

Hadiya case: Kerala Women's Commission to move SC



MUM'S THE WORD

Young mothers took out a 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' walkathon in Bengaluru on Sunday to campaign for girl child education | NAGESH POLALI

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It says the Hindu girl, Hadiya, who embraced Islam, has been confined to her home by her parents on the orders of the High Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

KERALA State Women's Commission (KSWC) on Sunday said it would move the Supreme Court for permission to file a fact-finding report in the controversial Hadiya case. The issue involved Akhila, a Hindu girl, embracing Islam to marry Shafin Jahan last year and the Kerala High Court subsequently annulling the marriage after her parents filed a petition.

"The decision to move the apex court comes in the wake of

complaints that her rights are being violated after she was confined to her home at TV Puram in Vaikom in Kottayam. We have received an expert legal opinion in this regard," KSWC Chairperson M C Josephine told reporters here.

The Supreme Court had ordered an NIA probe into the allegations of 'love jihad' in Kerala. Currently, 24-year-old Hadiya aka Akhila is under detention at her family home, on the orders of the High Court, after her father objected to her marriage to Shafin.

Another girl returns to Hinduism

A woman from Kasargod, who had converted to Islam last week, said she was 'returning' to Hinduism. Athira, who had earlier changed her name to Ayesha after embracing Islam, alleged her friends had "misguided" her into changing her faith. Athira had left her home in Kasargod in July after leaving behind a 15-page letter, in which she said she was going to study Islam.

"Besides visiting the woman, her father and mother, the Commission wants to take stock of the situation prevailing in the house. We will then submit a report before the court," said Jose-

phine. Earlier, a delegation comprising people from various sections of society called upon Josephine and submitted a memorandum asking her to intervene in the case.

Rubbishing allegations that the KSWC was acting as per the Sangh Parivar agenda on the issue, Josephine said, "The Commission always takes a pro-woman stand. These smear social media campaigns will create a negative impact on society. Hence, people shouldn't encourage such efforts."

Earlier, women activists belonging to Facebook collective 'Feminist Reading Group' had alleged Akhila aka Hadiya was being physically and mentally tortured at her home. Her contacts with the outside world

have been severed and she is not allowed to meet anyone. Police personnel have been deployed at her house to provide protection.

Hadiya's father got custody of their daughter after he informed the court her marriage was a case of 'love jihad'.



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KSWC Chairperson M C Josephine