

Dear

On **June 12, 2009**, the **World Day Against Child Labour** will be celebrated on the theme of 'Give Girls A Chance – End Child Labour'.

2. As you are aware, girl children in our country are subject to multiple forms of violence, abuse and violation of their rights. There is an alarming trend of female feticide even before they are born and also incidents of infanticide. At the same time, a large number of girls are deprived of a formal education and are out of school. They are routinely expected to engage in domestic duties, which are often hidden and invisible, and not even recognized as harmful. There are also a large number of girls who are trafficked for work in homes, farms and factories which is acutely detrimental to their growth and development. Many are forced into prostitution and pornography, which cause untold damage.

3. In view of the above, the Commission requests you to get the World Day Against Child Labour and its current theme to '**Give Girls A Chance – End Child Labour**' widely publicized at the State, Districts and Sub-Districts level through advertisements, hoardings and meetings of officers, NGOs and Government Organizations, doctors associations and health professionals, women's organizations and *mahila mandals*, among others.

4. We shall be grateful if you could also arrange to issue directions/instructions on the following issues:-

- Prohibit child marriage of girls below the age of 18 years as banned by the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
- Stop the employment of children in the labour force as deemed illegal by the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 including children in domestic labour as notified in 2006 and ensure full implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.
- Prevent any sex-selection as indicated in the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 to preempt female feticide.
- Fulfill children's right to education, especially girl child.
- Notify respective Departments of their responsibilities as indicated in the Protocol on Prevention, Rescue, Repatriation and Rehabilitation of Trafficked and Migrant Child Labour 2008 issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.
- Ensure the effective universalisation of anganwadis of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme including provision of supplementary nutrition for children under six years and interventions for adolescent girls, as mandated.

5. We shall appreciate a report on all the initiatives taken up by the State Government in this matter by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,  
Sd/-  
**(Shantha Sinha)**

**Addressed to the Chief Secretaries/Administrators  
of all the States/Union Territories.**