



One Nation • One People



MOTHER TERESA
MEMORIAL AWARDS
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
2018

Dr. Abraham Mathai Former Vice Chairman, Minorities Commission Chairman	P.C. Thomas Former Union Minister Patron	Mahesh Bhatt Noted Film Maker Patron	Tushar Gandhi Great Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi Patron	Adv. Rizwan Merchant Eminent Lawyer Legal Advisor
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Press Release

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We appreciate the Supreme Court order of staying all FIR's against Priya Varrier and Omar Lulu.

Action to be taken against police for registering such frivolous case under pressure from religious bigots

Mumbai: After the recent Padmavati episode by right wing fundamentalists, we are yet again caught up in another controversy raked up by radical outfits who are bent on ripping apart the secular fabric of our nation.

It is absolutely absurd and ridiculous that religious bigots in Hyderabad have lodged an FIR against the film director Omar Lulu for the movie 'Oru Adaar Love.' Though it was unfortunate that Priya Varrier had moved to Supreme Court on Monday to seek quashing of FIRs lodged against her and the makers of the film for allegedly offending the religious sentiments of Muslims, **we applaud the stay given by the Supreme Court in today's hearing.**

We stand in support of Priya Varrier, Omar Lulu and the team for taking a bold stand against such bigotry and breaking cultural stereotypes.

Action must also be initiated against the police as a deterrent for registering such frivolous FIR and for allowing fringe groups to cause such divisive uproar.

Omar Lulu, a Muslim, should in actual fact be commended for his stroke of genius which has accurately depicted this current trend of reversing stereotypes and faulty assumptions of men usually making the first move towards initiating love relations. Omar Lulu in his Malayalam film 'Oru Adaar Love' has depicted a young girl (played by actress Priya Varrier) winking at a boy which had been

construed as an exclusive privilege of a man in a male dominated society. An innocent gesture of winking is a metaphor for woman empowerment as she has the freedom to express herself breaking all stereotypes, all barriers!

There are absolutely no grounds of charging Priya Varrier and Omar Lulu that such work of creativity can vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in the country as this song is a common song sung by the community in the northern parts of Kerala. It is in fact those who have filed the complaint are the ones who are responsible for creating unnecessary tension by causing a problem that is not supposed to exist in the first place.

This kind of rising intolerance is contrary to the Prime Minister's campaign of **India Rising** as it results in the opposite- **India Sinking** in the abyss of cesspool sectarianism not required in these times of progress and advancement.

The Harmony Foundation has declared 2018 as the year of Empowerment of the Girl Child and supports Priya Varrier's viral wink as this expresses that women are liberated from traditional stereotypes and have the freedom to express themselves fearlessly.

Dr. Abraham Mathai

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