

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES (IAWS)

NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

THEME:

**GENDERING RIGHTS,
DEBATING JUSTICE:
ISSUES & CONCERNS**

5th & 6th May, 2023

**Venue: Miranda House,
University of Delhi**

Jointly organized by:



IAWS
Indian Association
for Women's Studies



The formation of the Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) can be traced back to the resurgence of the women's movement in India in the mid-1970s and the publication of Towards Equality Report prepared by the Committee on the Status of Women in India (CSWI), set up by the Government of India prior to the First UN World Conference of Women held in Mexico, in 1975. Gradually, several social scientists and academicians in India associated with the CSWI process chose to develop initiatives in the interdisciplinary field of women's studies. The first National Conference on Women's Studies in 1981 was held at SNDT University, Mumbai. The conference resolved to set up the Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS), which was registered as a membership-based organisation in 1982. SNDT University, Mumbai, and Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi are founding institutions of the IAWS.

The IAWS has emerged as a premier professional association that aims to further women's studies as an interdisciplinary academic field concerned with women, the politics of women's studies and the women's movement, feminism and gender. It undertakes independent and collaborative activities with Universities, Women's Studies Centres and other institutions/ organisations to promote discussion on women in emerging fields, including the fields of citizenship, legal rights and environment. The IAWS is governed by its Constitution. It has built up its own archives. Its activities are coordinated by an Executive Committee, elected every three years by its members. IAWS organises a National Conference every three years alongside regional conferences, regional workshops and other research-based activities.

ABOUT MIRANDA HOUSE (HOST INSTITUTION)



Miranda House was established at the dawn of independence, and has since then provided a unique opportunity to young women for quality higher education. Being a college established and maintained by the University, Miranda House has a special place among the women's colleges of the University of Delhi. Its location in the heart of the University's North Campus, and its close interaction with the various Departments of the University and other campus colleges gives it a unique advantage.

Miranda House is a constituent college of the University of Delhi. It is the No.1 ranked college by the NIRF, and is also a DBT Star college. It comprises 12 Humanities and Social Sciences departments and 6 Science departments. This apart, 3 multidisciplinary courses are also offered by the college; namely the BA Programme course, the B.Sc Life Science course and the B.Sc Physical Sciences with Computer Science course. The college runs many unique centres of research and special labs, and houses a spacious residential facility for students.

Vision of the college:

The Upanishadic maxim in the college logo “Swadhyayann pramaditavyam” enshrines Miranda House’s understanding of what education must accomplish and steers students towards introspection and self-learning.

Mission of the college:

The stated mission of the college is to provide:

- an active and enriching learning environment that attracts young women with aspirations to be harbingers of change
- highest quality liberal arts and basic science education through distinctive academic programmes that instil rigour in the pursuit of knowledge
- culturally sensitive inclusive environment upholding core values of unity, diversity, and integrity
- vibrant co-curricular and extra-curricular activities toward holistic education
- dedicated and responsive faculty assisting students to fulfil their aspirations and reach milestones
- competencies for new domains of knowledge, research and future of work in a globally connected world
- mentoring for leadership that instils the capacity to explore new ideas, be self-reliant, and lead from the front.

ABOUT THE NORTH-EAST REGIONAL RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTRE (NERRRC):

NERRRC is an undergraduate Research Centre at Miranda House. The project was awarded by the North Eastern Council Shillong, Government of India. This is the first of its kind Undergraduate Multidisciplinary Research Centre set up in a Delhi University College. The aim is to foster research, innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives amongst the youth especially women.

The Centre started with the vision to create a constructive learning environment, and foster interest in research about the North-East region (NER). The Centre focuses on the intersectionality, perspectival dualism, redistribution which is economic justice, recognition which is cultural justice, representation which is political justice for all communities, bringing the North-East to and taking the rest of India to the NER. It envisages to promote and document the vivid cultures and diverse traditions of the region. It engages and encourages the students in learning and researching. The Centre works with 'Project Bloom', i.e. a group of students working with Bamboo Products from the NER. It has several other ongoing research projects, skilling programs and dedicated student internships.



ABOUT THE IAWS NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Gendering Rights, Debating Justice: Issues and Concerns

In the diversity of life, we see women constitute the majority of those trapped in oppression and exploitation. The average woman in India has fewer resources, less power, and restricted access to secure paid employment. The glaring disparities and deprivation in women's lives are further evident in the extremely limited influence that they exercise within family structures, other intimate relations, the workplace, the political space, and within larger society in India.

Marked gender discrimination persists in workplaces and a large number of women remain locked into lower rungs of the job market. Further, workforce participation of women continues to fall as the state fails to curb high unemployment rates and steadily withdraws public investment from the social sector; triggering in turn higher quantum of unpaid work by women within the household and their dependency on male earners of the household. Within this broader context, patriarchal practices and prejudices tenaciously operate. These practices and prejudices continuously adapt to changing socio-economic realities, and thus, punctuate the majority of women's lives with newer forms of patriarchal oppression.

In present contexts, the vulnerability of the majority of women has manifested itself in the increasing drop-out rates in educational institutions, poor health conditions, growing figures of gender crimes, reinforcement of retrogressive laws and customs, and persistent communal polarization of basic rights such as the right to choose, the right to privacy, citizenship claims, etc. With regard to communal polarization, the harassment of inter-faith couples, the ongoing hijab controversy, the proliferation of anti-conversion laws across the country, the demonizing of migrants from a particular religious community, and denial of justice to victims of communal riots, among other developments, are apt examples of the steady erasure of rights and constitutional safeguards. Similarly, the impunity with which caste-based gender violence has unfolded in recent times, the repeated instances of compromised police investigations, and lengthy court proceedings, together pose a serious challenge to the realization of social justice in general, and gender justice in particular.

Evidently, the experiences of inequality enveloping the lives of majority of women are shaped in complex ways by class position, caste hierarchy, ethnicity, regional disparities, age, sexual binaries, state policy, religious and other fundamentalisms. Notably, these realities comprising entrenched economic inequalities, skewed developmental policies, precarious livelihoods, oppressive patriarchal regimes, pervasive violence, gender stereotyping, moral policing, etc., are resisted through rigorous efforts to create a more egalitarian society that can empower women and other vulnerable and exploited social groups. Of course, these endeavours are regularly thwarted by the rising tide of conservative authoritarianism which has been successfully using state apparatuses to restrict the physical, sexual and social freedoms of women. Authoritarian political power and its mass propaganda often combines a constructed homogeneous “national” community with an intense dislike for social movements, campaigns, organisations, activists and intellectuals who seek to enlarge as well as defend rights and justice. It is precisely such a context that fuels a dangerous intolerance; ranging from the culture of banning the work of progressive writers/poets, to the incarceration of activists under draconic laws, to the vicious trolling of young people for innocuous social media posts, to the slapping of FIRs against journalists, bloggers and comedians who seek to expose injustices.

In this context of the undermining of crucial rights, watering down of constitutional values, and intense contestation over pervasive inequality, the parameters of gender disparity continue to evolve in complex way. In turn, the scope of gender rights and gender justice are continually changing. Envisaging and defending gender rights and gender justice has, thus, increasingly proven difficult without transforming the wider structures and processes in which the majority of women find themselves. Expectedly, deeper analysis and critiques of the existing socio-economic system stand to reveal complex interconnections between economic growth, development policies, laws, governance and women’s status in the country.

The sub-themes on which abstracts were collected :

- **Gender and work**
- **Violence and crimes against women**
- **Gendering law**
- **Caste, religion, community and debating tradition**
- **Sexual Diversities**
- **Gender and citizenship**
- **Gendering environmental justice**
- **Gender and health rights**
- **Pandemic and post-pandemic parameters of precarity**
- **Gender and political rights**

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY-1

Registration: 9:30 – 10:30 am

Inaugural: 10: 30 – 11:30 am

Welcome Address : **Bijayalaxmi Nanda**, Principal, Miranda House

Opening Remarks : **Shadab Bano**, Coordinator, IAWS Northern Regional Committee

Chair: **Uma Chakravarti**, noted feminist scholar and historian

Inaugural Keynote Address : **Vrinda Grover**, noted feminist advocate in the Supreme Court

Tea Break : 11: 30 – 12:00 pm

Panel Discussion: 12:00-1:30 pm

GENDER RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND CITIZENSHIP

Chair: **Indrani Mazumdar**, Life Member, Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi

Speakers:

Syeda Saiyidain Hameed, Women's rights activist, writer & former member of the Planning Commission of India

Anupama Roy, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi

Ellora Puri, Department of Political Science, University of Jammu

Lunch: 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Technical Session I: 2:30-3:30 pm – Venue I

GENDER AUDIT OF EXISTING STATE POLICIES

Chair: **Bijayalaxmi Nanda**, Principal, Miranda House

S. No.	Name	Title of the paper	Institutional Affiliation
1.	Roomana Siddiqui	Gender inequality a roadblock for environmental justice	Professor, Psychology Dept., AMU
2.	Saba Eram	Gendered vulnerabilities in public health care sector: A brief study on women patients of district hospital in Aligarh	PG student, AMU
3.	Deeksha Sharma & Satvinderpal Kaur	Locating women in privatised education: confronting the structural discrimination in India	Research Scholar, and Faculty Member, Panjab University

Technical Session II: 2:30-3:30 pm – Venue II

INTERSECTIONAL MARGINALIZATION

Chair: **Mary John**, Former Director, CWDS, Delhi

S. No.	Name	Title of the paper	Institutional Affiliation
1.	Akanksha	Coming Out, Moving Out: A Critical Enquiry of Queer Struggle in the Family	PhD candidate, CPS-JNU
2.	Shambhavi Sharma	From MSM to Homosexual: Category Formation and Selective Inclusions	PhD student, IIT-Delhi
3.	Shevali Raina & Vishav Raksha	A Sociological Study of Lal Vaakhs and Lal Ded's Journey	Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Jammu, and Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Jammu

Tea Break: 3:30-3:45 pm

Technical Session III: 3:45 -4:45 pm – Venue I

CINEMA & THEATRE: ARTICULATING FEMINIST CONCERNS

Chair: Vani Subramaniam, filmmaker, and feminist activist with SAHELI

S. No.	Name	Title of the paper	Institutional Affiliation
1.	Debjani Halder	Vanishing Pardah? Or Invisible Veil! Patriarchy Vs Political Empowerment of Women: A Cinematic Contemplation	RV University, Bangalore
2.	Sukrity Gogoi	Returning to Stage: Gender and Labour in Mobile Theatre of Assam in the Post-pandemic Context	PhD student, TISS- Mumbai
3.	Megha Dhillon & Shatarupa Bhattacharya	Fighting against all the odds: a feminist analysis of intersections of womanhood, disability & mental health in Hindi cinema	Faculty, Lady Sriram College, University of Delhi

Technical Session IV: 3:45- 4:45 pm – Venue II

GENDER PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL EXCLUSIONS

Chair: Rituparna Patgiri, Assistant Professor of Sociology, IP College for Women, DU

S. No.	Name	Title of the paper	Institutional Affiliation
1.	Sanjana Suukyi & Ridhima Tewari	Gendering Law, Engendering Change: Concerns and Issues with Respect to the Jogappa Community	Independent Researcher and Faculty, IIT Dharwad
2.	Namrata Pal	Social exclusion and everyday struggle of women belonging to denotified tribes: a study of <i>Sansi</i> community in Delhi	Student, Centre for Women's Studies, JNU
3.	Lianboi Vaiphei	Dialectics of Intersectionality of race and gender: Unmasking Everyday Experiences of NE Women in the Metropolitan Cities	Faculty, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi

DAY-2

Technical Session V: 9:30 - 11:15 am – Venue I

GENDER-BASED LAWS: FEMINIST AND LEGAL DISCOURSES

Chair: Sadhna Arya, Former Associate Professor, University of Delhi

S. No.	Name	Title of the paper	Institutional Affiliation
1.	Vipanchika Sahasri Bhagyanagar	Love-Jihad, Punishment, and the Indian State: Penal Populism and Anti-conversion Laws in Uttar Pradesh.	Research Scholar, CPS, JNU
2.	Harish Gautam	Exploring the Jurisprudence and Societal Impact of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013	LLM student, Chandigarh University & practicing advocate, Delhi High Court
3.	Tanushri and Taruna	Socio-legal aspects of marital rape vis-à-vis right to abortion	PhD researchers, MohanLal Sukhadia University, Udaipur
4.	Jahnvi Dwivedi	Technological Reproduction, and Surrogacy: Questions of Social, Legal, and Political	Research Scholar, Ambedkar University, Delhi
5.	Mandvi Mishra	A critical review of the legal framework regulating surrogacy practices	Student, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

Technical Session VI: 9:30 – 11:30 am – Venue I

CRITICAL ENGAGEMENTS WITH WOMEN'S AGENCY, LEADERSHIP & ACTIVISM

Chair: Ghazala Jamil, Assistant Professor, Centre for Law and Governance, JNU

S. No.	Name	Title of the paper	Institutional Affiliation
1.	Shyista Aamir Khan	Performing Sovereignty through the 'Right to Choose': Can Muslim Women exercise neoliberal agency?	Associate Professor, Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi
2.	Mudita Singh Kushwaha	Who's Afraid of Secularism?: Exploring the Relationship Between Constitutionality, Women Assertion and the Issue of Mass Secularism	PhD student, Political Science Dept, University of Delhi
3.	Syed Wajahat Ali	Digital feminism and the case of Muslim women activists in India. An introspection from the Intersectional lens	Researcher, SNCWS, Jamia Milia Islamia
4.	Anshu Saluja	Centering Hindu Nationalist Women's Activism: Limits and Contradictions	Faculty, Azim Premji University
5.	Avantika Shukla	Dalit Mahila Sahitya: Space ki talash evam nirman	Associate Professor, Mahatma Gandhi Hindi Vishwavidyalay, Wardha (Regional Centre, Prayagraj)
6.	Shazia	Maternity in Leadership: A Feminist Perspective Informed by Kashmiri Cultural Imageries of Motherhood	Faculty, Centre for Women's Studies and Research, University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar

Tea Break : 11:30- 11:45 am

Technical Session VII: 11:45 – 1.00 pm – Venue I

CONTEXTUALISING TRENDS OF VIOLENCE AND CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Chair: Manjeet Bhatia, Former Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, DU

S. No.	Name	Title of the paper	Institutional Affiliation
1.	Sharad Jaisawal	Sampradayik Hinsa aur Mahilayain (vishesh sandarbh - Mujaffarnagar sampradayik hinsa)	Assistant Professor, Mahatma Gandhi international Hindi University, Regional centre, Prayagraj
2.	Suraiya Tabassum	Crimes against Women in Delhi NCR: Nature, Perceptions and Suggested Strategies	Assistant Professor, Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women's Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia
3.	Zuberiya Nauman	Marginalisation of women in judicial processes: A study of rape cases in courts of India	M.A Gender Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia.

Technical Session VIII: 11:45 – 1.00 pm – Venue II

GENDER & LABOUR MARKETS: CASES STUDIES OF MARGINALIZATION

Chair: Sophy Joseph, National Law University, Delhi

S. No.	Name	Title of the paper	Institutional Affiliation
1.	Maitreyee Adak	Livelihood Strategies of Hijras During Pandemic and Post-Pandemic	MA Sociology, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata
2.	Thotwungphi S	Feminization and Racialization of Labour: Reading Through the Narratives of Tangkhul Migrant Women Working in Informal Sectors in the National Capital Region	Research Scholar, CWS JNU

3.	Deepanjali Lahiri	Hiring Bias: Employment for Muslim women at entry-level roles.	Chief Operating Officer, LedBy Foundation
4.	Yogita	Gendered Work and Covid pandemic: A study of the female Sanitation Workers of JNU	JNU

Lunch: 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Technical Session IX: 2:00 - 3:30 pm – Venue I

CASE STUDIES OF VIOLENCE ON WOMEN AND WOMEN'S RESISTANCE

Chair: Vishav Raksha, Dept. of Sociology, University of Jammu

S. No.	Name	Title of the paper	Institutional Affiliation
1.	Zeenat Mahzabin	Revolutionary Move of Green Group against domestic violence: A case study of Khushiyari village of Varanasi	Research scholar, CWS, BHU
2.	Garima Singh	Subtle acts of Resistance: Women folksongs and Domestic violence	Faculty, Vivekananda School of Law and Legal Studies in New Delhi
3.	Ram Chandra	महिलाओं पर बढ़ती हिंसा और अपराध उत्तर-प्रदेश के विशेष संदर्भ में	PhD researcher, स्त्री अध्ययन विभाग, महात्मा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हिन्दी विश्वविद्यालय, वरधा

Technical Session X: 2:00 - 3:30 pm – Venue II

WOMEN'S WORK AND EVERYDAY LIVES

Chair: Sona Mitra, Principal Economist, IWWAGE

S. No.	Name	Title of the paper	Institutional Affiliation
1.	Madhulika Mishra & Prithivraj Muduli	No Water, No Time: A Micro-level Study of Women's Experiences & Growing Time Poverty	Students, University of Delhi
2.	Jyoti Kumari Adivasi and Manjari Kushwaha	कोरोना महामारी और प्रयागराज की मूँज उत्पादक महिलाएं	PhD students, महात्मा गाँधी अंतराष्ट्रीय हिंदी विश्व विद्यालय वरधा
3.	Rashi	Women Labourers in a Rice Mill Economy: A Study of Rural Change and Local Capitalism	Researcher, CSLG-JNU
4.	Hiba Rahman	Unpaid work and Invisibilization of Women in the Weaving Industry	PhD researcher, Centre for Women's Studies, AMU
5.	Chaitali Pant	Common Women, Uncommon Resistance	PhD researcher, Jamia Milia Islamia

Round Table 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Vote of Thanks: Maya John, Coordinator, IAWS Northern Regional Conference

Tea: 4:30 – 5:00 pm

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTERS

- All presenters are requested to be present at 9:30 am at the Mini Auditorium of Miranda House on 5th May 2023.
- Paper presenters are to complete their registration process at the venue of the conference well before the inaugural session begins.
- The inaugural session will take place in the Mini Auditorium of Miranda House from 10:30 am to 11:30 am on 5th May 2023.
- All presenters are expected to attend the inaugural session and the subsequent panel discussion on 5th May 2023.
- Subsequent to the inaugural keynote address and panel discussion, there will be parallel sessions running on both days of the conference.
- Every presenter will be provided 15 minutes to make their presentation. Papers should not exceed 3000 words.
- Powerpoint presentations of the selected presenters are to be emailed by 4th May 2023.
- Every technical session will end with comments from the Chair and a Q&A round.
- The Editorial Board will reserve the right to reject or edit any paper. Selected papers will be peer-reviewed and published with a reputed publisher.

Guidelines for other conference participants

- All those other than the paper presenters who wish to attend the conference must register between 9:30 am and 10:30 am on 5th May 2023 at Miranda House.
- Participants who register for the conference will be provided refreshments and lunch at the conference venue.

Registration

S.NO.	CATEGORIZATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
1.	STUDENT / PHD SCHOLAR	REFRESHMENTS + LUNCH	500
2.	FACULTY / DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS	REFRESHMENTS + LUNCH	1500

CONTACT DETAILS:

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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- **Bijayalaxmi Nanda**
(Principal, Miranda House, University of Delhi)
- **Shadab Bano**
(Professor, Women's College, Aligarh Muslim University)
- **Bashabi Gupta**
(Professor, Department of Geography, Miranda House)
- **Abha Dev Habib**
(Associate Professor, Department of Physics, Miranda House)
- **Avantika Shukla**
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- **Maya John**
(Assistant Professor, Jesus and Mary College)
- **Garima Mishra**
(Assistant Professor, Center for Women's Studies, Mohanlal Sukhadia University)
- **Zainab Naqvi**
(PhD Scholar, CAS, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University)

Members of Northern Regional Committee, IAWS

- **Shadab Bano**, Professor, Women's College, Aligarh Muslim University, and Coordinator, IAWS Northern Regional Committee
- **Lata Singh**, Associate Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
- **Neetha N.**, Professor, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi
- **Vishav Raksha**, Professor, Department of Sociology, and Director, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Jammu, Jammu
- **Ameer Sultana**, Senior Assistant Professor, Department-cum-Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Panjab University, Chandigarh
- **Zainab Naqvi**, PhD Scholar, CAS, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
- **Maya John**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, Delhi
- **Avantika Shukla**, Associate Professor, Department of Women's Studies, Regional Centre Prayagraj, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha
- **Garima Mishra**, Assistant Professor, Center for Women's Studies, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur

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