

“The police officer refused to file my complaint against sexual harassment at workplace”

My name is Veena (name changed) and I reside in Nandlal Basti, North Delhi with my husband. I work as a domestic worker in a residential colony near my settlement. I have been doing domestic work for many years now. I usually walk to my place of work in the morning and back home in the afternoon.

One day, like every other day, I left my place of work in the afternoon. It was raining very heavily and the way to my home was deserted. After walking for a few minutes, I noticed that a man was following me. I was used to being followed on my way to work so I tried to ignore him. But after a few more minutes, I started feeling scared.

He continued following me and the minute I looked at him, he showed me a Rs. 500 note. He then asked me to spend some time with him.

Hearing this, I began trembling, and immediately called my husband. He rushed to meet me there, and in a few minutes he dragged the man to the police station nearby.

There was no one in the police station. I shouted that I needed to file a report. A police officer came out of the room. At first, he refused to file a complaint against the harasser. After much pleading, he agreed to file a report and started beating the perpetrator, finally putting him in the lockup.

Veena is among millions of women domestic workers who face sexual harassment in their world of work and are expected to keep silent about it. With #MainBhi, Veena 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 their experiences of sexual harassment in the workplace. Find out more about the project [here](#).