

## **Smt Makkapati Sumitra**

### **Topic : Rights of Woman and Children, UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979 and its optional protocols**

Smt. Makkapati Sumitra Tarnaka is presently holding the position as Member, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

As founder member Ankuram Women and Child Development Society, a non-profit service organization established in 1994, she worked for the cause of women and girl children; especially in the areas of prevention, protection, rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration of victims of violence, abuse, trafficking and economic exploitation. Working with migrant women and adolescent girls in slums provided them with vocational trainings, life skills and employment opportunities, thus making them self-reliant. Ankuram Women and Child Development Society has been working for the rights of women and children since its inception was able to reach thousands of vulnerable women and girl children till date under the leadership of Ms Sumitra..

She Was instrumental in initiating a Network of NGOs in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad NGOs Action Committee Against Abductions of Girl Children (1996), to fight against trafficking amongst adolescent girls, Transit shelter home for survivors of abuse, violence and Trafficking, called "Sankalpam Home" in Hyderabad (1999), the first of its kind where in thousands of young girls rescued, educated and mainstreamed till date. A State level forum Campaign Against Child Trafficking (CACT) has been initiated by her in 2002 to sensitize vast sections of people on anti-trafficking.

Being a lawyer she was able to provide counseling and legal services to the victimized girls and women while pursuing their cases in the court of law. She worked with State Human Rights Commission, AP. Legal Services Authority, for the betterment of poor and needy in general, children and women in particular.

She was one of the eight FINALISTS elected in LEAD INDIA media campaign conducted by Times of India in 2007 for the services she rendered to women and children.