

# Campaign Partners/ Partnership



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## What is this Campaign About?

This Campaign envisions creating a platform to promote gender equality, place the issue of sex selection within this paradigm, while at the same time speaking up for women's right to access safe abortion

The campaign advocates are individuals and organizations that have been working with government at the national and state level on issues of women's empowerment and enabling women's access to healthcare services.

### The Issue

The deep rooted patriarchal values of the Indian society deny many a women her sexual and reproductive rights. Woman's sexual and reproductive behaviour is controlled through gender discrimination and violence. The falling sex ratios and the continuing high maternal mortality and morbidity are reflective of the abridgment of the right of women to a life free of denial, discrimination and disease.

With the realization that, there is a need to address the programmatic issues as well as the socio- cultural factors that push women to go for gender biased sex selection as well as limit, stigmatize and criminalize their abortion seeking behavior, Pratigya is a campaign for 'Gender Equality and Safe Abortion', launched in January 2013. The Campaign is committed to promoting women's rights and access to safe abortion in India.

The campaign advocates for more effective action on both- enabling women's access to safe abortion as well as in dealing with gender inequities in society that underlie sex selection. The campaign recognizes that the issue of sex selection gets conflated with abortion access but we believe that these are both mutually exclusive concerns that are equally important to address: firstly that access to safe abortion is a right and second that sex selection must be curtailed as it represents a cultural issue emerging from the subordinate status of women in a patriarchal society.

## Who are the Campaign Audiences?

The key campaign audience includes:

- Policy Makers
- Regulatory Authorities
- Lawyers, Law Enforcement / Judiciary
- PCPNDT Advocates
- Abortion Service Providers
- Media
- Civil Society Organisations and Community at large

## Why should you partner in this campaign?

If you share the vision of an enabling environment for achieving gender equality where all women and girls lead a life free of discrimination and violence and can fulfill their sexual and reproductive health and rights then you should join the campaign and become a partner.

At the same time, however the campaign does not encourage applications of persons who are carried away by momentary enthusiasm.

The campaign surely needs and wants new partners to support the cause. But it wants partners who know beforehand what the campaign stands for and who support the campaigns cause and programs. It wants partners who have thought it over, and who have reached the conclusion that the campaign is for a valuable cause as the campaigns mission is to:

- to advocate for policies and programmes that empower women and promote gender equity
- to ensure women's right to access to safe abortion services
- support actions aimed at reducing gender biased sex selection

## What are the partnership requirements?

Being a campaign partner, among other things, requires that the individual/ organisation has a fair level of understanding of the issues; especially women's rights, gender equity, gender biased sex selection and its implications and access to safe abortions. This knowledge is available in the campaign pamphlets and other literature included in the resource section of the campaign website [www.pratigyacampaign.org](http://www.pratigyacampaign.org)

Partnership is open to any voluntary organization, network or individual who are concerned about women's rights, maternal health and maternal deaths in India and are dedicated to addressing the serious issue of gender biased sex selection while protecting women's access to safe, legal abortion services in India.

## Criteria for all Partners:

- Endorses the campaign purpose statement
- Commercial, political and religious organisations cannot join the campaign as partners
- Agreeable to sign /commit to usage of logo on joint documents/statements/call to action that may be developed by the campaign (for Partners only )

## Partnership types

**Campaign Partners** are organisations, networks and individuals supporting the Campaign's purpose and aims through their cooperation and who in doing are open to take over the complete duties expected of a campaign partner. Primarily, partners are expected to cooperate, participate in the campaign activities and exercise their voting rights.

Recognising that certain organisations have sensitivities and mandate requirements that preclude them from being publicly associated with the campaign. Such an organisation can apply to the Secretariat to join the campaign as a **supporting partner**. Supporting partners will be invited to participate in Working Group Meetings. Their names are withheld in any documentation or reference made to the partnership.

Information about supporting partners will not be released upon request – even contact details – and while supporting partners are welcome to contribute or participate in policy discussions (such as the Working Groups) their names will be withheld. The supporting partners can also participate in decision making meetings but need to be aware that they attend the meeting in an observer status only without voting rights.

## Partnership period

Campaign partnership is not limited in time. We encourage long term partnerships and active participation in the campaign's activities. In case, for any reason you prefer to end your partnership with Pratigya campaign, we request you to notify the Secretariat about your decision by sending an email to the Campaign Secretariat and upon receiving your notification; all records on your name will be removed from the partnership directory.

## Partnership contribution

Campaign partnership is free of any obligatory partnership fees. Instead of financial contribution we encourage active contribution to the collective knowledge building, information sharing and joint advocacy actions. However, if you and/or organisation have the means and desire to make a financial contribution to support the work of Pratigya Campaign, we will sincerely appreciate your donation.

## **Does the Campaign Manage its Affairs Democratically?**

Yes. The Campaign manages its affairs in a democratic manner. A transparent and open process is followed in decision making and implementation.

The Campaign Coordination Group which provides guidance and leadership for the campaign is selected from within the campaign partnership base by following an open discussion and consensus process. Similarly the working groups have Chairs and Co-chairs selected (nominated) from within the campaign partnership. Members of the working group can share their thoughts, opinions and ideas and partner in implementing specific activities.

## **What Rights and What Responsibilities Do Campaign Partners Have?**

### **Rights of Partners**

An active partner has the right to:

- a. participate in all discussions and activities of the campaign
- b. be treated as an equal partner on the campaign
- c. expression and information
- d. be eligible for any campaign positions
- e. nominate partners for campaign positions such as Campaign Coordination Group or the Working Group

### **Responsibilities of Campaign Partners**

- Respect the mission and all procedures of the Campaign.
- Attend and participate in all campaign meetings in a responsible manner. Partners who do not show any interest by not attending two campaign meetings in any twelve-month period will be excluded from the campaign.
- Freely share relevant experiences and information.
- Respect Campaign Coordinating Group and Working Groups decisions.
- Consult regularly with organizations and individuals within their constituency with an aim to fairly and accurately be representing the views and concerns of their constituency at the campaign meetings.
- Report back to their constituency on proceedings of campaign meetings, decisions, progress and other developments.

- Explicitly declare real or perceived conflict of interests. Recuse yourself from the decision making process when the Campaign Partners (Campaign Coordination Group or Working Groups) are discussing an issue which could have an impact on them or their organization.
- Support joint fundraising and partnership building efforts.

### **I believe I am ready for partnership, how do I proceed?**

When you have decided to join Campaign Pratigya as an individual/ organizational or supporting partner you can proceed to the campaign website Become A Partner page and fill in fill in your details in the online partnership form that is available and submit

*Each organisation will designate two individuals (normally the Organisation Head and Second in line) – one of whom will be expected to attend the Campaign Meetings.*