

## **Safety isn't just about security; it's about transforming entire system and culture: Actor Padmapriya**

**\* At TRI's #NoExcuse - Rural Youth Speak Out for 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence**

**\* Lawyer Flavia Agnes, grassroots activist Taniya Khan and Activist Prabhleen Tuteja engaged with rural youth and women in a powerful virtual session**

Prayagraj: Transform Rural India (TRI) organised a virtual session, #NoExcuse - Rural Youth Speak Out on Safety where youth and women from rural areas addressed systemic gender-based violence (GBV) and shared lived experiences. Featuring actor Padmapriya, women's rights lawyer Flavia Agnes and social justice activist Prabhleen Tuteja as key speakers, the session was attended by rural participants and youth across the country, mainly from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand via TRI's Youth Resource Hubs and Nari Adhikar Kendras. TRI organised the dialogue session as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the annual international civil society-led campaign that begins on November 25 on the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Girls and Women, and concludes on December 10, Human Rights Day.

The discussions underscored the importance of this year's campaign, particularly in

light of the upcoming 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on Women (BPOA), which will be marked at the 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2025. While India has enacted laws like the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, to address domestic violence, recent studies, such as 'Ambivalent Sexism and Tolerance of Violence Against Women in India' published in Psychological Science journal, reveal troubling insights. The report highlights how patronising beliefs framed as protective measures often reinforce power imbalances, leaving women more vulnerable to violence by subordinating them to their male partners. The virtual dialogues also brought attention to the need for effective measures to prevent GBV from resulting in long-term physical and mental health impacts on the survivors. It also called for refined policies that prioritise the socio-economic development of victims, ensuring they are not getting marginalised.