

# Celebrate Courage, Support Change: The Vinitika Lal Award

The Vinitika Lal Award on Prevention of Witch-Hunting salutes the work of late Vinitika Lal, a psychologist and gender justice campaigner who took on one of the most horrible forms of violence against women, tirelessly. You become a part of this process and effort through this award program, made by unsung heroes fighting such grave injustice.

## **The Dark Reality of Witch-Hunting**

- Witch-hunting is a brutal crime, quite inhuman, where most times, completely innocent women have become the targeted sport because of superstition or just to satisfy somebody's greed and urge to exert their authority upon them. The rural parts of India, especially the states like Jharkhand in India, record torture, social ostracism, and even murder of such labeled "witches" in rituals.
- These victims are usually married women who have been accused of witchcraft. The accused reason behind such accusations is due to personal grudges, disputed lands, and even sometimes the assertiveness of a woman in society.
- Entire families are destroyed, leaving survivors traumatized and socially isolated.
- Witch hunting is one of those manifestations that keep a culture of fear, ignorance, and deep-rooted gender inequality alive.
- But owing to a lack of awareness and grassroots-level intervention, this practice continues unabated in rural pockets despite laws to prevent it.

## **Why We Have to Take Action Now**

- **To Save Lives:** Several hundred women annually lose their lives because of an accusation.
- **To Protect the Vulnerable:** Many survivors are living in fear, unable to rebuild their lives.
- **Recognize Courage:** This will underline individuals and resource persons who put in efforts without rest in preventing witch hunting and taking care of survivors.

In this case, your donation to the Vinitika Lal Award directly helps in rewarding and empowering people who are tackling the problem holistically.

*Each year, on December 12th, Vinitika Lal's birthday, EquiVoice Alliance Foundation will announce the award recipients: two individuals and one collective or institution that have significantly contributed to preventing witch hunting. The selection will be made through a participatory and transparent process by a selection committee consisting of representatives from the community, survivors, academicians, and the Foundation.*

## **EquiVoice Alliance Foundation: Creating Change**

At the EquiVoice Alliance Foundation, we stand against witch hunting for the justice of survivors. During the time that the Foundation has been in operation, its ongoing work to prevent this crime should identify and recognize resource persons and champions emerging from such processes. Champion Survivors: Our interventions rehabilitate the survivors and also equip them to become resource persons who champion their communities in prevention from witch hunting.

**Recognizing Impact:** The award will be a celebration for them and all other champions who are really making a difference in this issue.

This will also help amplify their work, inspire others, and create a movement to end witch hunting.

### **Your Role in this Fight**

- By donating to the Vinitika Lal Award, you can:
- Honor Courage: Celebrate and recognize courageous leadership in the fight against witch hunts.
- Support Champions: Empower survivors who have turned resource persons in contributing to the prevention and addressing of witch hunting.
- Create Change: A future in which communities can live free from fear and superstition.

### **How You Can Help**


Each and every contribution will be directly channelled to the corpus of the award, which is continuously being given to recognize and honor people making a difference in preventing witch hunting. Your donation is a tribute to their courage and dedication.

Donate Now, *Because no woman should live in fear of being labelled as witch.*

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- 1. Why focus on witch hunting?**
  - Witch hunting is one of the most horrific forms of gender violence, which is deeply seated in patriarchy and ignorance. Thus, it calls for addressing the issues at the roots, which are superstition, marginalization, and gender inequality.
- 2. How will your donation help?**
  - Your donation will help the corpus that recognizes resource persons as well as those making a concrete contribution to arresting witch hunting and rehabilitating survivors of witch hunts.
- 3. Is my contribution tax-deductible?**
  - Yes, donations are eligible for tax benefits under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.
- 4. Contact Us**

 [info@evafoundation.co.in](mailto:info@evafoundation.co.in)

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Your action today can save lives and help build a just society.

### **Donate Now**

*Together, we can ensure no woman is ever branded as a witch again.*