

***“I got so scared when I was stalked at my workplace that I had to quit”***

Urmila (name changed), is a domestic worker from Faridabad. She lives in an informal slum settlement, which is deep inside a patch of forest land near her place of work - a number of households in Omaxe Tower, which is a high rise residential apartment in the area.

About a year ago, Urmila had begun working for a family living in the residential complex, as a cook. When she began working there, she noticed one of the drivers, employed in a house in the same building, would look at her inappropriately. He would also make sexually suggestive gestures and remarks. In need of her job, Urmila initially ignored his behaviour.

But a few days later, Urmila noticed that the man's behaviour had become very obsessive. He began stalking her. A friend of Urmila's, who was working in the same complex as a driver too, told her that this man had been asking around to find out more about her. He said she was very beautiful and he wanted to spend time with her.

Urmila and her friend made sure that the perpetrator was banned from the building premises. Moreover, the driver's employer also fired him. While Urmila was thankful that action was taken against the perpetrator, the experience of being sexually harassed by a man while going to work shook her. She decided to quit her job.

***Urmila is among millions of domestic workers who are forced to keep silent about their experiences of sexual harassment in the workplace. Migrant status, desperation to earn and lack of strong legal mechanisms to prevent and redress such instances in their workplace make it harder for them to open up about their experiences. With #MainBhi, Sita has joined hands with the Martha Farrell Foundation, supported by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, to strengthen institutional mechanisms and response to women domestic workers' experiences of sexual harassment in the workplace. Find out more about the project [here](#).***