



IAWS

Indian Association for Women's Studies

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Statement of IAWS for Gouri Choudhury (12-12-1938 to 9-9-2022)

A stalwart of women's rights movement, Smt. Gouri Choudhury passed away peacefully on 9th September 2022. Popularly known as Gouri di, this a stellar social activist had a record of feminist activism since early 1970s. She had edited special number of HOW on political economy of dowry way back in 1977 published both in English and Hindi. This was widely used for study circle by the newly emerging women's rights groups in the post emergency period. She was an institution builder and had always opened her heart and home for the social activists of progressive movements of workers, youth, women, rural poor and tribal people. founder member of Action India- a community based mass organisation (1976), Stree Sangharh (1977), Saheli (1981), WomenPowerConnect (1998). She was a role model and a soul sister to thousands of women and men across generations whose lives and hearts she touched.

Sharp in her wit, clear in her perspective, upfront about her political position, totally committed to eradicate domestic violence, Gauri di will be missed greatly by all in the women's rights movement. Gauri di believed in building bridges between all social movements fighting for human rights of the marginalised sections facing intersectional oppression. The best homage to Gouri di is to carry forward her life's mission and legacy for a world of gender equality and justice. Gouri di's favourite song, "*Khamoshi todo, waqt aa gaya !*" (Break the silence, time has come!) captured her quest to fight against all forms of discrimination, oppression and exploitation. Gouri di was a conscience keeper for the younger generation of feminist activists.

IAWS pays a respectful tribute to Smt. Gouri Choudhary, expresses solidarity with her co-workers and conveys heartfelt condolences to her sons- Partho and Amit, daughters-in-law Maureen and Karen, and granddaughters- Monica and Julia.

Ishita Mukhopadhyay
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