



BI-MONTHLY LEGAL NEWS

Vol. No. 6 (V) September-October 2013

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Updates from the UN

ILO Convention on the rights of domestic workers comes into force

The ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 came into force on September 5, 2013 on being ratified by the required number of states (eight: Bolivia, Italy, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa and Uruguay). The Convention requires that domestic workers have basic labour rights, just like workers in other sectors, including limited working hours, weekly days off, minimum wage, maternity leave and overtime payments.

The convention also requires governments to prevent child labour in domestic work. Since the treaty was signed in 2011, around thirty countries have legislated to extend such rights to domestic workers, who are often at a heightened risk of exploitation and abuse. As of now, however, it is only these eight countries that are bound by the terms of the Convention.

Source: http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/information-resources-and-publications/news/WCMS_220793/lang--en/index.htm?shared_from=media-mail
http://www.ginsc.net/home.php?option=article&id=27078&lang=en#.UoU8O_mmrkg

UNHRC adopts resolution against child, early or forced marriages

The UN Human Rights Council, noting the deep-rooted gender inequities that cause child marriages and early or forced marriages to be so pervasive as well as the disproportionate impact it has on girls and women, adopted a procedural resolution seeking to have a panel discussion on the issue in its twenty-sixth session. In keeping with the resolution, the office of the OHCHR has called for responses from nation-states, scholars, research institutions and policy think tanks, community movements, children and youth organizations and networks, by December 15.

The resolution can be accessed [here](#).

The letter seeking responses can be accessed [here](#).

UN SR on extreme poverty and human rights submits report on unpaid care work

The UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona submitted a report on women care workers whose contribution usually goes unrecognised, and almost always unremunerated. The report notes that unequal responsibilities in care work (including domestic work) stand as a barrier to gender equality, especially amongst women who live in poverty, and recommends that states take active measures to transform care work into a social and collective responsibility and increase women's access to public services, care services and time-saving technology.

The report can be accessed [here](#).

CEDAW Committee adopts General Recommendation on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations

The CEDAW Committee adopted the 30th General Recommendation on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. The Recommendation provides an authoritative interpretation of state-parties' obligations under the convention in the context of conflict situations. It covers international and non-international conflicts, foreign occupations, internal disturbances, protracted and low-intensity civil strife, political strife, ethnic and communal violence, states of emergency and suppression of mass uprisings, war against terrorism and organized crime. Some of these are not classified as armed conflict under international humanitarian law.

The Recommendation stresses the point that state-parties' obligations under the Convention are unbroken by conflict, and apply equally to citizens and non-citizens as well as to anybody under the state's effective control (even if such control is not exercised within the state's territory). It also requires that states exercise due-diligence in terms of the acts of private parties, such as security contractors, and ensure that they are held accountable for crimes against women.

The whole document can be accessed [here](#).

International Developments

Asia

Saudi Arabia passes landmark law against domestic violence

In a watershed year that has seen women in the country gain the right to vote, gain entry into several professions like law and engineering, Saudi Arabia adopted a "Protection from Abuse" law directed at violence against women, children, domestic workers and non-domestic workers. While whether the law is effectively implemented or not is yet to be seen, it puts in places several progressive provisions. It protects the anonymity of the complainant (including third parties), does not require a man to accompany the woman to a police station, and grants immunity to the complainant from litigation should the complaint fail to be proven in court. The law provides for social, psychological and physical care to complainants, if required, in addition to criminal sanctions against perpetrators.

Sources: <http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.regcon&contentid=20130908179666>
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/20138290272119559.html>

Tamil National Alliance wins elections to Sri Lanka's Northern Provincial Council amidst polling violence

The first Northern Provincial Council elections in twenty-five years yielded a resounding victory for the Tamil National Alliance, who won thirty out of thirty-eight seats (four-fifth majority). The voter turnout was pegged at 67.52%, despite reports of military intimidation and election violence. The latest election result is a culmination of a polling trend (across local body elections and the

parliamentary elections) indicating lack of faith in the incumbent United People's Freedom Alliance. The Centre for Monitoring Election Violence, in its report on the elections, noted that increased military intervention, abuse of state resources by the incumbent government and restrictions placed on media were some of the problems that plagued polling.

The full report can be found [here](#).

Sources: <http://asiancorrespondent.com/113713/analysis-tamils-take-control-in-provincial-election-landslide/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/south-asia/sri-lanka-polls-see-60-pc-turnout/article5152927.ece>

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay completes her first visit to Afghanistan

UNHCHR Navi Pillay visited Afghanistan for the first time in September 2013. Noting that there had been significant human rights achievements over the years since Hamid Karzai assumed office, she stressed the need to strengthen systems to uphold human rights. She pointed to the Elimination of Violence against Women law as being a landmark law, but sought that its implementation be improved to do away with 'endemic' violence against women. Following the refusal of the legislature to discuss the EVAW law (that was signed into force by the President while the legislature was not in session), Development and Support of Afghan Women and Children Organization has sent out a national call for a million signatures (which the President has signed) asking for the law to be ratified by parliament. Human Rights Watch too has called for better implementation of the law.

Source: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/09/04/letter-president-karzai-redouble-efforts-implementation-violence-against-wome>

One in four men admit to rape in a UN study panning across six South Asian countries and ten thousand men

A UN led study conducted in Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka indicated that 10% of men openly admit to having raped a woman who was not their partner, and the number rose to almost 25% on including partners. Just under half of those who admitted to raping said they did so more than once, and more than 75% of them did so because they felt sexually entitled to. The next most common motivation for rape was entertainment or boredom. Interestingly, alcohol or drunkenness was the least common motivation. Men who had faced violence as children, especially sexual abuse, were more likely to rape, the study found. Further, the study shows that more than half of the non-partner rape perpetrators did so as adolescents, accentuating the need for sensitisation amongst the youth.

Sources: <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/sep/10/asia-pacific-rape-survey>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-24021573>

Op Ed : <http://www.partners4prevention.org/about-prevention/research/men-and-violence-study>

Beyond Asia

South African Constitutional Court decriminalises consensual sex between adolescents

The South African Constitutional Court struck down Sections 15 and 16 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act to the extent that they criminalised consensual sexual activity between adolescents. Having heard expert testimonies, the Court unanimously found that these provisions violate adolescents' right to dignity and privacy and the best-interests principle contained in section 28(2) of the South African Constitution. The Court opined that intimate relationships between adolescents are developmentally normative (not merely significant), hence the criminalisation of such behaviour harmed the very children it sought to protect. The parts of the provision dealing with sexual intimacy between adults and minors remain valid.

The judgement can be accessed [here](#).

Source: <http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2013-10-10-teen-sex-the-law-cant-replace-parenting/#.UoUZxvmnrki>

Guyana dismisses constitutional challenge to law against cross-dressing

The High Court of Guyana, in *Quincy McEwan et al v Attorney General of Guyana* rejected a constitutional challenge to Section 153(1)(xlvi) of the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act, Chapter 8:02 of the Laws of Guyana, which makes cross-dressing for 'improper purposes' a criminal offence. The provision had been challenged as violating basic constitutional guarantees of equality and non-discrimination. The Court merely noted that the provision applied equally to men and women, thus holding it to be non-discriminatory. The judge failed to query the assignment of gender roles based on sex and the effect on individuals who do not ascribe to either position on the gender binary.

The Guyanese Constitution has a savings clause for all pre-constitutional laws; the petitioners argued that the scope of the clause was restricted to laws that did not violate constitutional principles (in this case, the rule of law). The Court, however, rejected the argument and declared the law to be immune as existing law. The petitioners have expressed the intention to appeal.

Op Ed: <http://ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk/?p=2894>

Source: <http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/09/09/guyana-judge-rules-that-crossdressing-is-legal-unless-its-done-for-an-improper-purpose/>

Botswana's Court of Appeal holds that women can inherit under customary law

In a landmark decision, *Ramantele v Mmusi and Others*, the Court of Appeal in Botswana upheld the right of four sisters to inherit their homestead, obviating the argument that under customary law only men can inherit property. In a unanimous decision, the Court held that customary law is fluid and changes with the times. Writing for the Court, Justice Lesetedi said, "Constitutional values of equality before the law, and the increased leveling of the power structures with more and more women heading households and participating with men as equals in the public sphere and increasingly in the private sphere, demonstrate that there is no rational and justifiable basis for sticking to the narrow norms of days gone by when such norms go against current value systems."

The Court also noted that any custom that discriminated against women on the basis of their gender alone would run counter to the Constitution.

Sources: <http://www.maravipost.com/scope/law-and-order/4475-victory-for-women-s-rights-in-southern-africa-as-botswana-court-of-appeal-finds-women-can-inherit-under-customary-law.html>

OpEd: <http://www.southernafricalitigationcentre.org/2013/09/03/news-release-victory-for-womens-rights-as-botswana-court-of-appeal-finds-women-can-inherit-family-home-under-customary-law/>

UK based Human Dignity Trust held to be too political to be registered as a charity

The UK Charity Commission has decided to uphold its June 2012 decision not to register Human Dignity Trust (an organisation that supports individuals seeking to challenge the criminalisation of consensual sexual activity between adults of the same sex) as a charity. The judgement discussed the parameters to be fulfilled by a ‘charity’ in law, and held that while HDT is certainly doing philanthropic work, this does not necessarily translate to ‘public benefit’ (which is the legal requirement). The judgement also detailed the ‘political purpose’ exception to the definition of a ‘charitable purpose’ and held that HDT has a political purpose, thereby disqualifying it from being registered as a charity.

Sources: <https://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/charity-commission-publishes-decision-not-to-register-the-human-dignity-trust/>

http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/16193/human_dignity_trust_is_too_political_to_be_a_charity_commission_rules

European Court of Human Rights backs Turkish bride’s right to use maiden name

A Turkish bride who was denied the right to use her maiden name has won the backing of Strasbourg judges. In the case *Tuncer Güneş v. Turkey* (no. 26268/08), the European Court of Human Rights declared the denial of her right to use her maiden name to be a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. It awarded the applicant, Gülizar Tuncer Güneş, EUR 1,500 (non-pecuniary damage) and EUR 3,030 (costs and expenses).

The Istanbul resident complained that she had not been allowed to keep just her maiden name after her marriage in March 2005. She claimed in particular that the fact that Turkish law allowed married men but not married women to use only their own surname after marriage amounted to discrimination based on sex.

Source: <http://www.humanrightseurope.org/2013/09/judges-back-turkish-brides-right-to-use-maiden-name/>

National

Judgements/Orders

Supreme Court rules against reduction of sentence based on compromises between rape survivors and rapists

As a part of a spate of Supreme Court decisions discussing the power of the court to reduce sentences under the proviso to Section 376(2) following a compromise, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court ruled, in *Shimbu and Another v State of Haryana*, that the fact of a compromise cannot be used to reduce a sentence below the minimum prescribed. It pointed out that rape survivors are likely to be pressurised into compromises, if such a leeway was granted by the law. Stressing that the factor relevant to sentencing is the gravity of the offence, the Court stated that “[r]eligion, race, caste, economic or social status of the accused or victim or the long pendency of the criminal trial or offer of the rapist to marry the victim or the victim is married and settled in life cannot be construed as special factors for reducing the sentence prescribed by the statute.” It also opined that, given the long line of precedent upholding this point of law, the decision by Justice Katju and Justice Misra in *Baldev Singh v State of Punjab*—a judgement which permitted the compounding of an offence of gang-rape following a compromise—could not be seen as valid precedent.

The full judgement can be accessed [here](#).

Sources: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/muchneeded-clarity/article5083839.ece>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/compromise-in-rape-cases-out-of-the-question-sc/article5064363.ece>

Mumbai court asks man to pay alimony despite not being legally married to his partner

A court of judicial magistrate (first class) ordered a man to pay his erstwhile partner alimony despite them not being legally married to each other. The court, taking note of evidence to prove that the couple had been living together as though married, relied on the Domestic Violence Act, which expands domestic relationships to include relationships in the nature of marriage. A definitive ruling on the question of alimony in live-in relationships, and the meaning of ‘relationships in the nature of marriage’, however, is awaited from a yet un-constituted bench of the Supreme Court, to whom this question has been referred.

Sources: <http://www.punemirror.in/article/2/2013093020131001164521312949d46b8/%E2%80%99Unmarried%E2%80%99-woman-can-claim-alimony-Court-.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/supreme-court-for-larger-bench-to-rule-on-live-in-alimony-cases/1/259952.html>

Patna High Court acquits all twenty-six accused in Laxmanpur Bathe dalit massacre

In keeping with a series of acquittals of those accused of committing atrocities against dalits in Bihar, the Patna High Court overruled the district court decision convicting twenty-six persons (who allegedly belong to the Ranvir Sena) for the murder of fifty-eight dalits in Laxmanpur Bathe, sixteen years ago. Finding all prosecution witnesses to be unreliable, the High Court acquitted the accused, granting them the benefit of doubt. This comes close at the heels of acquittals in the Bathani Tola, Nagari Bazaar and Miyapur massacre cases. The unconscionable acquittals have sparked widespread dissatisfaction and a call for the Amir Das Commission to be reopened to query the political links of the Ranvir Sena. The Commission, set up to investigate the role of the Ravid Sena in several violent incidents against dalits, was dismantled (before it could submit its report) by the Nitish Kumar government in 2005.

Sources: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/patna-high-court-acquits-all-26-accused-in-laxmanpur-bathe-massacre-case/article5218083.ece>

<http://www.firstpost.com/politics/laxmanpur-bathe-massacre-no-one-killed-58-dalits-1166975.html>

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1131102/jsp/bihar/story_17520085.jsp#.UoCboPmnrkg

<http://www.sacw.net/article5937.html>

A petition seeking that these cases be fast-tracked and the Amir Das Commission be reopened can be found [here](#).

Fast-track court judge in Delhi calls upon women to abstain from pre-marital sex

Virender Bhat, the presiding judge in a Dwarka fast track court set up, ironically, to expedite cases of sexual violence, opined in a case punishable under Sections 376, 493 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code, that women are morally and socially bound not to have pre-marital sex, and ought not cry rape in case they do. Discussing the ‘disturbing trend’ of ‘mature’ young women having consensual sex with men and then alleging rape on account of a false assurance of marriage, the judge stated that he was unwilling to believe that women aged between nineteen and twenty-four years were naïve enough to believe any representation made to them; in his view, they elope ‘voluntarily’ to ‘explore the greener pastures of bodily pleasure’ and then fabricate such tales to avoid social back-lash. This bizarre judgement adds to the long list of cases that highlight blatant sexism in the judicial process, which make reporting rape arduous and humiliating.

Sources: <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/girls-morally-bound-not-to-have-sex-before-marriage-says-fast-track-court-judge/1184017/>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/judge-says-girls-shouldnt-have-sex-before-marriage-ex-cji-calls-ruling-absurd/1/316969.html>

Supreme Court reserves judgement on recognition of gender fluidity in India

Having heard arguments seeking, *inter alia*, recognition of gender neutrality through the addition of a third category for gender across all official documents, free availability of sex reassignment surgeries in government hospitals and the recognition of the self-identified gender of a person (regardless of medical reassignment), the Supreme Court has reserved its judgement in a writ petition filed by the National Legal Services Authority in 2012. It was argued before the Court that a joint reading of Articles 14 and 15 (equality and non-discrimination, discussed in this context in the *Naz Foundation* judgement by the Delhi High Court), Article 19 (fundamental freedoms) and Article 21 (right to life) would mandate such recognition in all government and privately issued identity documents.

The Court is faced up with essentially the same question as that before the High Court of Australia, where the New South Wales government has gone up in appeal against the Court of Appeals’ decision to allow a nonspecific gender in administrative documents.

Op Ed: <http://www.lawyerscollective.org/updates/supreme-court-reserves-decision-recognition-gender-identity-transgender-persons-india.html>

Source: <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/the-third-option/1191670/0>

Supreme Court permits petition to survey the communal violence affected districts in Muzaffarnagar

The Supreme Court issued notice in a writ petition filed by victim-survivors in the Muzaffarnagar riots and Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP). The coalition petitioned to have a High Powered Committee of Court Commissioners survey the four worst-affected districts (Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Bhagpat and Meerut) and assess the damage caused. They also sought a thorough investigation into the criminal conspiracy that led to the riots, and the various outfits involved. The Court asked the State government for a response on the issue of powerful accused being dropped from suspect lists and the refusal to record gender violence.

Source: <http://www.sacw.net/article5942.html>

Supreme Courts instructs states to refrain from making Aadhaar card a mandatory requirement to receive Government services

Pursuant to a PIL filed by a retired judge of the Karnataka High Court, the Supreme Court has issued an interim order mandating that no person be disadvantaged in the context of any government scheme, on account of the lack of an Aadhaar card. It has, thereby, negated rules by governments that made an Aadhaar card mandatory for receiving government services. The Court also required those issuing these cards to ensure that they do so only to individuals who are entitled to it under the law.

Source: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/aadhaar-cards-not-mandatory-for-gas-connections-sc/1/311231.html>

News

NHRC seeks report from Odisha government on plight of child and women artists working in travelling opera troupes.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought a report from the state government of Odisha regarding alleged sexual harassment of young girls and women engaged in travelling folk opera troupes. The NHRC in a letter to the chief secretary asked him to investigate the issue and submit a report within four weeks.

NHRC's intervention was pursuant to a petition filed by Global Human Rights Communication (GHRC), voluntary rights organization, regarding engagement of children, mainly girls, as performers in folk opera troupes in Odisha. The petition maintained that there are over 50 travelling folk opera troupes, each having minimum 100 members.

GHRC filed the petition after conducting a field investigation and interviewing girls engaged in five operas. In the survey, GHRC found that the troupes employed girls between the age group of 7 to 16 years and paid them a meagre pittance. They were also sexually, physically and psychologically abused by their employers.

Source: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-10-08/bhubaneswar/42827835_1_nhrc-troupes-national-human-rights-commission

Stringent law to prohibit manual scavenging passed and notified

The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Bill was passed by both Houses and notified. It seeks to provide alternate employment and rehabilitate those

employed as scavengers. The Act also enhances penalties for continuing to use insanitary latrines and employing persons as manual scavengers; it permits summary trials for offences with up to five years imprisonment, though this runs counter to the CrPC (which permits summary trials only for offences with punishment ranging to two years). Those using insanitary latrines are expected to convert (within nine months of the Act coming into force) at their own cost (though State governments may choose to give financial assistance) and each local authority, railway authority and cantonment board is expected to survey insanitary latrines within their own jurisdiction.

While the law is long due, it is left to be seen whether implementation of the Act will manage to put an end to the practise, especially given the status of the Indian Railways and municipalities as the largest employers of manual scavengers.

The Act can be accessed [here](#).

Sources: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/manual-scavengers-bill-parliament/1/308799.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/stringent-antimanual-scavenging-bill-passed/article5105129.ece>

Parliament passes new legislation on land acquisition

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2013 was passed by Parliament and received the President's assent. The Act replaces the century old colonial legislation on the subject and, for the first time, makes rehabilitation and resettlement a statutory requirement. All State legislations on the point will now have to follow the Central law. The Act requires a Social Impact Assessment before acquisition and the consent of 80% of displaced people in case of acquisitions for private companies and public-private partnerships (PSUs are not covered).

The Act, however, permits temporary acquisition for three years, without making any provision for rehabilitation in such cases. Neither will the Act apply to acquisitions made under sixteen other legislations, (such as the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, the Railways Act, 1989) that govern land acquisition in specific situations.

The Act can be accessed [here](#).

Sources: <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/130905/news-current-affairs/article/land-acquisition-bill-passed-raja-sabha>

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-land-acquisition-bill-to-be-notified-in-two-months-jairam-ramesh-1895651>

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/president-pranab-mukherjee-gives-nod-to-land-acquisition-bill-424675>

<http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Land%20and%20R%20and%20R/LARR%20-%20Final%20Brief.pdf>

NCW asks Centre to take steps to prevent sexual harassment at workplaces

Pointing to the number of complaints that it receives about sexual harassment at workplaces, the NCW asked the central government to direct all its departments, institutions and autonomous bodies to set up internal complaints committees and to advertise the same. The NCW stressed on the need to ensure that women who complain do not find themselves singled out and further harassed.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/take-steps-to-prevent-sexual-harassment-at-work-place-ncw-tells-centre/article5242426.ece>

Kerala High Court quashes Suryanelli rape survivor's petition to have P J Kurien's role investigated

The Kerala High Court dismissed a petition to have P J Kurien's role in the gang rape investigated in light of a statement by the sole convict indicting him. The Court held that there was no new material to order a probe into his alleged involvement, especially since the statement in question was later retracted in an affidavit before a Magistrate Court.

Sources: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/suryanelli-rape-survivor-loses-plea-again/article5266277.ece?homepage=true>

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/south/suryanelli-rape-case-kerala-high-court-rejects-petition-against-pj-kurien-436139>

Resources

'Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in The Commonwealth: Struggles for Decriminalisation and Change'

Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Human Rights Consortium has published an open access volume edited by Corinne Lennox and Matthew Waites on the colonial legacy of criminalisation of same-sex sexual behaviour. The book has comparative data from across fifty-four countries as well as detailed, substantive writing by activists and academics covering sixteen states—United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Uganda, the Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago; this is followed by a comparative analysis across Commonwealth states, seeking to query decriminalisation struggles in the context of colonialism and postcolonialism.

The book can be accessed [here](#).

'Human Rights under State-Enforced Religious Family Laws in Israel, Egypt and India'

Published by the Cambridge University Press as a part of its Cambridge Studies in Law and Society series, this book by Yüksel Sezgin examines the integration of human rights within legal systems that enforce ethno-religious norms, instead of national norms, in the context of the family. The author discusses the manner in which subjectivities enforced by the state are negotiated and redefined by the people and the strategies adopted in order to be able to circumvent or overcome barriers created by religious or customary law.

More information on the book can be found [here](#).

'Gender and Land Tenure Security- Challenges and Barriers to Women's Entitlement to Land in India': Landesa India, UN Women and RDI

Landesa India, along with UN Women has released a report on the plight of women in rural India with respect to entitlement to land. The report was based on a household survey financed by the UN Women in 2 districts each in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. The report reflects upon the social implications of the 2005 amendment in the Hindu Succession Act, and also the role of government support systems to deal with social customs that impair women's entitlement to their land.

The report can be accessed [here](#).

OBITUARY

Betu Singh, longstanding crusader for lesbian rights, passes away

Betu Singh, a leading lesbian rights activist, passed away on October 4, 2013 after a brief battle against liver cirrhosis. She arrived in Delhi needing to earn her livelihood and worked as a security guard, before setting up Sangini Trust in 1997. The Trust, the oldest such organisation in India, provides 24/7 emergency aid to members of the lesbian, bisexual or transgender community who face human rights violations on account of their identity. Known for fearlessly protecting persecuted individuals and championing the rights of sexual minorities, her death leaves a void in the movement, and in the hearts of all those whose rights and dignity she fought for.