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ANNUAL REPORT

Partners for Law in Development



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Partners for Law in Development (PLD), New Delhi

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. Core Strategies

1. Capacity Development
 - Sexual Harassment at Workplace
 - Laws on Sexual Violence
 - Witch Hunting law in Rajasthan
2. Information Resources
 - Sexual harassment and violence against women
 - Resource book on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
 - Feminist law archive
 - Bi-monthly legal news
3. Knowledge Creation
 - Mapping vulnerabilities of youth in relation to sexuality, early marriage and the law
 - Mapping the stats of sexual health and well being in India

B. Cross Cutting Initiatives

1. Advocacy with Government and Human Rights Mechanisms
2. Talks and Conferences
3. Publications and Reports
4. PLD in the News and in Print

C. Organizational updates

PLD is a non profit legal resource group founded in 1998 that facilitates assertion of social justice and women's rights. We view law as an essential resource in the struggle for social justice, and gender equality as central to the attainment of social justice. We believe that human rights shape social justice goals by establishing a framework for the realization of the rights of the disadvantaged and the marginalised. Our understanding of rights and dignity of all persons is drawn from human rights law and the constitution on the one hand and the contextual realities of disadvantaged groups on the other. Our thematic areas of work address women's rights in contexts of marginalisation shaped by sexuality, culture, caste, conflict and development. PLD is registered as a public charitable trust under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 (registration no: 10514/ IV of 16-12-98).

A. CORE STRATEGIES

1. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The capacity development initiative began trainings on three relatively new laws: 2013 amendments to the IPC, sexual harassment at workplace and on child sexual offences that over time assumed significant focus on sexual harassment. Of the nearly 50 trainings conducted by PLD training team in this period, 37 relate to sexual harassment at workplace. The legal duty to implement the law at workplace created an opportunity for PLD to proactively engage with agencies, state governments and institutions, and respond to external demands. Attention to all three laws continues to be the focus of grassroots trainings for civil society/ community organisations. Since July 2016, we also commenced trainings for the Rajasthan government on the Rajasthan Prevention of Witch Hunting Act 2015, since the notification of both the Act and its Rules (2016).

Sexual Harassment at Workplace

PLD conducted about 37 trainings/ discussions on the subject of sexual harassment from April 2016 to March 2017. Having begun work with government of Rajasthan in 2014-15, we have now also begun working with the government in Bihar. This has helped widening outreach to district level thereby contribute to improved redress for the women marginalized on account of social factors and rural, semi rural, small town contexts.



The following trainings were conducted in this period:

TRAININGS CONDUCTED BY PLD

NEW DELHI

PLACE	DATE	NO. OF PAX.	PARTICIPANT PROFILE
New Delhi	8 April, 2016	37	ICC members, NGO heads, HR officers of private companies, educational institutions, NGOs, such as Landesa, Breakthrough, ASER, MSF, CREA, Avizwa Solutions, FAT, AATISH, JGU, Nazariya, Nari Sakhi Manch, AALI, Action Aid and the former Chair of Rajasthan State Women's Commission.
	29 Nov., 2016	33	Ministry of Broadcasting, ICAI, Bharti Foundation-Airtel, lawyers, NGOs from Delhi, NCR, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Lucknow, Ministry of Broadcasting, ICAI, Bharti Foundation-airtel, Advocate, Sambhavana Institute-HP, Strategic Alliance Management Services, PRADAN-MP, TARSHI, Breakthrough, PEC-Ahmedabad, IHES, SLD, NFIW, UN Women, i-Probono, The Naaz Foundation, Feminism in India, SADRAG, South Kolkata Sannidya, CWDS, Satchitananda Foundation, Humsafar- Lucknow and Independent consultant.
	25 March 2017 (organized by WSS)	20	Discussion with members of WSS and Pinjara Tod on concerns related to consent, enforcement in informal progressive activist spaces.

TRAININGS CONDUCTED FOR GOVERNMENT AND ITS AGENCIES

BIHAR (with Women's Development Corporation)

PLACE	DATE	NO. OF PAX.	PARTICIPANT PROFILE
Patna	13-14 June, 2016	61	WDC head office Staff, helpline coordinators from all districts, and officers from departments of Tourism, Animal Husbandry, CID, Panchayati Raj, Election, IPRD, Art Culture & Youth, Rural Works, Planning & Development, Cooperative, Cane Industry, PHED, Mines & Coal, Forest & Environment, Dairy, Board of revenue, PHC, AIR, Saksham, Education, Health, Law, Sadhna News, Social Welfare, BRLPS, Dainik Bhaskar, Sanmarg, Infrastructure Development Authority
Patna	21-22 Feb., 2017	70	Commercial tax, SSUPSW, Bank, Law, Saksham-DSW, UDHD, H.R, Election, WDC, PMC, Education, Revenue, Forest, Transport, NBPDCI, BIADA,

			PHD,BSLSH, Tourism, Police, Animal Husbandry, NGO, Cooperative, Energy, Health, Industry, Art Culture and Youth, SC/ST Welfare, Parliament Affairs, ICDS, Agriculture, Minority welfare, UNFPA, BCEBC, Press, RCD, Labour, Social Welfare
RAJASTHAN (with Women and Child Development)			
Jaipur	6-10 June, 2016	102	On request of Superintendent, Rural Police, Jaipur for staff of various Police Stations in Jaipur district
Jhunjhunu	17 -21 Oct., 2016	400 (86+77+90+77+90 in each session)	Education, Economics and Statistics, Information and Public Relations, Women and Child Development, DRDA (rural development agencies), Public Health Engineering dept, Commercial taxes, Agriculture, Pollution control, Animal Husbandry, Minority, Labour, Dairy, Polytechnic, Administration, Ayurved, PWD, Forest, Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, Energy and Power, Health and Medical, Skill development, Textiles, Housing Board, Tehsil Nagar Nigam, JilaUdyog, ICDS, local NGOs, police, NIFT, Food and Civil supplies.
Kota	7 Nov., 2016	95	
Boondi	8 Nov., 2016	20	
Jhalawar	9-10 Nov., 2016	85	
Bhilwara	28-29 Nov., 2016	80	
Pratapgarh	13 Dec., 2016	56	
Banswara	14-16 Dec., 2016	140 (over 3 days with 57+52+29 per session)	
Rajsamand	2-3 Jan., 2017	58	
Jodhpur	31 Jan., 2017	80	
KERALA			
Sakhi Women's Resource Centre	16-17 Feb., 2016	40+10	LCC members, ICC members of government departments, people working with unorganised sector from Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram
TRAININGS CONDUCTED FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS			
MADHYA PRADESH			
Indore	18-19 Feb., 2017	49	Members of NIFW, CFW, Aaganwadi worker, Prerna, NNVS, MBDA Seva Sangathan, teachers, NFID from 18 districts - Anuppur, Ashoknagar, Balaghat, Barwani, Sivni, Dabra, Damoh, Guna, Jamnakalani, Jabalpur, Khargone, Mandla, Sagar, Sidhi, Ujjain, Dewas, Singrauli, Indore.
TRAININGS CONDUCTED ON REQUEST FROM INSTITUTIONS/ COMPANIES			
Jindal Global University, Sonipat	22 July, 2016	40	University Staff Security Staff

Jindal Global University, Sonipat	31 Aug, 2016	40	University Staff Security Staff
Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Delhi University	23 Aug., 2016	80	Students from B.A. Elementary Education, BA (H) Social Work
IIT, Delhi	27 April, 2016 (2 sessions)	150	Mostly Ph.D students in 7 sessions with batches of 20-30 each
	7 Sept., 2016 (2 sessions)		
	21 Sept, 2016 (2 sessions)		
	28 Sept., 2016		
Supreme Court of India	Between 28 Aug., 2014 and 13 Oct., 2016	20-30	Lawyers and Administrative Staff
Tower Research Capital India Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon	19 Jan., 2017	15	Office Staff

Laws on Sexual Violence

These trainings are organized in collaboration with local organizations with experienced staff, local activists and other community organisations in the area. What is most rewarding about these trainings however is to gain understanding of the local issues and cases and how the activists tackle them, what are the barriers and how these barriers are negotiated.

The following trainings were conducted in this period:



Place	Date	No. Of Pax.	Participant Profile
GUJARAT			
Ahmedabad	8-9 Aug., 2016	38	District and Taluka Coordinators of Nari Adalat, Mahila Samakhya, Gujarat. The district covered in this training was Kheda, Botad, Anand, Bhavnagar, Banaskantha, Mehsana, Dahod, Kutch, Porbandar, Ahmadabad, Jamnagar, Devbhumi, Dwarka, Surendra Nagar,

	10-12 Aug., 2016		Junagarh, Mehrudu, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha, Aravali and Bharuch. The training on 10-12 was for community worker from Nari Adalats.
Bhuj (in collaboration with KMVS)	16-18 March, 2017	40	Members of KMVS, KMVS's Urban & legal, Sakhi Sangini, Saiyere Jo Sangathan from blocks of Nakhatrana, Mundra, Mandavi and Bhuj.
JHARKHAND			
Ranchi	20-21 Dec., 2016	29	Members of Mahila Samakhya, Prerna Bharti, Tulsi (SHG), Ganapathi (SHG) from district of Girdeesh, Latehar, Western Singbhumi, Devdhar, Eastern Singbhumi, Ranchi, Chattara, Palamu.

Witch Hunting law in Rajasthan

After the Rajasthan Prevention of Witch Hunting Act, and its Rules were notified, PLD was invited to the inaugural event in Jaipur to announce the implementation of the law, with the Minister and senior officials of police, legal aid and the departments. PLD was prepared the summary of the law printed as a brochure by the WCD (bearing PLD and WCD logos) for circulation throughout the districts. Thereafter, PLD has been enlisted to conduct district level trainings on the law, the details of which are given below.



PLACE	DATE	NO. OF PAX.	PARTICIPANT'S PROFILE
Jaipur	5 July, 2016 (State level inaugural meeting)	80-100	Minister, Chair State Women's Commission, DGP (Police), State Legal Aid Board, Secretary WCD, UNFPA, WCD District Programme Officer, CSOs.
Bhilwara	16 Jan, 2017	35	ICDS, WCD, AVVNL, Police, PHED, RSAMB, Health, Skill Development, Judiciary, Education, SDM, SJED and NGO, Zilla Parishad, Agriculture, DIPR, INCHT, Roadways, Employment, DSO, PWD, Housing Board, ALDM lead bank.
Chittaur	17 Jan, 2017		
Rajsamand	18 Jan, 2017	50	
Udaipur	19 Jan, 2017		
Dongarapur	20 Jan, 2017	58	
Tonk	13 Feb, 2017	22	
Sawai Madhaopur	14 Feb, 2017	44	

Bundi	15 Feb, 2017	31	
Kota	16 Feb, 2017	35	

2. INFORMATION RESOURCES

Sexual Harassment and violence against women

PLD created a new poster in Hindi namely, '*mabihao ke kanoon par ek nazrar*' which covers laws relating to domestic violence, sexual harassment at workplace, acid attack, child marriage, witch hunting, and sexual assault.

PLD's posters on sexual harassment at the workplace have been translated into Bangla by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) in 2017 and into Gujarati by Sahiyar in 2016; and the translation into Telugu is ongoing.



Resource book on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act

This booklet in Hindi titled, *Bal Yaun Shoshan par Kanoon* (2016) has been published on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO). It also outlines the procedures, provisions of Criminal Procedure Code and Juvenile Justice Act and its interlinkages with POCSO.

Feminist Law Archives

The 3rd phase of developing Feminist Law Archives is underway. Four new themes have been added – women and health; women and work; multiple marginalities; speech, expression and censorship. The Archives is the only online source on women's movements engagement with the law.



Bi-monthly legal news

PLD's online newsletter enters its 10th year in 2017. Started in 2008, we have successfully released 6 newsletters every two months with a focus on gender, sexuality and culture; and a consolidated annual digest every year.

3. KNOWLEDGE CREATION

Mapping vulnerabilities of youth in relation to sexuality, early marriage and the law

The study seeks to understand the ways by which change in legal age of sexual consent renders adolescents and young adults more vulnerable, and impacts efforts to build agency and leadership in girls. One part of the study involves documentation of social context as it plays out in the lives of girls in romantic relationships, and the views of service providers who work with/ for adolescents; the second part involves understanding judicial approaches when confronted by consensual relationships. The primary data collection through field work as well as analysis of case law was the main focus of this project in the year.

Mapping the status of Sexual Health and Well being in India

PLD is undertaking a country assessment on the theme for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). This study is part of a larger inquiry including mapping of reproductive health and well being a segment undertaken by an organization working on women and health.

B. CROSS CUTTING INITIATIVES

1. ADVOCACY WITH GOVERNMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Draft National Policy on Women 2016

National Commission on Women organized meeting to discuss and invite comments on the Draft National Policy on Women, 2016 on June 23, 2016 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. PLD submitted its comments on the draft policy in writing to the MWCD and the NCW in advance, discussing these at the meeting.

India's 3rd Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council

- PLD gave written submissions and participated at the NHRC National Consultation on preparation of its report for the 3rd cycle of India's UPR, August 12-13, 2016 at IIC, New Delhi and attended Northern regional consultation of NHRC in December 2015.
- Participated at the national consultation organised by the Ministry of External Affairs with NLUD to on May 6-7, 2016 at NLUD.
- Organized national consultation for civil society on September 9-10, 2016 to orient and collate inputs for submissions on women and LGBTI. Based on the inputs received, PLD submitted a joint stakeholder's report on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (2012-2016) for the 3rd cycle of India's Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council.

UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice

Participated in the expert meeting on Due Diligence to discuss the essentials of good practices on elimination of discrimination and violence against women 15-16 July 2016.

With CEDAW and UNSRVAW on Violence Against Women

- Made submissions to the CEDAW in response to its call on updating General Recommendation 19 and made submissions to the UNSRVAW on the call for a special treaty on violence against women.
- Facilitated consultation by UN Women, on September 23, 2016 in Delhi to brief civil society on the issues, different positions based on which UNW prepared its submissions to the CEDAW.
- Invited as panelists to the strategic consultation on developing a global response on combatting violence against women, organized by IWRAW-Asia Pacific, in Dec 5-6, 2016.

2. TALKS AND CONFERENCES

- Participated at the national consultation to discuss status of curative petition on 377 IPC, organized by the Lawyers Collective on February 4, 2017
- Made presentations on witch hunting at the XV National Conference of the Indian Association of Women's Studies, January 22-25, 2017, Chennai.
- Participated as panelist at the Law and Social Sciences Network (LASSnet) 4th international conference December 10-12, 2016, New Delhi
- Invited as key note speaker for inaugural session at 15th National Convention of Women's Studies organized by Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) on December 2, 2016.
- Presented for workshop on documenting the history of gender training in Delhi November 19-20, 2016 at AUD.
- Invited to make presentation at National conference for visually impaired women organised by All India Confederation of the Blind on November 12, 2016, New Delhi.
- Participated in Know Violence in Childhood: a global initiative meeting at Population Foundation India in Delhi on September 19, 2016
- Invited as panelist at Brave New World of Women's Rights: Conversation with women advocate from around the world
- Made presentation at Beyond the Miniscule Minority: research and gathering of evidence on sexuality and gender on May 28, 2016 in New Delhi.
- Made presentations and invited for talks at universities of Warwick, SOAS and Cambridge.

3. PUBLICATIONS/ REPORTS

New Publications:

- The Journey from Victim to Survivor: Challenges for Justice (2016) workshop report by PLD and CWDS
- *Bal Yaum Shoshan par Kanoon* (2016)
- Summary of the Rajasthan Prevention of Witch Hunting Act, 2015 prepared by PLD and published as a brochure by WCD, Rajasthan. The logos of both PLD and the WCD are printed on the brochure.
- Status report on Gender Equality (2012-2016): Joint Stakeholder report on women and LGBTI for the 3rd cycle of India's Universal Periodic Review.



Dissemination: Since 2015, PLD has uploaded its publications on Academia.com and SSRN. In addition, physical stocks of publications and posters were disseminated actively through conferences.

4. PLD IN THE NEWS AND IN PRINT

- Little attention to victim centric support services: 16 Dec, 2016 *Hindu*
- Rape laws: a call for change: *Livemint*, March 18, 2017
- Are India's anti-rape laws as draconian as Madhu Kishwar says they are? *Scroll.in*, April 8, 2017

C. ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Our Team and Programme Partners	
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Interns	Shreya Aradhana Ananth Zarnaim Fatima Maskhur Alam
Programme Assistance and Finance	
Administration	Kishore Tirkey (Programme Assistant) N. Jayapriya (Programme Admisitration)

Finance	Vipin Kumar (Finance Manager) Ankur Kashyap (Finance Officer)
Programme Partners	
Bihar	Woman's Development Corporation
Rajasthan	Department of Woman and Child Development
Gujarat	Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Mahila Samakhya
Jharkhand	Mahila Samakhya
Institutions/ Companies	JGU, IIT Delhi, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Tower Research Capital India Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon
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Mapping vulnerabilities of youth in relation to sexuality, early marriage and the law	Anuja Agrawal Aparna Chandra Jaya Sharma
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