

WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTER AND ILS GENDER STUDIES CELL

Introduction: The Gender Studies Cell (GSC), a student's initiative, was launched with the Women's Studies Centre in 2011 to create gender awareness through its various activities among the students of ILS. It aims to create inclusive and meaningful dialogue about gender, gender identity and the need to challenge normative gender roles.

Faculty Coordinators: Ms. Sneha Sabale and Ms.Mugdha Hedau

Student Coordinators: Aaryan Bansod, Anoushka Singh, Anushka Garse, Fatema Kothari, Rajyawardhan Singh (all IV BA LLB), Samyak Wankhede, Mahek Saraf, Swarali Doifode, Zainul Abideen Khan (all III BA LLB)

Details of the activities conducted: The Women's Studies Center along with The Gender Cell indulges in inclusive dialogues through sensitization workshops, interactive sessions on gender identity, lectures on gender discourse conducted by feminist experts, and welcoming varied perspectives of gendered experiences that are informed by social backgrounds such as religion, caste, ethnicity, sexuality, etc. Detailed report of the activities conducted in academic year 2022-23 is given below: -

SEMINARS

- **Student Seminar I**

Title : Critically Analyzing the US Supreme Court's decision on Affirmative Action

Date: July 5, 2023

Mode: Hybrid

Resource Persons: Shreeja Rao , Mehak Saraf (both III BA LLB)

No. of Participants: 32

Report: The decision given by the US Supreme Court in the case of Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard, which held race-based affirmative action in college admissions as unconstitutional and its companion case of Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina, which overruled past decisions validating affirmative action were explained and analyzed critically. The criticism relied on the dissenting opinion penned by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson in the latter case, and the general circumstances which necessitated affirmative action and make it necessary to this day, together with its application on the Indian social context.

- **Student Seminar II**

Title : Orientation

Date: July 15, 2023

Mode: Offline

Resource Persons: All Cell members

No. of Participants: 21

Report: The Cell members presented by means of a slide presentation the people composing the Cell, the purpose of the cell, its nature and roadmap, to introduce the Cell thoroughly to people interested. The roadmap also included informing about later activities like the article writing competition, held successfully later.

- **Student Seminar III**

Title : Marriage Equality– A Judgement Analysis [in collaboration with Centre for Public Laws]

Date: October 22, 2023

Mode: Online

Resource Person: Rajyawardhan Singh (IV BALLB)

No. of Participants: 108

Report: The cell collaborated by way of explaining in detail how the judgement recognized the tangible and intangible benefits that come by way of marriage, and highlighting thus why the recognition of queer marriages was essential to queer people.

- **Student Seminar IV**

Title : Understanding the Gender Glossary and Terminologies

Date: November 9, 2023

Mode: Online

Resource Persons: Swarali Doifode, Sejal Gawde, Shreeja Rao (all III BA LLB)

No. of Participants: 28

Report: The purpose of the session was to familiarize people with terminologies frequently used in discourse surrounding gender, in accordance with the Cell's purpose of increasing students' access to gender discourse.

- **Student Seminar V**

Title : Understanding Gender Dysphoria through the Legal Lens

Date: November 16, 2023

Mode: Online

Resource Persons: Anoushka Singh, Fatema Kothari (both IV BA LLB), Samyak Wankhede (III BA LLB)

No. of Participants: 34

Report: The session explained what gender dysphoria is, and then critically analyzed the existing legal regime in different countries including India which relates to people with gender dysphoria.

- **Student Seminar VI**

Title : Poetry Writing and Recital

Date: December 1, 2023

Mode: Offline

Resource Person: Mahek Saraf (III BA LLB)

No. of Participants: 14

Report: The purpose of the session was to tap into the literary talents of students, while also stimulating creation of art related to gender and related experiences. Students recited poetry they had written in the session. Through the discussions in the session on existing art, it was also concluded that there tended to be a lack of art related to the specific experiences of transgender people in the literary scene.

- **Student Seminar VII**

Title : Gender Wage Gap

Date: April 19, 2024

Mode: Online

Resource Persons: Mahek Saraf and Zainul Abideen Khan (both III BA LLB)

No. of Participants: 10

Report: The session expounded on statistics of wage differences between men and the marginalized genders, along with differences in access to various resources and facilities. It further considered the various reforms that have been floated by policy advocates and activists to ameliorate such differences.

GUEST LECTURE

Title : Lessons from the past for the future: Women's voices from the Bhakti Movement'

Date: March 12, 2023

Mode: Hybrid

Resource Person: Dr. Dev Kumar Ahire

No. of Participants: 90

Report: On the occasion of Women's Day Celebration, The Cell invited Dr. Dev Kumar Ahire, Assistant Professor at Savitribai Phule Pune University, to give a lecture on formative thought by women during the times of the Bhakti movement. Dr. Ahire showed how their insights were reflective of not just the old struggles, but even contemporary struggles of the marginalized genders.