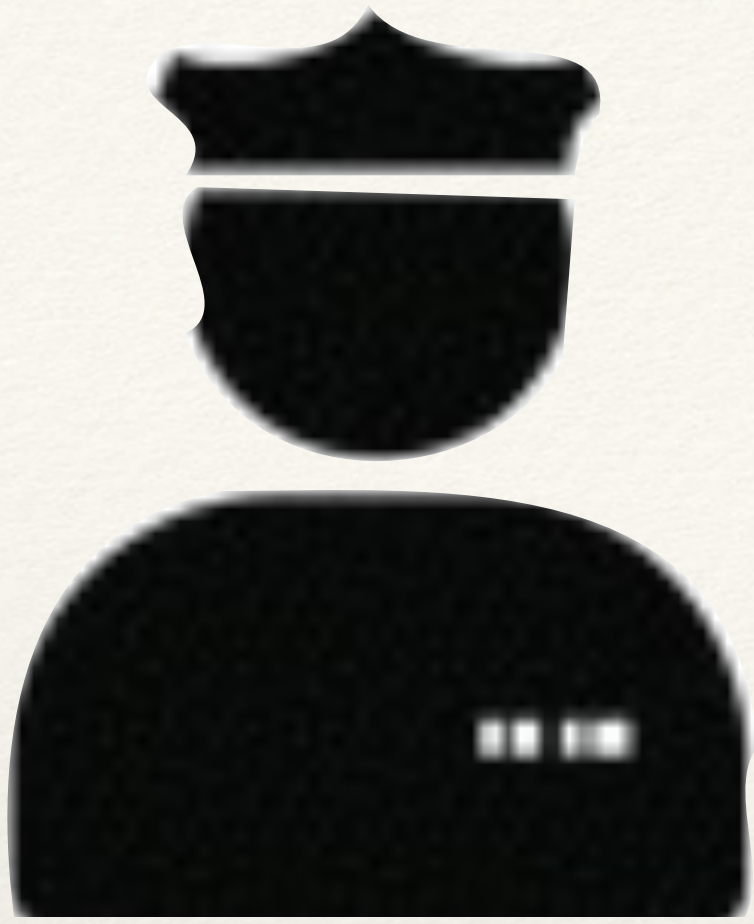
How can we improve?



A) More efficient Police



B) Faster Justice system



Solution A Efficient Police

SC has given 7 **Directives** based on suggestions from the various Police Reforms Committees*.

Note: These 7 Directives were originally formulated in the case of *Prakash Singh vs. Union of India* and more recently, were emphasized by the J S Verma Committee Report.

***Committees on Police Reform:** National Police Commission, National Human Rights Commission, Law Commission, Ribeiro Committee, Padmanabhaiah Committee, Malimath Committee, etc.

Solution A Efficient Police/ Supreme Court Directives

Directive 1: Constitute a State Security Commission (SSC) to



- (i) Ensure that the state government does not exercise unwarranted influence or pressure on the police



- (ii) Lay down broad policy guidelines, and



- (iii) Evaluate the performance of the state police

Solution A Efficient Police/ Supreme Court Directives

Directive 2

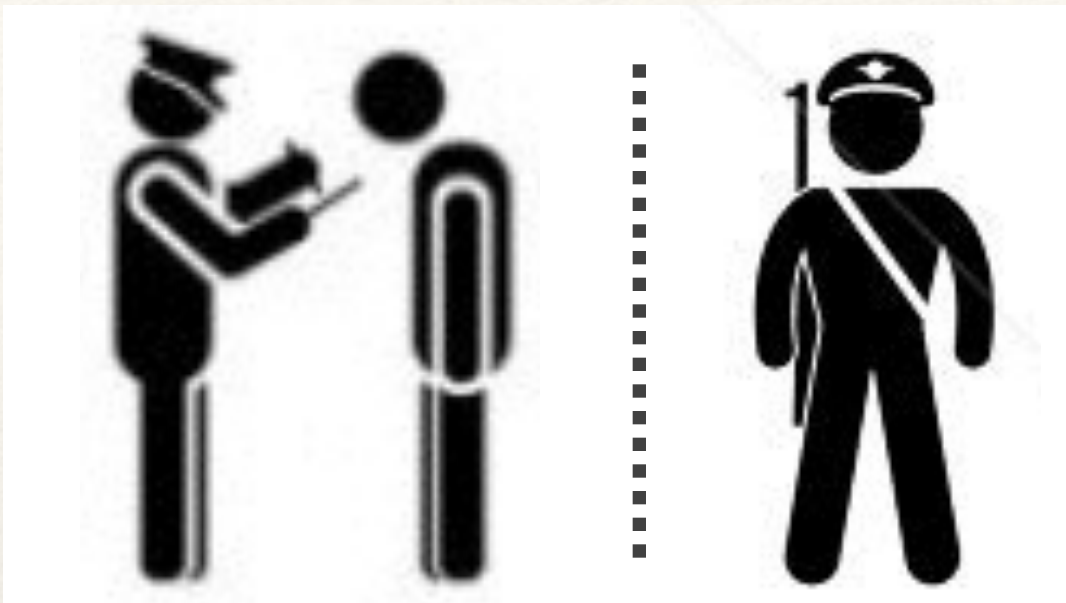
Ensure that the DGP is **appointed through merit based** transparent process and secure a **minimum tenure of 2 years**



Directive 3

Ensure that other police officers on operational duties
(including Superintendents of Police in-charge of a district and Station House Officers in-charge of a police station)
are also provided a **minimum tenure of 2 years**

Solution A Efficient Police/ Supreme Court Directives



Directive 4

Separate the i) Investigation function and
ii) Law and order function of the police

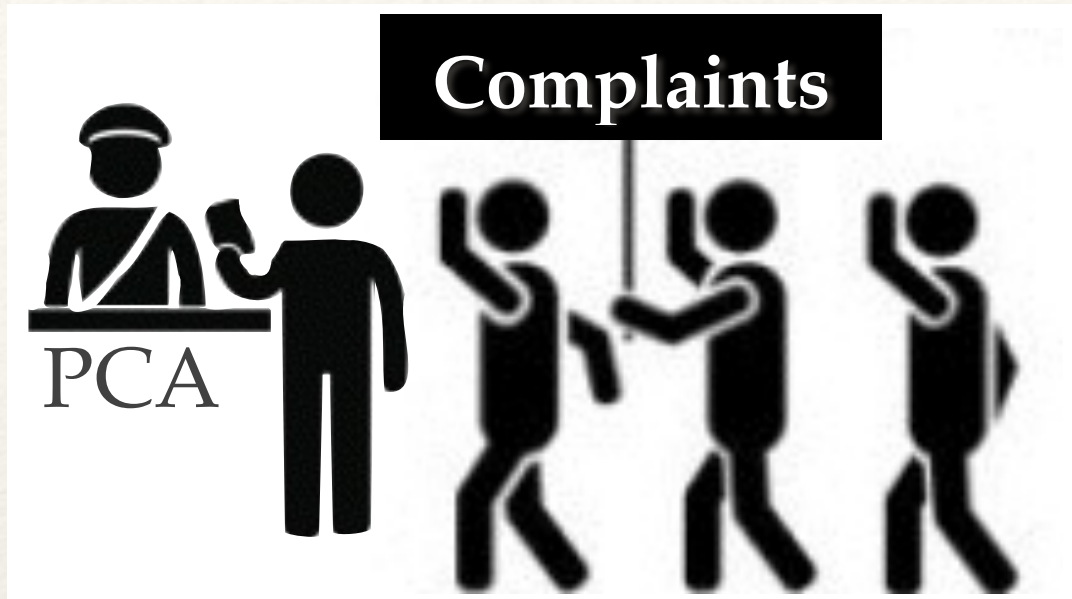


Directive 5

Set up a Police Establishment Board (PEB)

To decide transfers, postings,promotions and other service related matters	for Deputy Superintendent of Police, and below
To recommend postings and transfers	for rank above Deputy Superintendent of Police

Solution A Efficient Police/ Supreme Court Directives



Directive 6

Set up a Police Complaints Authority (PCA)

to inquire into public complaints against police officers in cases of serious misconduct (custodial death, grievous hurt, rape in police custody, etc)

To inquire at State level	for rank above Deputy Superintendent of Police
To inquire at District level	for Deputy Superintendent of Police, and below



Directive 7

Set up a National Security Commission (NSC)

at the union level to prepare a panel for selection and placement of Chiefs of the Central Police Organisations (CPO) with a minimum tenure of 2 years

Status on SC Directives

A recent report said that

- Compliance of states with the Directives was very low
- No state had complied with Directive 1 and Directive 6
- The highest compliance was with Directive 3, 29%
- Many times the compliance was in letter and not spirit



Hence the AskHOW Questions

How can the various state police forces be freed from day to day political interference?

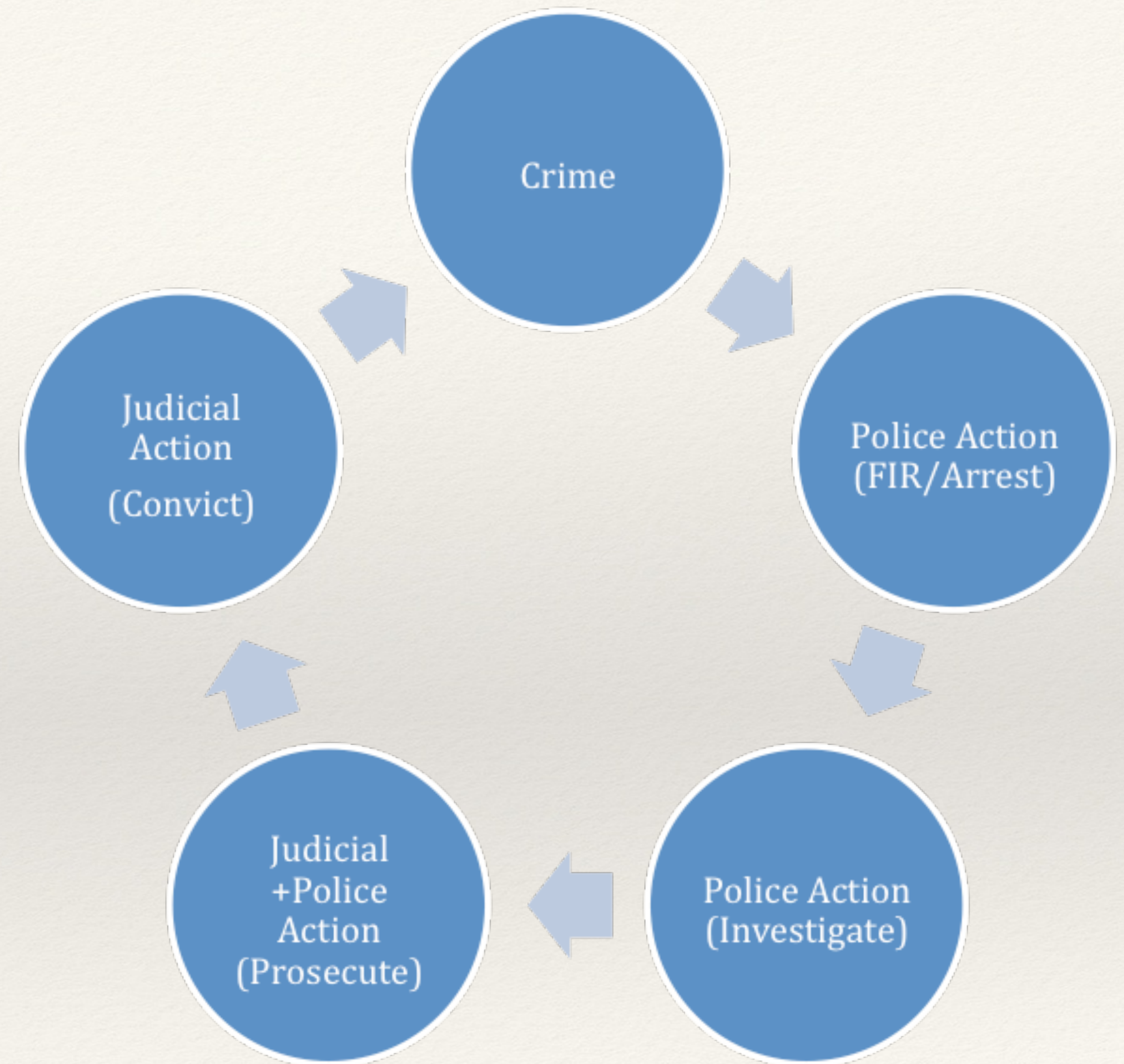
How can the Indian police force be made more efficient?



Solution B Faster Justice System

If the Apprehend, Investigate, Prosecute and Convict cycle is efficient, the Justice system acts as deterrent to potential criminals – and hence is **Virtuous**.

But when this cycle breaks down, the same Justice system becomes **Vicious**.



Hence the AskHOW Question

How can the Justice System be faster?

For a more detailed analysis, please see



Reason 2 for an unsafe India for Women

Women are considered second class, property (or worse) in large parts of India.



By sheer force of a vicious custom, even the most ignorant and worthless men have been enjoying a superiority over woman which they do not deserve and ought not to have.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Hence the AskHOW Question

How can the patriarchal attitudes of society be changed?

In a certain sense, the entire purpose of law is to correct the asymmetry of power.

- Justice J S Verma Report

Solution 2 Change in Attitude of Society

If attitudes reflect an asymmetry, they must be “corrected / reformed” to align with our constitutional requirement of equality.

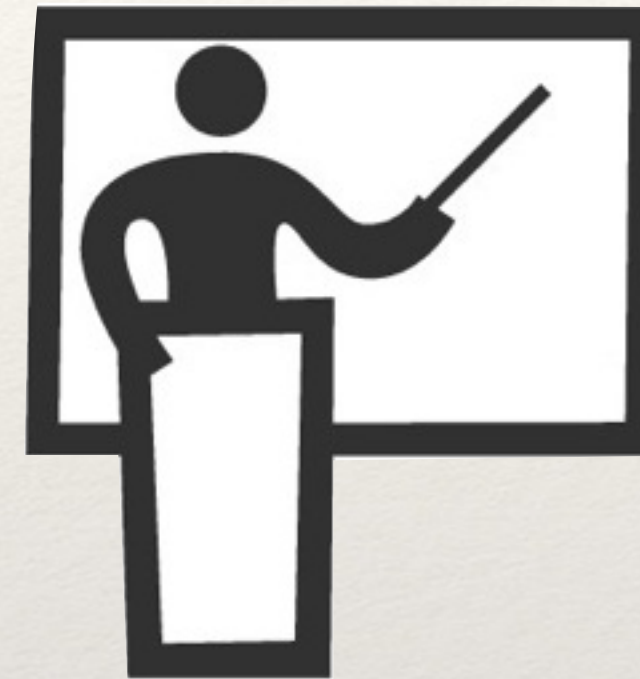


The hard line taken on the perpetuation of caste-based power asymmetry, its invocation and expression, needs to be replicated for gender-based asymmetry.

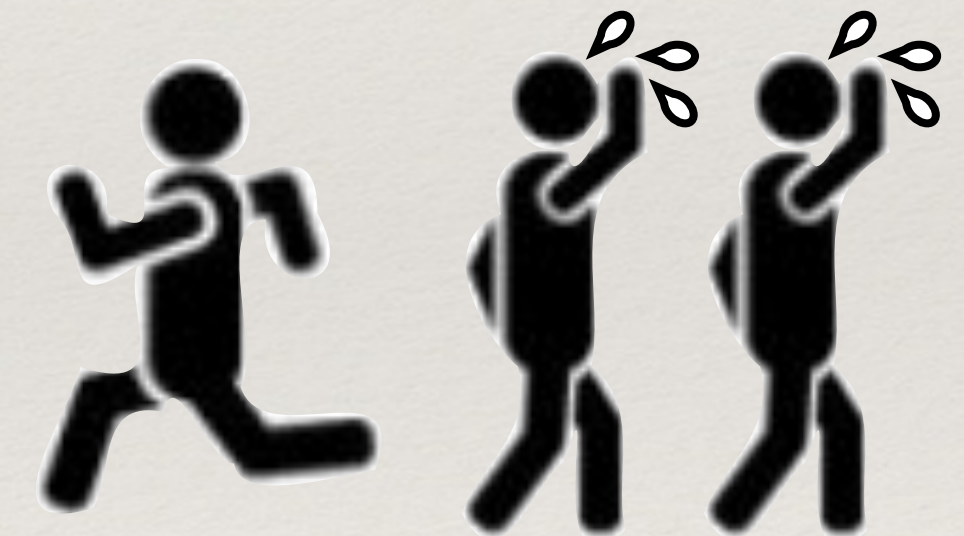
Solution 2 Change in Attitude of Society



Compulsory and repeated
Sex education and Gender sensitivity
training for school children



Repeated Gender sensitivity training
for people in positions of power
(Police, Teachers, Govt Officials)



Political parties to debar Candidates
who / whose family members are
charge sheeted for crime against women

Solution 2 Change in Attitude of Society

The Modus Operandi from our biggest ongoing initiative: Changing attitude towards Caste in Indian society

- Sanitising and sensitising textbooks to eliminate gender bias from the formative years, as was done for caste bias
- Prohibition on representation or perpetuation of stereotypes in all public communication, including advertising
- A concerted effort to ensure that all government actions, processes are gender neutral
- A zero tolerance approach to gender discrimination in Civil Law

Of course the **Law & Order Machinery**, will need to be the **Torch bearer for Attitudinal change.**

The police forces and judiciary must practice these attitudes through rigorous training/ orientation with a hard-line taken on those who refuse to learn or are slow to learn, as was the approach on caste.



IN CONCLUSION

Please Ask your Lok Sabha candidate

How can the Police force
be freed from day to day
political interference?

How can the justice
system be faster?

How can the Police
force be made more
gender sensitive?

How can the patriarchal
attitudes of Indian society
be changed?

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