United Nations states that 1 in 3 women on the planet is beaten or raped during her lifetime. That is more than one billion women living on the planet today. In India, data from the National Crime Records Bureau shows that between 1953 and 2011, the incidence of rape rose by 873 per cent, or three times faster than all cognizable crimes put together, and three-and-a-half times faster than murder. In India a woman is raped every 22 minutes, and a bride burnt for dowry every 58 minutes. Further the issue is exacerbated by the adverse child sex ratio indicative of a clear bias against the girl child.

According to 2001 census data there are more than 35 million women missing in India alone; ‘missing’ here refers to the number of females who died as a result of unequal access to resources. It becomes pertinent to understand that killing of girls even before they have a chance to be born, maternal mortality are also manifestations of increasing violence against women and girls and the sex ratio of any society is indicative of the status of women in that society. The elimination of violence against women and girls is the key to achievement of gender equality,
peace and development, and should be the commitment of every citizen, state and society.

The campaign began with a global call from American playwright and activist, Eve Ensler, to people around the world – men and children included - to root out violence against women and join in a global day of action on 14 February 2013. Over 5,000 groups in 207 countries supported the idea, whether they are resisting mining in the Philippines or female genital mutilation in Kenya; whether they are supporting survivors of acid attacks in Bangladesh or demanding new legislation on women’s rights in the UK.

In the South Asian region **Sangat, South Asian Feminist Network** coordinated the campaign. **Across eight South Asian countries, more than 450 organizations** reached out to people, eminent citizens, youth and the public at large. One Billion rising was been launched in Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Maldives, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. In India, the One Billion Rising Campaign had picked up in **more than 25 states**. Women’s groups, civil society groups, men’s organizations and groups working on dalit, disability and sexuality rights all actively participated in this Campaign.

In New Delhi a coalition of more than 65 organizations and individuals from all walks of life worked on the campaign as a collective along with Sangat & Jagori. The campaign was launched in New Delhi on 24th November 2012, other states and neighboring countries also launched it around the same time. Since then a series of planning meetings were held with the working groups and various activities were organized as part of OBR.
On 7th January 2013 a cultural evening was organized at FICCI auditorium, New Delhi. The main idea behind the cultural evening was to raise consciousness on ‘Ending violence against women and girls’ through music, dance, drama, talks and special performances. The evening saw special performance by Mallika Sarabhai, who is a renowned activist and classical dancer, of her new piece ‘Women with Broken Wings’ along with internationally acclaimed pianist Elizabeth Sombart, dedicated to the women and girls who have lost their lives because of patriarchal violence. This special performance unravels the pain and suffering of women who have been murdered and of the 35 million women who are reported missing as per our census reports. Also present at the evening was the Tony award wining playwright, activist and author of the famous play Vagina Monologue Eve Ensler, who was visiting South Asia and was in Delhi for two days. Her Vagina Monologues exemplifies how the arts can re-conceptualize the woman's body. It has been performed in over 140 countries and translated into 48 languages so far, helping women talk about their bodies, de-shame them and de-stigmatize sexual assault. Eve graced the evening by her presence and performed her newly written piece “I am an emotional creature”. The evening was inaugurated with key remarks & overview by Kamla Bhasin, OBR South Asia coordinator & Advisor, Sangat South Asia, it was followed by performance by Navtej Johar renowned dancer, commitments by eminent activists and citizens to end violence against women and girls and felicitation of artists.
OBR called for One Billion people across the globe to strike-rise-dance to put an end to patriarchal violence, its uniqueness lied in its use of culture and art to express resentment and protest. It symbolized coming together of people from different walks of life to speak up against violence in artistic, non-violent ways. The beauty of art lies in its ability to put across a really difficult but deep message. This evening therefore aimed to use performing arts to articulate women’s anguish and dent the very symbols and codes that constitute violence. More than 600 people were present as audience; these were people from all walks of life. The evening received huge media attention and was covered by all major newspapers.

On 8th January 2013 student-activist meeting was organized at Miranda House, Delhi University and was attended by more than 2000 students and activists. The
panel consisted of Kamla Bhasin, Eve Ensler, Mallika Sarabhai & Abhijeet Das; a very vibrant discussion took place for than two hours around the issue of violence, rape, sexuality, gender, masculinity and patriarchy. The programme saw panelists using various ways to talk about the issue. While Ensler read out two of her new pieces ‘I am Rising’ & ‘I am an Emotional Creature’; Sarabhai enacted and related stories from Indian mythology looking at the VAW and rape which is interwoven into our mythological stories and narratives. The panelists urged the audience to raise their voices on the issue; shouts of “We will fight, we will win” and “azaadi” reverberated across the hall. The interactive session saw students and teachers raising questions on various issues faced by women – from people worshipping goddesses but disrespecting women in society to women being called promiscuous, from security of women to alcoholism leading to rape cases.
On the 21st of January critically acclaimed actress and activist Shabana Azmi in conversation with Principal Pratibha Jolly on the role of media in combating VAW again witnessed a jam-packed auditorium. On 22nd January, the intersectionality of the issue of violence against women in its class, caste, and community context was brought out by activists from the field which included Jagmati Sangwan of AIDWA, Kavita Krishnan of AIPWA, Shuddabrata Sengupta of Kafila, Maya John of CSW. During the college’s winter festival the WDC stall was dedicated to the OBR theme. Pink ribbons, self-made bookmarks, badges, stickers, posters all proclaiming “enough is enough” and “no more violence against women” were liberally distributed to all who came. A well attended protest poetry competition on the issue witnessed a day of beautiful, heart rendering poems in their multi-lingual hues. The competition was judged by feminist-activist Suneeta Dhar from Jagori, NDTV presenter Ketaki, and Kamla Bhasin from Sangat. The flagging off of the OBR took place that day. In addition several programs were organized in Lady Shri Ram College as a build up to the final rising on the 14th, a month long rising was organized, with activities around OBR scheduled every day from 15th January 2013 onwards. Some of the activities that were held are; Inauguration of ‘Let’s talk’: A fortnightly peer forum on violence and sexual harassment open to students, faculty and staff, Vagina Monologues Reading organized by the Women’s Development Cell (WDC), Screening of Amar Kanvar’s, ‘Lightning Testimonies’, followed by discussion with the filmmaker, Session on ‘Women in Hindi Cinema’ by authors of ‘Mother, Maiden and Mistress’ – Supriya Madangarli, Bhawana Somaaya and Jigna Kothari, Talk cum workshop by women Lawyers on knowing gender rights and gender specific laws. This was followed by a workshop on rape and sexual violence conducted by an ex student, the Pink Campaign (reclaiming the colour Pink) at the College Fest - Tarang launch, Showcase of OBR videos in the college assembly, Poster Competition in
On 14.02.2013, events and activities were held across the city in more than 30 locations. These activities were organized jointly by the more than 60 organizations, individuals and collectives that were part of the OBR Delhi Working group. A press curtain raiser was organized at Miranda House on 08.02.2013 and was covered live by major news channels like NDTV, on 13.02.13 a pre-event press conference was organized at IWPC; the press conference received huge media attention and was carried in all major news papers and news channels. Some of the key highlights of the events and activities held on 14.02.2013 are the following:
• The day was divided into parts, in the first half there were activities organized in several communities across the city. The second half saw culmination of all day activities into a final mass event organized at parliament street 5 pm onwards.

![Images of people gathered]

• During the day, flash mob followed by cultural and awareness generation was organized at Dilli Haat, a prime market area and was covered live by several news channels.

![Images of people performing]

• There were vehicle rallies organized in several parts of the city.
• In Dwarka there was a huge cultural program organized at the National Law University, it was a day long event which saw participation of well known actor and activist Gul Parag.
• There were flash mobs, songs, street plays across the city.

• There were activities organized in 10 metro stations, which are also the busiest. Flash mob dance was performed in all these locations by people on wheel chairs.

• At the parliament street event there were more than 3000 people present. These were people from all walks of life.

• The event at Parliament Street was a cultural program which began with a mass flash mob of over 500 people; this was followed by a dance by differently abled men and women on wheel chairs.
• Vidya Shah, a renowned classical singer performed during the evening, singing songs of empowerment and strength. There was a brief speech by Kamla Bhasin and inauguration of poster image of ‘Water Weaver’ donated by well know artist Aparna Kaur to the movement.

• The evening was filled with performances by citizens collectives like Delhi Drummers and Delhi Drums Circle, student groups from Miranda, LSR, Kamla Nehru College, powerful stand up performance by Maya Rao, movement songs by Vinay & Charul, street play by Asmita theater group, clothesline exhibition by Blank Noise, poster exhibition by fearless campaign were some of the key highlights of the evening.

• The evening ended by lighting candles, saluting the spirit of billions of fearless women across who have been survivors of violence.
The event witnessed media attention never seen before, and was covered live by some of the leading news channels. It was also carried in all major national and regional dailies. The evening was also live web streamed across the world with support from Action Aid.

During the process of build up to OBR a lot of campaign and IEC materials were developed. This included posters of a historical photo from women’s movement donated by Shebha Chachi, music cd of songs from the women’s movement, ribbons, flags & postcards with messages saying No to violence against women and girls. With support of other groups T-Shirts, badges and stickers were also made with similar messaging. Aparana Caur a renowned painter very kindly donated an image of her painting ‘Water Weaver’ which was developed into posters. A series of banners (flex& cloth) were also produced with messages on OBR demanding end to violence.

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