



## Responses to Manushi

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### Education and Moral Sense

My wife, Punit Kaur Narula, is no longer a subscriber to your journal. I do not think she really took any interest in it, or missed it when it was not received. I had asked Central News Agency to supply a copy of manushi to my sister, Parkash Kaur Narula, when she returned from the USA. She too wanted the subscription stopped after a few issues.

My wife is now Dr. Punit Kaur, Ph.D., and an Assistant Professor at All India Institute of Medical Sciences. My sister holds a Master of Science degree from State University of New York. You have to seriously ask why these women, possessing high education, moral sense, and rectitude, did not develop any involvement with your publication. This really disappointed me because having grown up in the tumultuous milieu of the 1930's, even at 85 I continue to support several good causes.

**Shamsher Singh Narula, New Delhi**

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### Puncturing Male Ego

I read every issue of MANUSHI from cover to cover, with lots of interest. Going through Madhu Kishwar's article on Deepa Mehta's *Fire*, entitled *Naive Outpourings of a Self-Hating Indian*, I felt happy about the her dismissal of the controversy created by the Shiv Sena in Mumbai and elsewhere. I felt that Mehta should

have highlighted the aspect of women's empowerment, their new found identity, though via unacceptable means for many. I think lesbianism punctures the fragile ego of men.

**Philomena Thomas, Pune,  
Maharashtra**

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### Hitting the Nail on the Head

I have read through the latest MANUSHI article on the *Alternative to the Government Bill for Women's Reservation* with avid interest, and must say the alternative Bill is brilliant and hands-on, 'hitting the nail on the head' of the political parties. I am circulating your petition among friends and will send it to you. Good luck and all the very best for it speedily becoming an Act. Keep the steam up!

**Dr. Sanaya Nariman, New Delhi**

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### Looking Beyond Sati

This is in response to your article *Deadly Laws and Zealous Reformers* (MANUSHI 115). It is almost uncanny how you manage to keep a sane perspective on deeply difficult issues. You leave no doubt about where you stand when you write, "I myself abhor *sati*...", and are right to insist upon raising the broader questions of culture and development involved. And yes, the cult around Diana is singularly abhorrent. One is almost tempted to say that your critique of *sati* is post-modernist, but I think your views go beyond labels.

There can be no doubt that if the practice of *sati* dies out (which it most probably will), India will be a better place. At the same time, one must add that mass killings in the name of one's country are far more evil and that the eradication of war would be a much greater good. To quote Einstein : "I do not consider killing in a war to be a wink different from murder."

Your views on the subject of *sati* are a welcome challenge to the smug condemnations of educated people who don't see the log in their own eye.

**S.A. Owasis, Srinagar, J & K**

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### Hate Mail

Apropos your article *Criminalisation of Politics* (MANUSHI 79) you refer to the unfortunate incident wherein some women were stripped and raped by Bajrang Dal members. These innocent women have suffered for no fault of theirs. There seems to be no justice in this world. Innocent women get stripped and raped whereas prostitutes of the horriblest kind, like you, go scott free. You deserve such treatment.

**Hanuman. T. H, via email**  
tmurali@meenakshi.iitm.ernet.in

*Since this is literally the first hate letter we have received in the 21 years of MANUSHI's existence, we are really puzzled as to what makes you so angry with us? What did we do to deserve such a vicious outburst?*

– Editor □