

## Support Services



All districts (14 Nos.) have Women's Cell and Vanitha Police Stations to look into the grievances of women, regarding harassment against them, neglect, desertion, non- recognition of their rights and even family discords.

### **Women's Cell in Police Station**

A State Women Cell is functioning at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. A Lady Superintendent of Police is the head of the State Women Cell. In addition to this, District Women Cells are also functioning in all Police Districts in Kerala, each headed by a Woman Circle Inspector. They look into the grievances of Women, particularly, harassment against women, neglect, desertion, not recognizing her rights, and even family discords, etc. The Cells are tasked to uphold the right and dignity of Women, and, in appropriate circumstances, register cases against culprits. The Women Cells comprise of Women Officers only. Shortly, the Women Police Constables in such Cells will be provided with scooters for increasing their mobility. Women approach such Cells without any hesitation and fear, and receive free of cost counselling, on various matters. Many-a-time the Women Cells act as interveners and help Women compromise family problems, discords, etc.

In Kerala, there are 17 women cells functioning effectively to fight the atrocities against women in Kerala. Three districts with the metropolises of Trivandrum, Kochi and Kozhikode have two cells each and the rest of the districts one cell each.

### **Women Desks in Police Stations**

Women Desks have been set up in most of the Police Stations of the State, since February 2006, under the charge of Women Police personnel, with an aim to help Women and Children seeking Police help, which they can do without any fear or inhibitions. Cases of atrocities against Women and Children, and harassment of women at home, work places or in public places, come under the purview of the Women Desks. These have proved to be extremely successful.

The Womens Desk in a Police Station is under the control of a WHC/WPC who listens to the complaints patiently and sympathetically, and takes the matter to higher authorities wherever necessary. The Women Desk also provides adequate and proper information to the Women and Children approaching them on various issues relating to the Police work. The Womens Desk is functioning during daytime ie. from 8 AM to 6 PM on all days. This system has been found to be a great success in redressing the grievances of the needy Women and Children.

### **Petition or grievances can be submitted to the police officers listed below :**

1	Commissioner of Police, Thiruvananthapuram City, Thiruvananthapuram
2	Commissioner of Police, Thiruvananthapuram Rural, Thiruvananthapuram
3	Commissioner of Police, Kochi City, Kochi
4	Commissioner of Police, Kochi Rural, Kochi
5	Commissioner of Police, Kozhikode City, Kozhikode
6	Commissioner of Police, Kozhikode Rural, Kozhikode
7	Superintendent of Police of all districts except Trivandrum, Kochi, Kozhikode

8	Deputy Commissioner of Police, Trivandrum
9	Circle Inspector, Vanitha Cell (Concerned districts)
10	Sub Inspector, Vanitha Police Station (Concerned districts)
11	State Vanitha Cell, Michin Road, Vazhuthacaud, Trivandrum
12	Public Window Cell, Police Headquarters, Vazhuthacaud

### How to submit a petition to a women's cell/Police office?

Petition can be submitted on a white paper either written or typed giving full postal address of the petitioner and respondents. It can also be submitted by post.

### Important Telephone Numbers

Name	Contact No.
State Vanitha Cell (TVM)	0471-2338100
Vanitha Police Station, Trivandrum	0471-2321555
Women's Cell, Kollam	0474-2742376
Women's Cell, Pathanamthitta	0468-2222927
Women's Cell, Kottayam	0481-2302977
Women's Cell, Idukki	9745-769386
Women's Cell, Kochi	0484-2396730
Women's Cell, Thrissur	9745-796230
Women's Cell, Palakkad	0491-2522340
Women's Cell, Malappuram	9745-769151
Women's Cell, Kozhikode	0495 - 2724070
Women's Cell, Wayanad	9745-769072
Women's Cell, Kannur	9745-769032

### Helpline Numbers

Vanitha Helpline Number of Kerala Police	9995399953
Police Control Room (For All Districts)	100
Alert Control	1090
Helpline Numbers of Kerala Police	0471-3243000 0471-3244000 0471-3245000
Highway Helpline Numbers of Kerala Police	9846 100 100

**Police Control Rooms of the different districts:**

Thiruvananthapuram City	100/0471-2331843
Thiruvananthapuram Rural	100/0471-2316995
Kollam	100/0474-2746000
Pathanamthitta	100/0468-2222226
Alappuzha	100/0477-2251166
Kottayam	100/0481-5550400
Idukki	100/04862-221100
Ernakulam City	100/0484-2359200
Ernakulam Rural	100/0484-2621100
Thrissur	100/0487-2424193
Palakkad	100/0491-2522340
Malappuram	100/0483-2734966
Kozhikode City	100/0495-2721831
Kozhikode Rural	100/0496-2523091
Wayanad	100/04936-205808
Kannur	100/0497-2763337
Kasargod	100/04994-222960

The Jurisdiction of a Women's cell/ State Vanitha Cell consists in bringing about rapprochement between the petitioner and respondent if the offences are not of a serious nature and in referring the complaint to a police station for registering a case, if the offences involved are cognizable.

Agencies

**Kerala State Women's Commission**

Kerala State Women's Commission came into existence by an act of the Kerala Assembly in 1996. There is more visibility on violence against women after the formation and functioning of the commission as women got a public space to come out and complaint about the violence whether it is domestic violence, harassment at workplace or all kinds of atrocities against women. Kerala Women's Commission Act is more powerful compared to other state commissions. But so far the rules and regulations are not enacted. Also there is no power to prosecute the harassers after the investigation. It is working with minimum infra structure and funds.

**Address for filing complaints:**

Chairperson

Kerala State Women's Commission

Vanross Junction, University P.O, Thiruvananthapuram - 34

Ph. 0471 - 0471-2322590, 2320509

Fax Number - 0471-2320509

**Free Legal Aid Cells:** A Panel of advocates is giving free legal aid to the petitioners of the Kerala Womens Commission.

### **Jagratha Samithis:**

With a view to protect the rights of women in the State and for the redressal of atrocities against women, the Govt. of Kerala has constituted District Samithis and Jagratha Samithis in all districts and Panchayats in the State of Kerala. The Jagratha Samithis are a voluntary vigilant group of citizens which act as the eyes and ears of the Kerala Women's Commission. They should play a major role in the prevention of crimes. For instance, if there is any indication of a place being utilized for immoral and illegal purposes; or if any child has been abducted, kidnapped; or if any woman has been forced into prostitution; or cases of violence due to alcoholism, it shall be the duty of the Jagratha Samithi to take up the issue and settle it at the local Panchayat level itself. If the issues require assistance from higher authorities then the Jagratha Samithis should take up the matters at the District Samithi level headed by the District Collector. If at the District Samithi level also the matter has not been settled, then it should be brought to the notice of the Kerala Women's Commission.

### **Constitution of the Samithis**

District Samithis have been constituted with the following members:

District Collector	Chairman
District Panchayat	President Member
Revenue Divisional Officer	President Member
District Superintendent of Police/ City Police Commissioner	President Member
Corporation Mayor/ Municipal Chairman	President Member
One Lady Lawyer	President Member
One Woman Social Welfare worker or Councillor belonging to the SC/ST community	President Member
District Social Justice Officer	Convener

### **Constitution of Jagratha Samithis for Panchayats/ Municipal/ Corporation is as follows:**

1. Panchayat President/ Municipal Chairman/ Chairman Corporation Mayor
2. Circle Inspector/ Sub Inspector Member
3. One Woman Panchayat Member/ Councillor -do-
4. One Lady Lawyer -do-
5. One Woman Social Welfare worker or Councillor -do- belonging to the SC/ST community
6. ICDS Supervisor (selected by the Convener District Social Justice Officer)

more: [www.keralawomenscommission.gov.in](http://www.keralawomenscommission.gov.in)

## **Kerala State Social Welfare Board**

A total of 33 State Social Welfare Board are functioning in each state capital and union territory of the country with an object to implement various schemes for the welfare and development of women and children through registered voluntary organisations. The State Board is headed by a non-official Chairperson who is a renowned woman social worker of the State. The State Board Members are nominated on the Board by Central Board and State Government in the ratio of 50:50. These Members normally represent each district of the State.

### **Officers Address & Telephone Nos**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone No</b>
Smt. Girija Surendran	Chairperson Kerala State Social Welfare Board, Sasthamangalam, Thrivanthapuram	Ph. 0471 2722258 / 2310520

### **Activities**

Care and protection of destitute children, aged, disabled and mentally cured persons. It is also running an integrated Child Development Service and supplementary nutrition programme under ICDS programme, provides health, nutrition & education programmes for women mainly pregnant and lactating women through Anganwadis.

Having Mahila Mandiram in 12 districts, children's home in one district, 6 juvenile homes in which only one is for girls above 12 years, old age homes in 13 districts, care home for disabled and care home for physically handicapped women in two districts.

### **Kerala State Women's Development Corporation (KSWDC)**

KSWDC functioning primarily as a loan lending unit assisting BPL women in self employment has launched many job oriented skill upgradation training programmes. The corporation has channelised the loan fund for women belonging to backward minority communities and scheduled caste classes from NBCFDC, NMDFC and NSFDC receptively, whereas funds for the general category are met from the budgetary provisions of state government. Beneficiary contribution forms 5% of the loan assistance.

**more: [www.kswdc.org](http://www.kswdc.org)**

Complaints Committee against Sexual Harassment at Workplace: After the supreme court guideline on Sexual Harassment at Workplace in 1997, complaints committees has been constituted in about 54 workplaces like government departments and universities. Those who are experiencing workplace harassment can contact their respective institutions.