

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WAS PRINTED BY 'INDIA NEWS' ON THE INTERNET

<http://www.indiareport.com/India-usa-uk-news/latest-news/1039334/International/2/20/2>

*From Natasha Chaku.*

*Melbourne, May 23 (PTI) The Sikh community members in Australia's Victoria province have performed forum theatre inside a Gurdwara premises here to address the issue of domestic violence against Indian women in this country.*

*"Though we have been criticised for allowing such a theatre to be performed inside the Gurdwara but we are determined to be a part of such issue,"said Jasvinder Sidhu, Executive Secretary of Gurdwara which is situated in Tarneit suburb here.*

*He said it was a bold step to allow it but was much needed as to address the issue that is said to be quite common among the community Down Under.*

*The theatre kicked off yesterday from Tarneit Gurdwara and is going to be performed across Australia.*

*It displays plight of a new woman migrant who suffers domestic violence.*

*Performed by some community members on voluntary basis, the forum ends with an interactive session for the audience to discuss various aspects of the issue.*

*The entire exercise is set to form data for a study on Indian women Down Under and findings will be finally submitted to Australian government.*

*The forum theatre is the first step of a study initiated by Australia India Society Victoria in collaboration with Melbourne University's Centre of International Mental Health.*

*The project has been initiated by a well known Indian origin Australian psychiatrist Manjula O'Connor, who is the Research coordinator of the project.*

*Manjula said the study holds a special importance as many Indian women were ashamed to bring the issue up and there was a lack of information for the victims here.*

*"If we want to address the issue of prevention of domestic violence in the Indian community then we need research into cultural issues.*

*"Indians are social, hard working, gentle, peace and loving. There is a myth among Indian communities that domestic violence does not exist. Domestic violence exists in every country, culture and society,"she said.*

*The Forum theatre Director Xris Reardon said,"The theatre exercise will allow to examine cultural attitudes, cultural practices, the nature of domestic violence and why the Indian culture dose not encourage us to seek help or to speak out.*