

**Gender Sensitization & Internal Complaints Committee  
Punjab and Haryana High Court  
Chandigarh**

**Annual Report-2016**

(As required under Rule 7(2)(iii) of the Gender Sensitization and Sexual Harassment of Women at the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2013).

Soon after enactment of Gender Sensitization and Sexual Harassment of Women at work places (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 by the Central Government, the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh framed **“Gender Sensitization & Sexual Harassment of Women at Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2013”** to implement the objectives of the Act.

As per Clause 4 of the above said Regulations, Gender Sensitization & Internal Complaints Committee was constituted under the orders of Hon'ble the Chief Justice on 11.02.2014. As regards the present constitution of the Committee, it runs as under:-

- *Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Daya Chaudhary, Chairperson.*
- *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Inderjit Singh.*
- *Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Lisa Gill.*
- *Mr. R.S. Cheema, Senior Advocate.*
- *Registrar (Vigilance).*
- *Ms. Alka Chatrath, Advocate.*
- *Joint Secretary, High Court Bar Association.*
- *Mrs. Rajesh Gill, Chairperson, Department of Sociology, Panjab University.*
- *Mrs. Rattan Kaur, Joint Registrar, Punjab & Haryana High Court, Member Secretary, GSICC.*

The significant and foremost objective of the Committee  
ibid is to sensitize the public about the gender issues; to

provide protection to women at workplaces against sexual harassment and to preserve right to work with dignity. The Committee also aims to eliminate of all forms of discrimination against women and to undertake appropriate and effective measures for timely redressal of the complaints of sexual harassment of women in and around High Court premises i.e. court block, open ground, parking, old and new chamber blocks, libraries, canteens, bar-rooms, health center and or any other part of the premises under the control of the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive report since the inception of Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee by Punjab and Haryana High Court in the year 2014. Various activities undertaken by the Committee during the year 2016 and a preface to the activities/steps to be taken ahead in the year 2017 are being highlighted through this report.

In the year 2016, four meetings were convened by Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee:-

- ❖ *First on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.*
- ❖ *Second on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.*
- ❖ *Third on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.*
- ❖ *Fourth on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2016.*

In its meeting held on 06.04.2016, Hon'ble members of the Committee finalized the Logo of the Committee. By using this logo 'Display Boards' giving information about Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee were got prepared and affixed at prominent places in the premises of this Court viz. High Court Main Building, High Court Extension Sector-17, Building including RKG Branch and Judicial Archives Building, Industrial Area-II, Chandigarh.

The second meeting of the said Committee was held on 27.04.2016, which was a day of interactive session with Volunteers. Volunteers from the Bar and the Office participated

and interacted on the issues to be taken up by the Committee.

On 18.10.2016 in the third meeting of the Committee, list of 25 volunteers to help achieve the objectives of Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee was prepared and approved. 15 Advocates practicing in Punjab and Haryana High Court and 10 officers/officials from the office side have been associated with the Committee. A detailed discussion relating to objectives and role of Committee, future course of action containing suggestions for constitution of Sub Committee was held. Hon'ble Chairperson and Mrs. Rajesh Gill, Chairperson, Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh addressed the volunteers and discussed various aspects about gender sensitization. The volunteers were made to understand the term 'Sexual Assault' and were apprised about the ways and means to check this menace and help the 'Aggrieved Woman' by all possible means.

The Committee also deliberated upon the preparation of Table Calendars with the theme of 'Gender Equality', 500 table calendars were got printed for the year 2017, which have since been distributed amongst all the Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Judges of this Court; District and Sessions Judges in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh; Advocate General, Punjab and Haryana, volunteers and amongst all the officers of this Court upto the rank of Joint Registrar.

The issue of increase of number of toilets (Female) in the High Court premises is also under active consideration of the Committee. Space for additional toilets (Female) has been identified without compromising with heritage structure of the High Court building. Drawings have been approved and rough cost estimate is being prepared by the Engineering Department, U.T. Chandigarh. Soon, thereafter the construction work would start and more ladies toilets would

come up which would definitely increase the sanitation and would be an added facility for women.

The work regarding printing of 'Display Boards' containing information about existence of Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee in the High Court in vernacular i.e. Punjabi/Hindi is also under the hammer. These boards would be for the knowledge of the rural folk, which throngs this Court daily.

#### **INTERNAL SUB-COMMITTEE:-**

Another matter to be taken up for consideration this year is Constitution of Internal Sub-Committee as per Regulation 9 of Gender Sensitization and Sexual Harassment of Women at Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations-2013 for quick disposal of the complaints with regard to sexual harassment of women, if so received.

#### **SENSITIZATION AND PUBLICITY:-**

A Sub-Committee headed by Registrar (Vigilance) of this Court has been constituted to chalk out the modalities to hold a Conference of Judicial Officers at Chandigarh Judicial Academy in the month of October/November, 2017 to sensitize the Judicial Officers about the gender issues and make them aware about the ways and means to settle the same.

The information qua constitution of GSICC, its members, their office addresse(s) and telephone number(s) has also been uploaded on the official website of this Court i.e. [www.highcourtchd.gov.in](http://www.highcourtchd.gov.in) of this Court.

#### **FINANCIAL ISSUES:-**

As regards the financial requirements for meeting out the expenses on various activities of the Committee; expenditure

is being meted out of head "2014-Administration of Justice-102-High Courts"- 'Office Expenses'.

Last but not the least, I extend my sincere thanks to all the members of the Committee, who spared their valuable time to attend the meeting(s) and for giving concrete suggestions to make every meeting a success.

At the end, I would like to conclude the report on a happy note that till date no complaint of any sort i.e. oral/written about sexual harassment in and around the premises of the High Court has been received. However, efforts are afoot to provide congenial and safe environment to the women employees, Advocates, litigants and labourers etc. working in and around High Court premises.



(Daya Chaudhary)

Judge

Chairperson, GSICC

Punjab & Haryana High Court  
Chandigarh

Dated:

12/9/2017