

**Press Release: Commemoration of International Women's Day with Boys and Girls to Advance Gender Equality**



Over 100 officials and 200 young boys and girls of Women and Child Care Institutions of the Dept. of Women and Child Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and other dignitaries came together to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 by making HeForShe pledges and attending an event aimed at raising awareness of inclusion and need of *engaging young boys on issues related to women empowerment, safety, rights and respect of women and girls.*

IWD is a global event, which recognizes and promotes the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. This year's theme is Balance for Better – a call for collective action and shared responsibility to drive change and build a more inclusive future.

This year, Department of Women and Child Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi had week long celebrations commemorating International Women's Day 2019. Department organised thematic Gender Awareness Training Programmes in partnership with the UN Women focusing on Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace legislation and also on Gender Responsive Budgeting for the key stakeholder departments of Delhi Government, Municipal Corporations and Delhi Police. Week long celebrations comprising of debate, painting competitions and sports events around the theme this year "Engaging Boys for achieving Gender Equality and making public and other spaces safe for women and girls" were held in the Government run Institutions for Boys and Girls.

**Shri Manish Sisodia, Dy. Chief Minister, Govt. of NCT of Delhi** sent his message on this occasion, his good wishes on International Women's Day. His message also appreciated the involvement of boys of the Observation Home for celebration of the International Women's Day.

**On IWD, Director of Department of WCD, GNCTD, Mr. S.B. Shashank said, – ‘Gender equality is not a matter concerning women only, but all of us including men and boys. It is important to engage and sensitise young boys on issues related to women empowerment, safety, rights and respect of women and girls.’**

He further stated that, *“At DWCD, and across the Departments of Delhi Government, we are committed to ensuring inclusion by providing a safe and dignified environment to all. Our International Women’s Day celebration brought together participation of both sexes to identify tangible actions that we can all take as individuals to promote greater gender responsiveness in the community.”*

DWCD joined hands with the UN Women on IWD, 2019 in their HeForShe Movement with a Pledge Taking Ceremony encouraging the men and boys as agents of change to promote a culture of respect for women and girls. *“The proactive involvement of men and boys in settings such as family, school, community including those at leadership positions is pivotal in promoting greater gender responsiveness in the Community,”* said an official from the UN Women present there.

The key highlights of the HeForShe Pledge Taking included a HeForShe pinning ceremony to demonstrate the commitments to strengthen Delhi Government’s works in promoting gender equality.