

# **HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH**

## **Gender Sensitization & Internal Complaints Committee**

### **ANNUAL REPORT-2023**

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has constituted **Gender Sensitization & Internal Complaints Committee**, for Gender Sensitization and redressal of grievances against sexual harassment in precincts of this Court in terms of **The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**. Besides addressing any incident of sexual harassment, the committee is continuously on its path to safeguard the constitutional and legal rights of women in the High Court precincts.

The Committee has taken various initiatives since its inception in the year 2014 for gender awareness and sensitization in the society regarding rights of women at workplace. The Committee believes that introducing Gender Sensitization and legal awareness is *sine qua non* to inculcate the values of equality essential for creating a healthy and safe environment which ensures maximum output and efficiency while ensuring an atmosphere which is conducive for wholesome growth/development of all.

**Composition of the Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee of this Court** is as follows:-

1. Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Lisa Gill, (Chairperson).
2. Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Manjari Nehru Kaul
3. Hon'ble Ms. Justice Nidhi Gupta
4. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Vashisth
5. Registrar (Vigilance), Punjab and Haryana High Court.

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6. Mr. R.S. Cheema, Senior Advocate
7. Ms. Alka Chatrath, Advocate.
8. Joint Secretary, High Court Bar Association
9. Prof. Madhurima Verma, Department of Sociology, USOL, Panjab University, Chandigarh
10. Mrs. Vijay Nijhawan, Deputy Registrar (Vigilance), Punjab and Haryana High Court (Member Secretary)
11. Mrs. Prabha Rawat, Senior Assistant, Executive Member, Punjab and Haryana High Court Employee's Welfare Association.

During the year 2022-2023, no complaint relating to gender issue has been received.

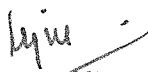
The committee has installed 10 (ten) automatic Sanitary Vending Machines in the premises of this Court to ensure proper hygiene, health and easy access thereto for the womenfolk viz. Employees, lawyers and litigants thronging this Court.

Besides this, the Committee has initiated the matter with regard to **installation of Sanitary Napkin Vending Machin(es), Creches for the kids of Employees and Advocates and separate ladies washroom with complete facilities for female employees, Advocates and Litigants, in all the District Courts in the State(s) of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh** to protect the dignity and to provide decent & comfortable atmosphere in all Judicial Court Complexes. The Committee is sanguine that this matter is likely to attain finality soon, which would be a step ahead towards women empowerment.

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Following the yesteryears, this year also 550 **Table Calendars-2024** on behalf of Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee have been got published and distributed amongst Hon'ble Judges in Supreme Court, Hon'ble Judges of this High Court, all the Hon'ble High Courts, all the District and Sessions Judges in the State(s) of Punjab, Haryana and U.T., Chandigarh and all members of the Hon'ble Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee.

Last but not the least, the **Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee** is hopeful that programmes for gender sensitization, organized from time to time shall be successful in cracking gender stereotypes, promote objective and rational thinking in this regard and help every one to collectively move towards society, which is free from gender bias.

  
**(Lisa Gill)**  
**Judge, Chairperson**  
**GSICC**  
**Punjab and Haryana**  
**High Court, Chandigarh**