

## ANNUAL REPORT, GSICC 2017

[Under Rule 7(2)(iii) of the Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2013]

The Supreme Court Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee (for short 'GSICC') was constituted by the then Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India vide Office Order No. 277 of 2013 dated 26.11.2013. Vide Order of the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India dated 28.7.2017 the Committee was reconstituted with the following composition:-

<i>Hon'ble Mrs. Justice R. Banumathi Supreme Court of India</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>
<i>Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar Supreme Court of India</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mrs. Seema Rani Dua, Additional Registrar (Officer in service of the Supreme Court of India)</i>	<i>Member-Secretary</i>
<i>Ms. Indu Malhotra, Senior Advocate (Senior Member of the Supreme Court Bar)</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Madhu Chauhan [Representative of Supreme Court Bar Clerks' Association under Clause 4(2)(e)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Bharti Ali, Co-Director, HAQ : Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi [Nominee of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India under Clause 4(2)(f)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Prof.(Dr.) G. Mohan Gopal, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, New Delhi [Nominee of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India under Clause 4(2)(h)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mr. P.P. Malhotra, Senior Advocate and Former Additional Solicitor General (Senior Member of the Supreme Court Bar Association) [Nominee of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India under Clause 4(2)(h)]</i>	<i>Member</i>

Further vide Order of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India dated 27.11.2017 the Committee was again reconstituted with the following composition:-

<i>Hon'ble Mrs. Justice R. Banumathi</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>
<i>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mrs. Seema Rani Dua, Additional Registrar (Officer in service of the Supreme Court of India)</i>	<i>Member-Secretary</i>
<i>Ms. Priyanka S. Mathur, Advocate (Representative of the Supreme Court Bar Association under Clause 4(2)(c))</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mr. F. I. Choudhury, Advocate [Representative of the Supreme Court Bar Association under Clause 4(2)(c)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Anushree Prashit Kapadia, Advocate [Representative of Supreme Court Advocate- on-Record Association under Clause 4(2)(d)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Madhu Chauhan [Representative of Supreme Court Bar Clerks' Association under Clause 4(2)(e)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mr. P.P. Malhotra, Senior Advocate and Former Additional Solicitor General (Senior Member of the Supreme Court Bar Association) [Nominee of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India under Clause 4(2)(h)]</i>	<i>Member</i>

The Committee has now been again reconstituted by the Hon. Chief Justice of India vide order dated 19.12.2017 with the following composition.

<i>Hon'ble Mrs. Justice R. Banumathi</i> <i>Chairperson</i>
<i>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta</i> <i>Member</i>
<i>Mrs. Seema Rani Dua, Additional Registrar</i> <i>Member-Secretary</i> <i>(Officer in service of the Supreme Court of India)</i>

<i>Ms. V. Mohana, Senior Advocate [Senior Member of the Supreme Court Bar under Clause 4(2)(b)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Priyanka S. Mathur, Advocate (Representative of the Supreme Court Bar Association under Clause 4(2)(c))</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mr. F. I. Choudhury, Advocate [Representative of the Supreme Court Bar Association under Clause 4(2)(c)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Anushree Prashit Kapadia, Advocate [Representative of Supreme Court Advocate- on-Record Association under Clause 4(2)(d)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Madhu Chauhan [Representative of Supreme Court Bar Clerks' Association under Clause 4(2)(e)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Abha Singal Joshi, Former Director, Multiple Action Research Group [Nominee of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India under Clause 4(2)(f)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mr. P.P. Malhotra, Senior Advocate and Former Additional Solicitor General (Senior Member of the Supreme Court Bar Association) [Nominee of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India under Clause 4(2)(h)]</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Prof. (Dr.) Mrinal Satish, Professor, National Law University [Nominee of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India under Clause 4(2)(h)]</i>	<i>Member</i>

In the year 2017, the GSICC convened four meetings on the following dates:

- 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2017,
- 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2017
- 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2017,
- 05<sup>th</sup> December, 2017,

### **COMPLAINTS AND INTERNAL SUB-COMMITTEE:-**

Inquiry into the complaint filed in the year 2016 was under process and the same has been concluded

One complaint was received by the GSICC from aggrieved woman within the precincts of Supreme Court of India which has been disposed of.

### **VOLUNTEERS:-**

During the year 2017 the following meetings of the volunteers were held for the awareness programmes to discuss other allied and cognate issues.

### **MEETINGS OF THE VOLUNTEERS OF GSICC**

A. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017 a meeting was held to get the feedback of the programme organised on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 (Being Women's Day). Volunteers were appreciated for collecting the audience.

B. On 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 a meeting was held in Registrar's Court No. 2.

C. On 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 a meeting was held in Court No. 15, Supreme Court of India attended by Ms. Seema Dua, Member Secretary, Ms. Nisha Bagchi, Dr. Ritu Bhardwaj, Ms. Priyanka Mathur, Ms. Reena Singh, Ms. CharuWaliKhanna, Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Mr. Sachin Das, Mr. Azim Hussain Laskar and Mr. Mithilesh Kumar Singh to discuss the proposed programmes to be organized in the months of September and October, 2017 for the employees of the Registry of Supreme Court of India and Clerks of Advocates. Volunteers were requested to give their suggestions for bringing awareness among the staff of the Registry and Clerks of the Advocates.

D. On 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, a meeting was held in Court No. 15, attended by Ms. Seema Dua, Member Secretary, Ms. Madhu Chauhan, Ms. Prerna Kumari, Ms. Kumud Lata Das and Mr. Vibhu Shankar Mishra, to discuss the Awareness Programme on the Gender Sensitization for the Clerks of the Advocates in the Supreme Court of India to be held on 06.10.2017. The volunteers gave their suggestions to make the programme more successful and informative. Ms. Kumud Lata Das, proposed two names of singers i.e. Ms. Rachna & Ms. Sushma Manchanda. It was suggested by the volunteers to re-institute the list of volunteers.

E. On 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 a meeting was held in Court No. 15, attended by Ms. Seema Dua, Member Secretary, Ms. Nisha Bagchi, Ms. Prerna Kumari, Ms. Priyanka Mathur, Ms. CharuWaliKhanna,

Mr. Vibhu Shankar Mishra, Mr. Divyanshu Goyal, and Mr. A. Radha Krishanan-volunteers to discuss about organising Open Discussion Programmes for

the Staff of the Supreme Court of India and for the Advocates. It was decided to organize an awareness programme on 01.12.2017 in Room No. 101 (Scanning Cell, New Building Annexe) at 1.15 PM headed by Ms. Charuwali Khanna, Ms. Priyanka Mathur and Mr. Divyanshu Goyal (Volunteers).

It was also decided to organize an awareness programme for the Advocates in Ladies Bar Room on 07.12.2017 headed by Ms. Nisha Bagchi, Volunteer of GSICC and she took the responsibility for sending sms to all the members of the Bar regarding the awareness programme.

#### **SENSITISATION AND PUBLICITY:-**

GSICC conducted following Awareness Programmes to sensitise on the issue of sexual harassment in the precincts of the Supreme Court of India:

A. On 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 (Being the International Women's Day) a programme on 'Gender Justice' was organised in the auditorium of the Indian Society of International Law, V.K. Krishna Memon Bhawan, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi. The programme was presided over by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Misra, the then senior most judge of this Hon'ble Court. The programme consisted of:

- i. Welcome address by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice R. Banumathi, Chairperson GSICC.
- ii. Presentation of song
- iii. Speech by Prof. (Dr.) G. Mohan Gopal
- iv. Speech by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra.
- v. Speech by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India.
- vi. Vote of thanks by the then Member Secretary

The theme of the programme was duly conveyed through the speeches and song which were very informative and well appreciated by one and all. The programme was compered by Ms. Ritu Bhardwaj.

**A.** On 08<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, another Awareness Programme was organized in the Bar Lounge, Ground Floor, Supreme Court of India, for the Supreme Court Staff. Ms. V. Mohana and Ms. Meenakshi Arora delivered the speeches on the theme which was elucidative and included new ideas. Ms. Kumud Lata Das addressed the gathering. Songs were also sung by the employees of the Registry of the Supreme Court of India. The programme was ended with Vote of Thanks by Ms. Seema Dua, Member Secretary. The Programme was attended by more than 100 persons. The programme was very informative on the issue of sexual harassment at workplace and the need of GSICC. The song on the theme was highly appreciated by the audience. Feedbackforms were also given to the audience and good response was received.

**B.** On 06<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, one more Awareness Programme was organized for the Advocate's Clerks in the Bar Lounge, Ground Floor, Supreme Court of India. Gathering was addressed by Ms. Nandini Gore. Two songs on the theme were sung by Ms. Sushma Manchanda and Ms. Rachana Gandhi. Advocates. Ms. V. Mohana and Dr. Bharti Ali delivered the speeches, followed by Vote of Thanks by Ms. Madhu Chauhan. The Programme was attended by more than 100 persons. The programme and the song were very informative and appreciated by the audience.

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION PROGRAMME:-**

GSICC conducted following Open Discussion Programmes to sensitise on the issue of sexual harassment in the precincts of the Supreme Court of India.

**A.** on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 Open Discussion Programme for the Supreme Court Staff was organized at 1:15 P.M. in the Scanning Cell, Room No. 101 (New Building Annexee). Ms. Seema Dua, Member Secretary, Ms. Kumud Lata Das, Dr. Ritu Bhardwaj, Ms. Priyanka Mathur, Ms. Reena Singh, Ms. Jessy Kurian, Ms. CharuWali Khanna, Ms. Anushree Prashit Kapadia, and Mr. Divyanshu Goel-volunteers attended the discussion.

The Open Discussion Programme was attended by more than 100 persons and it was very greatful dicussion session in which some persons raised their queries which were duly answered by the volunteers. Some persons shared their experiences also. The Voluntees gave information about the Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Commitee and explained the participants how to approach the Committee for making any complaint related to the subject of GSICC.

**B.** On 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 Open Discussion Programme for the Advocates was organized at 1:15 P.M. in the Ladies Bar Room, Supreme Court of India. Ms. Seema Dua, Member Secretary, Ms. Nisha Bagchi, Ms. Sunita Hazarika, Ms. Purna Kumari, Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Dr. Ritu Bhardwaj, Ms. Priyanka Mathur, Ms. B. Sunita Rao, Sr. Jessy Kurian, Ms. CharuWaliKhanna, and Ms. Anushree Prashit Kapadia – volunteers attended the programme.

The Open Discussion Programme was attended by more than 100 persons. Participants were informed where and how to approach the GSICC Committee Members in case they face any problem related to sexual harassment within the premises of Supreme Court. There were differences of opinion among the participants regarding the anonymous complaints. It was decided to discuss the said issue in detail in a separate meeting.

It is mentioned that Seema Dua has assumed the charge of New Member Secretary on 28.07.2017.

**FINANCIAL ISSUES:-**

Hon'ble the then Chief Justice of India vide order dated 31.1.2017 sanctioned the budget of Rs 2,50,000/- (Rupees two lakhs and fifty thousand only) for effective implementation of the GSICC Regulations. The following expenses from the said budgetary allocation were incurred by the GSICC in organizing various programmes :

<b>Date</b>	<b>Expenses Incurred (Rs.)</b>
08.03.2017	51,222/-
08.09.2017	1662/-
06.10.2017	1670/-
01.12.2017 & 07.12.2017	2700/-
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,254/-</b>

Regulation 7(2)(ii) of the GSICC obligates that the GSICC will organize programmes for the Gender Sensitisation of the Supreme Court community through workshops, seminars, posters, film shows, debates, displays etc. The GSICC proposes to conduct seminars and workshops to further the aim and object of the “The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013” with “The

Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal), Regulations, 2013”.

Therefore, a budgetary provision of Rs.2,50,000/- may be made and accorded for the calendar year 2018.

(Seema Dua)  
Member Secretary, GSICC