

ANNUAL REPORT, GSICC 2016

[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 Chief Justice of India vide Office Order No. 277 of 2013 dated 26.11.2013. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant, Mr. L. Nageswara Rao, Senior Advocate (as His Lordship then was), Ms. B. Sunita Rao, Advocate, served as Hon'ble Members till 29.10.2016, 13.05.2016 and 19.05.2016 respectively. The Committee has been reconstituted by the then Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India vide order dated 20.10.2016 with the following composition.

<i>Hon'ble Smt. 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>Ms. Nisha Bhardwaj, Registrar</i>	<i>Member Secretary</i>
<i>Ms. Indu Malhotra, Senior Member of Supreme Court Bar Association</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Mahalakshmi Pavani, Senior Advocate (Representative of Supreme Court Bar Association)</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. V. Mohana, Advocate (Representative of Supreme Court Bar Association)</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Jyotika Kalra, Representative of Supreme Court Advocate-on-Record Association</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Madhu Chauhan, Representative of Supreme Court Clerks' Association</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mr. P.P. Malhotra, Senior Member of the Supreme Court Bar Association</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Ms. Bharti Ali, Co-Director, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights New Delhi,</i>	<i>Member (nominated by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India) under clause 4(2)(f) of the Regulations</i>

Prof. (Dr.) G. Mohan Gopal, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, New Delhi,

Member (nominated by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India) under clause 4(2)(h) of the Regulations.

In the year 2016, the GSICC convened three meetings on:

- 15th March, 2016;
- 12th July, 2016; and
- 20th September, 2016.

COMPLAINTS AND INTERNAL SUB-COMMITTEE:-

Three complaints were received by the GSICC from aggrieved women within the precincts of Supreme Court of India. One complaint filed by an employee of the Registry of the Supreme Court of India was held as not maintainable. Inquiry into the other complaints is under process.

VOLUNTEERS:

The volunteers met on several occasions during the currency of the year in order to organize the Awareness Programme and discuss other allied and cognate issues. The following meetings were held:

MEETINGS OF THE VOLUNTEERS OF GSICC

- A. A meeting to discuss the proposed GSICC Handbook was held in the Chambers of the Member Secretary, on 2nd February, 2016. The Meeting was attended by Ms. Bharti Ali, Prof. (Dr.) G. Mohan Gopal, Mr. Radhakrishnan and Ms. Nisha Bagchi. The concept, layout and suggested inclusions in the Handbook were discussed.
- B. On 26th February, 2016, a meeting was held in the Committee Hall, Supreme Court of India, attended by Ms. Nisha Bhardwaj, Member Secretary, Mr. Radhakrishnan, Ms. Ritu Bhardwaj, Ms. Nisha Bagchi and Ms. Priyanka Sardana, to discuss the proposed GSICC Handbook and proposed a Gender Sensitisation workshop for the employees of the Registry of the Supreme Court of India.

- C. On 10th May, 2016, a meeting was held in the Registrar Court No.1 of the Supreme Court of India and attended by Ms. Nisha Bhardwaj, Member Secretary, Mr. Radhakrishnan, Ms. Ritu Bhardwaj, Ms. Nisha Bagchi, Ms. Sumita Hazarika, Ms. Kumud Lata Das, Ms. Prerna Kumari, Ms. Priyanka Mathur and Mr. Jagjit Singh Chhabra to discuss the suggestions and to work out the modalities for the function to be organized to launch the GSICC Handbook. During the meeting, an appropriate song befitting the function was identified and Nukkad Natak was also proposed to be performed.
- D. On 8th July, 2016, a meeting was held in the Committee Hall, Supreme Court of India, which was attended by Ms. Nisha Bhardwaj, Member Secretary, Mr. Radhakrishnan, Ms. Ritu Bhardwaj, Ms. Nisha Bagchi, Ms. Kumud Lata Das, Ms. Priyanka Mathur and Ms. Prerna Kumari to discuss various suggestions regarding the GSICC Handbook. The volunteers were also requested to give suggestions for the cover page design of the GSICC Handbook.
- E. On 29th August, 2016, a meeting was held in the chamber of the Member Secretary which was attended by Ms. Nisha Bhardwaj, Member Secretary, Ms. Ritu Bhardwaj, Ms. Sumita Hazarika, Ms. Prerna Kumari and Ms. Priyanka Mathur. During the meeting, issues relating to songs, speeches and skit for the functions were discussed.
- F. On 2nd September, 2016, a meeting was held in the chamber of the Member Secretary which was attended by Ms. Nisha Bhardwaj, Member Secretary, Ms. Ritu Bhardwaj, Ms. Sumita Hazarika and Ms. Prerna Kumari to discuss the renewal of the list of volunteers and issues relating to preparation of the next function.

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 4th February, 2016, the first episode of the Open Discussion series of the GSICC was held in Library-II in the Supreme Court precincts. A number of volunteers attended

the discussion. Ms. Indu Malhotra and Ms. Meenakshi Arora, Senior Advocates, addressed on the occasion. Mr. Ajit Sinha, Vice President, SCBA, and Mr. Gaurav Bhatia, Secretary, SCBA, also attended the discussion. Mr. Sinha welcomed the efforts made by the GSICC and extended support of the SCBA in this venture. Ms. Sunita Rao, Advocate, delivered the Vote of Thanks.

B. On 12th May, 2016, the second episode of the Open Discussion series of the GSICC was held in the New Bar Lounge in the Supreme Court precincts. The Centre for Health and Social Justice, an NGO, conducted an interactive sensitisation programme and screened a short film relating to Sensitisation in a generalised sense from the Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT) archives. Ms. Mohana, Senior Advocate, gave the Vote of Thanks.

C. On 10th August, 2016, the GSICC Handbook was released by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India at the function held in the New Bar Lounge in the Supreme Court precincts. The programme consisted of :

- i. Nukkad Natak by Jamghat
- ii. Two songs by employees of the Supreme Court Registry.

Posters drawn by school children and appropriate to the theme of providing a positive environment for women colleagues were put up to convey the message of the GSICC. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, the Hon'ble Chairperson of GSICC and Prof. (Dr.) G. Mohan Gopal addressed the audience. The Handbook was formally released by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India.

The Handbook on “The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013” with “The Gender Sensitisation & Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal), Regulations, 2013” and relevant provisions of the Constitution of India and Indian Penal Code”, released by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India is a ready reckoner to an aggrieved woman subjected to Sexual Harassment at Workplace.

The copies of the Handbook were sent to:-

1. Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India
2. Members of the GSICC
3. Law Officers
4. Supreme Court Bar Association
5. Supreme Court Advocate on Record Association
6. High Courts
7. State Legal Service Authorities
5. Judicial Academies
6. All Sections of the Registry of the Supreme Court of India
7. National Commission for Women
8. Ms. Maneka Gandhi, Hon'ble Minister of Women & Child Development
9. Ms. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs
10. National Human Rights Commission
11. Ms. Madhu Mehra, Director, Partners for Law in Development
12. Commissioner of Police, Delhi

The theme of the programme was duly conveyed through street play and songs. The function was also attended by the Law Officers, Executive Member of the Bar Association, Advocates and officers and members of the Registry of the Supreme Court of India.

- D. On 19th September, 2016, an Awareness programme was held for the Advocates' Clerks in the Apollo Medical Care Waiting Room. Ms. Meenakshi Arora, Senior Advocate, and Ms. Rachna Sharma, Representative of Partners for Law in Development, NGO, addressed the gathering. Songs were also sung by Ms. Rachna Gandhi, Advocate and the employees of the Registry of the Supreme Court of India.
- E. On 23rd November, 2016, an awareness programme was organized for lawyers in the New Bar Lounge. Gathering was addressed by Ms. V. Mohana, Sr. Advocate and Mr. Gaurav Bhatia, Hony. Secretary, SCBA, followed by Vote of Thanks by Ms. Jyotika Kalra, Advocate. Short skit and a song on the theme was played and sung by a group of female lawyers.

The Guidelines "Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment of Women at Supreme Court (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Guidelines, 2015, were approved in the Meeting dated 15th March, 2016, and were duly gazetted as also uploaded on the website of the Supreme Court of India.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India vide order dated 12th January, 2016, sanctioned the budget of Rs. 3,60,000/ (Rupees three lakhs sixty 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:

<u>Seminar & Date</u>	<u>Expenses incurred</u>
04.02.2016	No expenses
12.05.2016	No expenses
10.08.2016	30,488/-
19.09.2016	1,128/-
23.11.2015	1,025/-
Printing of Invitation Cards & Handbooks	29,006/-
<u>Total</u>	<u>61,647/-</u>

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 & 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 2017.

Sd/-
Nisha Bhardwaj
Member Secretary, GSICC
Supreme Court of India
23rd January, 2017