

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, INDIA

The NHRC, India was set up on the 12th October, 1993, under the Protection of Human Rights Act, passed by Parliament. The mandate of the Commission is to work for the promotion and protection of human rights by spreading awareness about them and taking cognizance of complaints of human rights violations.

The denial or impediments, whether in public/private sector, in realization of constitutional rights to life, liberty, equality, dignity and the issues related to the benefits of Government welfare schemes and policies become matters of human rights violations for which the NHRC can be approached for remedy.

The NHRC is a recommendatory quasi-judicial autonomous body, having powers of a civil court. It can call for any documents and summon any person in a case of human rights violation. Its recommendations in a case of human rights violation are twofold: relief to the victim and punishment to the guilty.

	Issues on which complaints can be registered with the NHRC
	For not taking lawful action by authorities in police, administration and other government departments on complaints related to the issues some of which are as follows:
1.	Unlawful detention, False implication, Custodial violence, Illegal arrest; Other police excesses;
2.	Encounter deaths, Custodial deaths in police/prison custody, harassment of prisoners
3.	Harassment of prisoners including their detention beyond the period of their punishment; Unlivable jail conditions
4.	Atrocities on SCs and STs and denial of their dues under social welfare schemes including land pattas
5.	Bonded labour; Child labour; Child marriage
6.	Dowry death or its attempt; dowry demand, Sexual harassment and indignity to women; exploitation of women
7.	Non registration of complaints on denial of care by the kith and kin of older persons, human trafficking, abduction, sexual assault, murder or attempt thereof, corruption or any such criminal offence, which is punishable under law
8.	Inaction on measures or denial thereof to provide basic civic amenities like drinking water, clean environment, health facilities, communication and transport, Right to Education, ration under Public Distribution System, Right to Food including Malnutrition and Starvation deaths and benefits under various social welfare schemes, like MNERGA, ICDS, old age pension, LGBTI Rights etc.

9.	Rights of the Disabled and Displacement on account of Mega Projects and Environmental pollution
10.	Inaction on complaints on issues, which require preventive action to check unlawful activity, communal violence, public unrest, law & order situation from deterioration

Who can file a complaint:	
1.	Victim or any other person on a victim's behalf or on his own citing an incident of human rights violation caused by the inaction, Commission and omission thereof by a public authority. The Commission can also take suo motu cognizance of any incident of human rights violation on the basis of media reports

Complaints not ordinarily entertained by the NHRC	
1.	Incidents which happened more than a year before the filing of complaint to the NHRC
2.	Issues which are sub-judice; i.e. already before a court of law or before any National or State Commission including a State Human Rights Commission, which are independent of NHRC and not under it.
3.	Complaints which are vague, anonymous, pseudonymous or frivolous in nature, wherein no human rights violation is made out.
4.	Complaints which pertain to service matters other than pension/family pension, retirement benefits, denial of wages.
5.	Complaints which pertain to property and other civil disputes, including matrimonial/family disputes.

Important:

The NHRC does not charge any fee for the registration of complaints with it. The complaints, written on a simple piece of paper with complete contact details of the complainant under his/her name and signature, can be sent directly to the Commission as follows:

By post at: National Human Rights Commission, Manav Adhikar Bhawan, Block-C, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023.

The complaint must contain all relevant details of date and place of incident, nature of alleged violation, name of the public authority, if any, involved.

By Fax (Fax No. 011-24651334)

Online: through NHRC website: www.nhrc.nic.in

However, if a complainant takes the services of a Village Level Entrepreneur, VLE operating the Common Service Centre to write and send the complaint through Common Service Portal, he may require to pay him an assistance fee of Rs. 30/- only (Inclusive of GST)

The complainants are provided information of the registration and progress on their complaints, including final disposal on their given address for correspondence. Information is also sent on the mobile number & e-mail ID of the complainants, if provided by them.