

# Human Rights Committee 2019

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## IMPACT ANALYSIS REPORT



MARCH 9

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# Committee AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- The committee endeavors to promote sensitization and educate students on various aspects and issues relating to human rights. The major events to be organized in the academic year 2018-2019 are seminars, education awareness drives, guest lectures and workshops, work alongside various other committees of School of Law, Christ (Deemed to be University) wherein active participation from students, the academia and other eminent personalities would be solicited. The purpose of such events is to sensitize the students and enable them to think from the human rights perspective.
- The committee focuses on organizing various programs in association with academics and eminent personalities who have diverse substantial experience in working on areas related to human rights.
- We also wish to promote collaborations with various committees to organize workshops, seminars and other events. We wish to promote publications and research on topics related to Human Rights and other Collaborating Committees.
- Along with this we also intend to secure ties with our participants, resource persons & NGOs so as to provide a platform to our students to interact, intern and learn the workings of human rights and its related discourse in various quarters (e.g., state agencies, NGOs, academia.) Furthermore, informing and educating the students who aim at further studies in the field of Public International Law and International Human Rights, with its various

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branches, is another ambition of the Committee.

- The committee also aims to endeavor to establish a Human Rights Law Journal, School of Law, Christ (Deemed to be University) which aims to call for papers, articles and case commentaries and other forms of literature from lawyers, academicians, and law students. This intends to create a platform for students from School of Law, Christ (Deemed to be University), as well as other universities to engage in conversations regarding human rights.
- The committee this year aims to host a National Policy Drafting Competition in Association with the Public Policy and Governance Committee in any contemporary issue of Human Rights such as Legislations governing Marital Rape in India. The competition shall aim towards participation of law students from all over the country and serve as a platform to engage in active conversation regarding human right violations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- The committee shall endeavor to improve fact-finding and research skills of the core committee members by conducting workshops in association with the Gender Studies Committee where students will be training in fact finding and sample collection and other research related skills.

***“ The committee endeavors to promote sensitization and educate students on various aspects and issues relating to human rights”***

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# **Committee Events**

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# Guest Lecture

**Proposal:** The purpose of this event is to sensitize the student body towards the intricacies of current petition before the Supreme Court of India on the Constitutionality of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code and to attract them towards the human rights movement.

**Target Audience:** All First-Years students of School of Law, Christ (Deemed to be University) and other interested students from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year of School of Law, Christ.

## **Impact:**

The theme for the Guest Lecture was '**Challenging Humanity on the basis of Gender Identity: Section 377, IPC**'. The event was graced by the presence of eminent personalities, having significant and impactful careers in Human Rights Lawyering with specifics in LGBTQ Rights- **Prof.(Dr) Sarasu Esther Thomas, Professor of Law at NLSIU and Mr.Arvind Narrain, Founding member of Alternative Law Forum.**

Mr. Narrain gave useful insights into the journey of Section 377 and sketched its context in the Indian Scenario. He enlightened the students on the fact that the 'Heart of the Constitutional Order' as envisaged by the Constituent Assembly is Constitutional Morality which roots for social inclusivity. Further, Mr. Narrain analysed the same in the light of the Puttaswamy Judgement and described 'heterogeneity' as integral to the 'Right to Privacy' while, privacy is integral to an individual's self-actualization. He put forth concepts of 'Right to intimate choice', 'right to love' and explained the dissenting views, thus providing a bird's eye view to the issue.

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Such an insightful lecture was followed by Prof. (Dr.) Sarasu Esther Thomas' lecture. She analysed the set motion in the context of Family Laws, its impact on international events such as the Olympics and family structures. Prof. (Dr.) Sarasu further stirred the interest of the students by providing contemporary impacts of the anticipated Sec.377 judgement. She explained how it would not only do away with Section 377's atrocities but also lay down the doctrine of non-discrimination and equality. She concluded the lecture by stating that after the said judgement, the world wouldn't change dramatically but will sure be a step towards equality. This positively triggered the students to question the enormous amounts of insight they had received through a fruitful round of discussion.

Venue: Sky View, Central Block, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor

Day and Date: Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Time: 1:50 – 3:30 pm

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# Human Rights Week 2019

**Proposal:** The flagship event of the committee is the – Human Rights Week. It consists of week-long activities, inviting different perspectives, gaining momentum towards the celebration of the International Human Rights Day i.e. 10th December. The Human Rights week aims to disseminate information and awareness on human rights issues that dilapidate our world in general, and affect our domestic environment in specific. Amidst turmoil and human rights violation, the Human Rights Week 2018 is a modest celebration to the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Day 1 (7th December, 2018) – **Guest Lecture on ‘Human Rights Lawyering’**

Day 2 (8th December, 2018) – Paperless Moot Court Competition **for the on a contemporary Human Rights issue.**

Day 3 (10th December, 2018)- International Human Rights Day- Oath taking Ceremony **and release of topic for** Policy Drafting Competition

Day 4 (11th December, 2018)- Movie Screening **on a contemporary Human Rights issue.**

Day 5 (12th December, 2018) – Parliamentary Debate

**Impact:**

## DAY 1:

With a view to feed the eager minds of young, budding lawyers a Guest Lecture on ‘**Human Rights Lawyering**’ was organized.

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As the era of the legal intelligentsia begins, it becomes imperative to understand the significance of Human Rights lawyering.

To ensure that the Guest Lecture should have an

intuitive flare to it, [Adv. Jayna Kothari](#) (Senior Counsel, High Court of Karnataka and co-founder, Center for Law and policy Research) and [Adv. B.T Venkatesh](#) (Advocate, High Court of Karnataka, Advocate at Reach Law) were invited.

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*Both the speakers elaborated on and shared their experiences with the students which encouraged us to take it up as a Career – Shruti S. Kalkura (8 BBA LLB A)*

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The enlightening speeches by the inspiring speakers was followed by a fruitful interaction between the students and the speakers. Useful insights were

provided by the speakers on witness protection, court mannerisms and career prospects.

## Day 2:

**Proposal:** Flowing from the insights and ignited sparks of yesterday's guest lecture, the Human Rights Committee organized a Paperless Moot Court Competition. The main aim of this event was to capture the attention of the students in understanding the dynamics of the environment in which they live.

## **Impact:**



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From ensuring that the Moot Court Competition involved minimal use of papers to increase awareness about environmental pollution to articulating the moot problem on sedition laws and marginalized communities, the spirit of Human Rights lawyering was maintained. No memorial submission was required.

The event saw enthusiastic participation by students and quality arguments being advanced.

The competition served as a platform for a useful interaction between the student participants and student judges fueled by the difference in expertise.

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*The HRC Moot was a enriching opportunity for the first and second years of SLCU. It helped us to dive deep into the aspect of what constitutional law is, in relation to areas of Human Rights.*

*The laws of sedition provided us with an opportunity to contest on a law which is widely misused especially when imposed on college students of our age, with the motive to curb revolutionary vision. It provided us profound knowledge on the subject – Arjun Kamath ( 4 BBA LLB A)*

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### **Day 3:**

**Proposal:** Oath Taking Ceremony and Policy Drafting Competition

**Target Audience:** All students of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of BA.LLB and BBA.LLB were present in solidarity of the same.

For Policy Drafting, students of LLB, LLM and MAIS were invited.

### **Impact:**

The Human Rights Week is held in deference to the International Human Rights Day i.e. 10<sup>th</sup> December. It is part of the annual rituals at SLCU that on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, with a view to mark the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an Oath Taking Ceremony is organized for the law students.

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As the day progressed, the committee organized a 'Policy Drafting competition', with an aim to generate appetite among the LLB, LLM and MAIS students to provide useful solutions to the dilapidated world thronged with human rights violations. The theme for the event was 'Refugee Laws'

This competition aimed to critically analyse two separate advances of our government towards refugee protection.

- a) National initiatives of our Central and State governments on how to deal with the current Refugee Crisis in India.
- b) Implementation of UNHCR's guidelines on the issue and the incorporation of the same in our Policy framework.

Through this competition, we hoped to explore India's need to develop its own Refugee Protection Laws and Policy. The agenda of this competition was divided into two parts. The first issue investigated whether there exists arbitrariness in the legal status and entitlements of refugees in India due to inadequate ad hoc mechanisms. Participants considered the possibility of a contradiction with international standards set for humane and right-based treatment of refugees. Secondly, whether the enactment of national refugee law could solve the problems faced by refugees in our nation by striking a balance between refugee protection, security concerns, economic constraints and so on.

#### **Day 4:**

##### **Proposal: Movie Screening**

##### **Impact:**

As part of the committee's initiative for the Human Rights Week, Day 4 witnessed the screening of a movie.

This initiative aimed at stimulating the thought process of students by providing their eyes a vehicle to ascertain the gravity of contemporary human rights

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issues across the world. The film screening of the movie 'Hotel Rwanda' was conducted after college hours. It served twin-benefits of incentivizing students to watch as well as sensitize them on human rights violations.

The event was followed by a fruitful discourse and discussion on some key-points involved in the movie. The participants brought about diversity of opinions and perspectives, which stirred the Human rights sails with greater positive force.

### Day 5:

#### **Proposal:** The

Human Rights

Committee

collaborated with the

Debating and

Literary Society of

SLCU to organize a

British Parliamentary

Debate between students of SLCU and external speakers.

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*The debate hosted by HRC 2019 was a fruitful event! It was on vandalising monuments and it was an innovative yet urgent issue worth deliberating on. Both the teams- NLSIU and SLCU debaters argued with passion. The talk had a deep impact on us and made us ponder as to whether we really have the freedom of expression or is it a myth? – Karithika Nair (6 BA LLB A)*

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#### **Impact:**

The debate featured the following three motions:

- In the light of a possible Trump re-election THBT the Democrats in Texas and other Southern border states (ex: Beto O'Rourke) should explicitly support and endorse a moderate immigration policy, including a stricter stance on illegal immigration over the general mid-term campaign promises of the Democratic Party for the radical reform of immigration policy

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- THBT service providers should have the right to refuse to endorse a message they disagree with, even if it appears to discriminate on the basis of religion, race or sexual orientation
  - THS the active and intentional defacing/ vandalism of national monuments or other public structures as an act of protest against the human rights violations by the State.

Out of which, the 3<sup>rd</sup> motion received unanimity. The debate was met with great participation and interest from the audience. The various stakeholders identified in the debate included women, indigenous communities, constitution-makers, government, media groups, individual citizen, naxalites.