

Breakthrough 

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*present*

# The **FLIP**

28th September 2019 | National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi

## 'The Flip': Breakthrough's Youth Conclave

### When the issue of women's safety & gender inequality was raised through films, theatre and other art forms?

New Delhi, 28th September 2019: Breakthrough, a women's rights organisation, convened a youth conclave- The Flip at National Bal Bhavan in New Delhi. The event provided a platform for scores of youngsters not just from Delhi but also Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to suggest creative solutions to create safer spaces and challenge as well as transform gender norms. A counter-narrative was set through films, theatre performances, poems on gender-based discrimination and violence. The best three innovative solutions selected by the jury were awarded in the program.

#### Top three winners:

First prize was won by the film, **Reality Check**, Second, **Social Search- Survey** based movie on how women in National Capital are safe and 3rd prize was awarded to **Forum Theatre Super Women**- an interactive theatre that revolved around the issue of double burden for women at home and work spaces

#### Using a tool of Popular Culture to change the mindset:

On this occasion, Breakthrough's CEO and President Sohini Bhattacharya emphasised on pop culture as an effective tool to create awareness on issues such as gender discrimination and breaking age-old social norms that often restrict women to step out and pursue their dreams. "Popular culture and other art forms help us to connect with people directly at the same time it motivates them to take appropriate steps. The success of our campaigns like Bell Bajao, Asking for It, Share Your Story and Trust Karke Dekho testify this fact" she further said. "Breakthrough's fight for women's right is on since the last two decades and currently we are looking at creating and encouraging change-makers who can take this fight forward and bring a difference in society. Today's event is dedicated to social change actors who have now joined us in the fight for equal rights irrespective of gender and create a safer space for women and girls largely for them to come out and pursue their aspirations and dreams. Hopefully, together with them, we will be able to create a society for where there is an end to gender-based discrimination and violence" Sohini asserted.

#### Article 19 talked about freedom of expression, Enough! said no more.

During the event six shortlisted films were displayed, one of them was **Article 19**- the film revolved around the fundamental rights that have been bestowed to us by our constitution – however, the reality is that the voice of thousands of women and girls is still being stifled, their mobility restricted- all in the name of social norms.

The next movie, **Enough!** was based on sexual violence in the workplace. The others were **Behind the Parda**- The film spoke of women & substance abuse and the prevalence of drug addiction among women often go untreated due to social taboos and lack of women centric rehabilitation centres, **The Brood**- based on mental violence against women, and lastly, **The Reality Check**- depicting the real picture of women vis-a-vis the society. These short films were produced by youth and college students involved with Breakthrough's programs.

### **Breakthrough's intervention changed their lives!**

At the event, the social change actors also shared their transformational journeys. Gracy, a student of Delhi University narrated her story of trauma when her mother was a victim of domestic violence until she decided to put an end to her ordeal after Breakthrough's awareness program. Harshita from Ambedkar University narrated her story of breaking out of social norms and taking her own life decisions. Her parents accompanied her to the event. They attributed Breakthrough for the change.

### **Anjali's story of change- Transformation of Kudamau (Garbage-village) to Sundarnagari:**

Anjali, who comes from Uttar Pradesh, described the journey of changing the name of her village Kudamau- which translates as the village of garbage into Sundarnagar (beautiful village). She acknowledged that the change of mindset occurred after Breakthrough's program- Taaro ki Toli.

### **Jury Members:**

The jury members included author & poet Purva Bhardwaj, Abu Sufiyan, founder of Purani Dilli Walo Ki Baatein, Actor Pankaj Gupta, Director & Scriptwriter Kuldeep Kumar, Theatre personality artist Shilpi Marwah and writer, director Virendra Kumar.

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