

Child rights panel against amendments

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chairperson Kushal Singh has opposed the proposed changes to Juvenile Justice Act, saying it not be in the best interest of the child. "The amendments are moving away from the fundamental philosophy that the JJ Act is reformative rather than being punitive."

The Commission has asked the ministry to undertake wider consultations, as treating juveniles in conflict with law as criminals was unfair. "Most of the children who are in conflict with law are in need of care and protection. As a state, we have failed to provide them with that. We have not taken enough preventive measures but are resorting to punitive measures instead," Singh added. She said implementation, rather than gaps in the law, is the problem.

Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) chairperson Arun Mathur was cautious in his reaction. "I feel there is nothing wrong in revisiting existing laws but any review should be done with the best interest of the child in mind. Views of experts and stakeholders must be considered before amendment," Mathur said.

He added that he is planning to call a meeting of all DCPCR members to get their views on the amendments.

