



XXIV AIWEFA-NSA 2026

EVENT NOTE

All India Women's Education Fund Association (AIWEFA) has been administering the AIWEFA-Nina Sibal Memorial Award since 2003, to an NGO working on disabilities with an endowment made by Shri Kapil Sibal Senior Advocate and M.P. Rajya Sabha in memory of his late wife Smt. Nina Sibal, every year on her birthday, 2nd August. The award is to encourage organizations which are managing and educating disabled and disadvantaged persons through innovative methods.

This year, AIWEFA expands the scope of the award to include a dedicated focus on **Women in Distress**, acknowledging organizations working with women facing acute social, economic, and psychological vulnerabilities. These women often experience exclusion, lack of access to basic rights, and limited support systems, requiring targeted interventions for protection, rehabilitation, and empowerment.

Under this category, the award will recognize impactful work across the following areas:

1. Abandoned, widowed and elderly women without social support

Women who are widowed, deserted, or rejected by their families experience acute social and economic vulnerability. Often lacking property rights, income security, and emotional support, they face isolation, stigma, and increased risk of exploitation.

2. Survivors of domestic, drug and sexual Violence, Abuse, and Trafficking

This category includes women and girls affected by domestic violence, child abuse, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking. These survivors face long-term physical, psychological, and social consequences, often compounded by lack of legal awareness, stigma, and inadequate rehabilitation systems.

3. Women with Disabilities (Physical, Mental, and Emotional)

Women with disabilities experience compounded discrimination due to both gender and disability. They face barriers in education, employment, mobility, healthcare, and social participation.

4. Transgender

Transgender women face systemic exclusion, including family rejection, limited livelihood opportunities, and discrimination in healthcare and public services. Despite legal recognition, social stigma and lack of institutional support continue to push many into precarious living conditions, making targeted interventions essential.

5. Economically Vulnerable and Migrant Women

Women engaged in informal, low-paid, and insecure work—including migrant labourers—face multiple layers of deprivation. Migration often results in loss of social support, unsafe living conditions, wage exploitation, and limited access to healthcare, childcare, and social protection.

In 2026, the organisation marks the twenty fourth anniversary of the AIWEFA-Nina Sibal Memorial Award. This year too, the ceremony will be held on 2nd August 2026, at the Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

As in previous years over 500 forms were emailed to organisations covering all the states and Union territories of India, and these could either be downloaded, or a google form could also be submitted. In total 25 applications were received from various parts of India. The Jury consisting of 9 members, evaluated the applications, both quantitatively and qualitatively, based on the work done by these organisation for the Women in Distress. Emphasis was laid on mainstreaming of these women through effective programme details, Infrastructure, Skilling of women and finding livelihood and outreach to the persons of target group by the applicants. The analysis of the organisational data was done on the basis of:

- Vision, Mission, Objectives
- Profile meets Eligibility Criteria
- Infrastructure including Physical, Financial and Human resources
- Programme Details
- Honours & Awards
- Plan of fund utilization

‘Chhanv Foundation’, New Delhi, has been chosen for the award. Chhanv Foundation is a Trust, Chhanv Foundation envisions an India free from acid violence, where every acid attack survivor receives justice, medical care, emotional support, education, livelihood and complete rehabilitation with dignity. Their vision is to help survivors move beyond pain, stigma and isolation towards confidence, independence and social acceptance. Chhanv Foundation chose to serve women in distress because acid attack survivors face not only physical injuries, but also deep emotional trauma, social isolation, loss of education, livelihood insecurity and stigma. Many survivors are abandoned after emergency treatment and are left without proper medical care, legal support, counselling or opportunities to rebuild their lives.

The Awardee organisation will receive the award of Rs. 10 lakhs, Citation and Trophy.

In addition, this year two more organisation is being commended for their exceptional work.

The Banyan, Chennai, is working towards enabling access to comprehensive, integrated, person-centered mental health care for persons living in poverty and homelessness through culturally resonant clinical and social care pathways. With branches in Chennai, Trichy, Karnataka, Kerala and offering both residential and Non-Residential Programmes, their beneficiaries include Abandoned, widowed and elderly women without social support, Women with Disabilities (physical, mental and emotional) and transgenders.

Snehalaya, Maharashtra, is a Trust based in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra with branch in Pune too. Their target audience is young girls who are sex workers or their children maybe with AIDS. They are working towards developing awareness and capabilities of individuals who have been deprived of their fundamental rights because of the inequalities that exist in our society. Snehalaya possesses a deep cultural and social understanding of the many barriers to gainful employment and social acceptance the 20,000 beneficiaries that access our services each year face. Snehalaya actively engages with and has the trust of some of the most underprivileged and hard to reach communities.