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Title: Need to take steps to prevent honour crimes in the country.

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER (CHANDIGARH): Madam Speaker, a terrible crime was committed in the national Capital last week. A young woman was murdered by her own parents in Delhi for marrying a man of her own choice. We hear these stories from all over the country at various intervals. A mother and a father who could not stifle their daughter's free-will decided to strangle her.

Bhavna Yadav was 21 years old and lost her life because the reality of India is that even today people value false notions of family honour and caste over the life, liberty and bodily autonomy of their daughters. Honour crimes are not new in India but if I were to look for statistics on how many people have been murdered in this way in the name of honour every year in order to understand how and why these crimes happen, there is no place to look.

The National Crime Records Bureau is yet to recognize honour crimes as a separate category. Despite cases from across the country being reported in the media, we have no way of knowing the extent of this crime. While this shocking incident has raised the urgent need for us as law makers and citizens to working towards eradicating discrimination based on castes across the country, some legal reforms are also needed.

November 25 which was the day I was originally wanting to speak about this is observed as the international day for elimination of all forms of violence against women. I would request the Government and the Members of this House to introspect on the need to recognize honour crimes in the Indian Penal Code as a first step to eliminating this particular form of violence.

HON. SPEAKER:

Dr. Kirit P. Solanki is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Kirron Kher.