

Students take pledge to keep women safe

DC CORRESPONDENT
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The safety and security of women is essential for the well-being of the country and nobody should indulge in any activity that would harass or abuse any woman, said the pledge that was taken by around 2,200 people from the District Rotaract Council, 3,230 from other colleges such as MOP Vaishnav College and WCC at a rally to create awareness on women's safety on Sunday.

Organised by Round Table India and Mart 100, social service organisations in association with Survival Inst-

incts, an authorised provider of the American Red Cross health and safety training program, it took place at Marina beach in commemoration of the United Nations International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women.

The rally was flagged off by Dr Visalakshi Nendunchezhian, chairperson, Tamil Nadu state women's commission and she led the group in taking the pledge to eliminate violence against women.

As part of the campaign, college students performed mimics in various city schools, highlighting the issues faced by women. It also portrayed ways to stay safe and handle

abuse.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there were 3,09,546 crimes against women reported to police last year, against 2,44,270 in 2012. "When we all raise our voices against harassment of women, it will not be a bumpy ride for women's safety. Even calling the police station and informing them about an incident makes a difference," said Anoop R. Madhavan, founder of Survival Instincts. He added that activating GPS and software in mobile phones to identify one's location are ways we can use technology to keep ourselves safe.



S. Lakshmi IPS, Deputy Commissioner - Traffic (South) reads the pledge as the participants take oath to protect women and not to be a bystander. — DC