

KSHRC gets police to probe 'credentials' of 14 NGOs

[K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj](#)

At the behest of the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, the State police have launched a probe into the “credentials” of 14 human rights NGOs, headquartered in Bengaluru. The list includes well-established organisations such as the South India Cell for Human Rights Education and Monitoring (SICHREM) and the Human Rights Law Network (HRLN), which have described the move as “outrageous.”

The police will examine and verify the documents of these NGOs, and submit a report on their credibility. Several organisations have objected to the probe on the grounds that it is self-defeating, given that a bulk of the human rights violation cases are against the police. While most organisations are open to verification by KSHRC, the fact that it is routed through the police is what they have taken strong objection to.

However, defending the probe, Madhu Sharma, KSHRC secretary, said it was necessary to “weed out non-credible NGOs” applying for financial assistance from National Human Rights Commission. She said: “There was even a case in KSHRC where our registrar’s signature was forged showing us recommending a particular organisation for funding. In another instance, we found that a particular organisation did not even have an office in the address they mentioned,” she said. Using the city police, she argued, was “routine.”

The probe came to light last week when officials of SICHREM, an over two-decade-old NGO fighting for human rights, were summoned to a local police station. Ms. Sharma had written to the Bengaluru city Police Commissioner, N.S. Megharikh, in April 2016, listing out the 14 NGOs requesting a probe into their credibility.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/kshrc-gets-police-to-probe-credentials-of-14-ngos/article8747294.ece?css=print>