

# LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

The Literary and Debating Society of School of Law, Christ (Deemed to be University) ever since its inception has always followed certain core principles:

- ✚ Freedom of Speech and Expression;
  - ✚ Integrity of Individual spirit;
  - ✚ Nurturing Creativity;
  - ✚ Promotion of Discourse on pressing social issues;
  - ✚ Respect for your fellow person; and
  - ✚ Anyone who wants help shall get it
- POLICY** To develop debating skills amongst student community in order to inculcate skills for law making.

## OBJECTIVES

- ✚ To Promote the Importance of debating and argumentative skills amongst students
- ✚ To increase the scope of debates in application to major legal policy decisions
- ✚ To improve elocution, spontaneity and general speaking skills amongst students
- ✚ To increase participation of students in 3external and internal tournaments
- ✚ To analyse the fine nuances of various facets of literature.
- ✚ To revise and restore the art of reading with passion
- ✚ To increase Social and cultural awareness

## ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

### DEBATING PRIMER

The Literary and Debating conducted a primer for the students of the first year in an attempt to orient them in the format of Parliamentary Debate. The Primer was conducted by experienced senior debaters with a motion aimed that most students could relate to. The primer was conducted in the Asians Parliamentary format. The Debate saw Vishakha Raj, Vignesh Shanmugham and Harsha Srinivas on Government and Pranav Kamnani, Parineeta Khare and Vetha Philos on Opposition.

### INTERNAL RANKING ROUNDS

The Literary and Debating Society conducts Internal Ranking Rounds for both Speakers and Adjudicators in order to participate in external debate tournaments. The rounds were spread across two days with one day for Speaking rounds and the other for Adjudication with the rounds being judged by external experienced judges. The rounds for the Speakers required sets of two to give a Prime Minister and Leader of opposition Speech. The Adjudication rounds proceeded with a demo debate being conducted in front of all the adjudicators and the adjudicators subsequently giving their verdict and feedback to the judges. The Ranking Rounds saw significant participation from all five years of law with especially enthusiastic participation from the first years.

### DEBATING PREMIER LEAGUE

The Debate Premier League is an annual internal debate tournament conducted by the Literary and Debating Society in order to promote debating within the student community. The tournament is conducted in an Asians Parliamentary format with the tournament policy requiring every team to compulsorily have a novice debater or a first year law student in order to ensure that an opportunity is given to all students to experience debate. The Tournament proceeded with four preliminary rounds and three out-rounds including Quarters, Semi-finals and Finals.



## PRACTICE DEBATES

The Literary and Debating Society's most important role within the student community of School of Law has been to introduce and orient students to the art of Parliamentary debating and public speaking in general. The aim has been to ensure that the student community is not limited by their inhibitions in speaking and expressing themselves as individuals. This is done through organizing regular debate practice sessions on a weekly basis. The practice session starts with an introduction to parliamentary debate and general

tips for speaking for the uninitiated.

The practice sessions would alternate between the Asian (3x3) and the British (2x4) format according to upcoming external debates. The society has always tried to accommodate people and have even conducted sessions where first time debaters are paired with experienced debaters. The speeches are followed by extended constructive feedback given to the speakers from the adjudicators.

The sessions usually take place after class hours and are conducted in class rooms; however the practice debates have been conducted in the outdoors as well in places such as Fresheteria, Nandini Kiosk and Basket Ball Courts. This is keeping with the core ideology of the Society which is how debate is meant for everyone everywhere.

## FILM SCREENING

The Literary and Debating Society of School of Law, Christ kick-started its host of literary activities with a screening of the critically acclaimed English language film, 'Get Out'. The film which won the Academy Award for Best Screenplay in 2017, directed by Jordan Peele, dealt with the concept and understanding (or lack thereof) of racism in contemporary American



society in one part social commentary, half part thriller balanced with sprinkles of comic relief.

The film screening that ended with resounding applause was followed by a discussion on the film, the social context in which it is set and why 'Get Out' is probably one of the most important films of our times. The discussion was moderated by Vignesh Shanmugham of 5thYear BA LLB 'C'. The discussion started by analyzing as to what constituted the classical tropes of a thriller or a horror and whether on applying these tropes to 'Get Out' one could strictly label it to be a part of a specific genre such as thriller/horror or if one could say that it transcends genre specifications.

The second and most hotly contested part of the discussion was with regard to racism, certain participants were of the opinion that it showcased explicit racism, while others were of the opinion that it was more subtle. There were opinions ranging from how the film was not about racism at all to how it isn't restricted to racism but is an example of 'promulgation of oppression' and drew parallels to colonialism.



## WRITER'S ANONYMOUS

The Literary and Debating Society conducted a Writer's Anonymous meeting on Tuesday, 11th September, 2018. The Society had encouraged students to submit

entries to be discussed to the official email or to submit it on the spot to a single member of the Society, folded and without any indication of the author's identity. The meeting was moderated by Sruthi, a second year MAIS student who is an accomplished writer with an impressive list of publications in periodicals and newspapers such as The Hindu among others.

The meeting proceeded in the following manner; the moderator would pick the folded entries and distribute it at random amongst the participants and ask them to individually read out the work without any reference to the author's identity. The work is then discussed by the participants at depth, with regard to thematic influences to manner of expression and so on. The meeting saw enthusiastic participation with various entries through mail and through on spot submissions. The meeting proceeded with readings and discussions of the entries and with constructive criticism meted out to the authors without actually knowing who the author was. The meeting that saw rich discussion on the themes explored and the meaning of poetry and other forms of expression and their relevance ended on a high note with a reading of a piece by noted lyricist F. Bulsara.

