



2014-15

ANNUAL REPORT

Partners for Law in Development

Partners for Law in Development



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Partners for Law in Development (PLD), New Delhi

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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 realisation 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. Accordingly, our work towards realisation of women's rights addresses 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. THEMATIC AREAS OF FOCUS

Through the year under review, PLD made interventions in three key areas, through capacity building, knowledge production and policy advocacy. *First*, PLD sustained its engagement on issues of sexuality, sexual violence, and the law. *Second*, PLD continued its endeavours on the theme of witch-hunting from last year through consolidating primary evidence in two new publications. *Three*, PLD sustained its policy advocacy to advance its mandate of translating the goals of the CEDAW into norms and action on thematic concerns.

1. SEXUALITY, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND THE LAW

The Parliament of India passed three key legislations on addressing sexual violence against women and children through 2012-13. These are the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO), Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 and the Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. Together, these three laws have transformed the legal framework on addressing sexual violence and the understanding of victim's rights. The legal regime also brought to focus the need for shaper engagement with sexuality, culture and the law, for making rights achievable in de jure and de facto realms. Along with the advances came greater ambiguity on sexual autonomy and rights, particularly for young adults and same sex desiring persons. This year, we continued our focus and interventions on the inter-related themes with renewed energy, through capacity building, knowledge production, research, advocacy and technical assistance, described below.

1.1. RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Monitoring Rape Trials in Delhi

With the aid of the Delhi High Court, the Department of Justice and the UNDP, PLD had undertaken a study to ascertain the gender-sensitivity of procedures in a rape trial, through the pre-trial and trial stages. The study also made recommendations to make the criminal process more victim-friendly, based also on needs of victims and good practices from comparative jurisdictions.

The study commenced in January 2014, and drew upon cases that were prosecuted for rape in 4 of the 6 Fast Track Courts in Delhi constituted in early 2013. The research, based on primary data from case records, trial observation and victim interviews in select cases, throws light on challenges within the system, good practices that are achievable, and roles of Presiding Officers, Public Prosecutors and Delhi Commission for Women lawyers designated for rape trials. The comparative law research assesses the extent to which the domestic standards were consistent with global model responses to sexual assault cases.

A Resource Pool of four experts from multidisciplinary fields, Mrinal Satish, Rebecca John, Pratiksha Baxi and Farah Naqvi, was constituted to guide the study and review the findings. The study was completed by March 2015, on schedule and is in its final stage of approval.

1.2. CAPACITY-BUILDING

Our strategic focus under capacity building this year has been to acquaint grassroots workers with the substantive and procedural aspects of the three new laws on sexual violence (mentioned above), build their skills on accessing new remedies and shape their perspectives on sexuality, and also to undertake documentation to track the implementation of the laws in grassroots contexts.

National Workshop on Laws Relating to Sexual Violence

PLD organized a national level workshop on the three new laws relating to sexual violence, in Delhi, from October 1-4, 2014, for grassroots level workers, counsellors and lawyers. It



was attended by 26 participants from the states of Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka and Kashmir. The workshop included sessions on the women's movement's engagement with law reform relating to sexual assault, as well as sessions on the 2013 amendments to the criminal laws, sexual harassment at the workplace and POCSO. Our resource pool comprised

Madhu Mehra, Albertina Almeida, Prita Rani Jha and Rebecca John respectively. Participants actively engaged with the resource persons and with each other through group discussions and activities.

Capacity Development at the Grassroots Level in Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Jharkhand

PLD has conducted a total of 15 state- and district-level trainings and workshops with grassroots workers in the states of Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Jharkhand, to ensure that survivors of sexual violence, especially from marginalised communities, have access to support services and legal remedies. The trainings sought to familiarize the participants with the legal regime on sexual violence through the three new laws, and to also raise issues on



sexuality within the new paradigm. This is done in conjunction with understanding of the history of the women's movement's engagement with law reform on sexual violence, through a critical gender lens.

The Bihar leg of the initiative is carried out in partnership with the Bihar Mahila Samakhya (BMS) that works across 21 districts, and has alliances beyond their districts of operation.

The Rajasthan leg is carried out in partnership with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Rajasthan, through whom we have conducted trainings for the lawyers and counsellors of the Mahila Salah Evam Suraksha Kendra (MSSK) that is functioning in 32 districts. In Jharkhand, PLD collaborated with Mahila Samakhya (MS). In Gujarat, along with Mahila Samakhya that is operational across districts, we are also working with the Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS) in the Kutch region of Gujarat.

Please see [Table A](#) for details of the trainings conducted.

Facilitating Holistic Justice for Women through Convergence in Kekri and Bhinay Blocks of Ajmer, Rajasthan

This initiative seeks to engage the state departments, legal services, the Panchayati Raj Institution in facilitating justice to survivors of violence against women, which includes, but is not limited to, legal redress. The initiative in the Kekri and Bhinay blocks in Ajmer District is carried out in collaboration with the Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti (MJAS) based in Ajmer, and with the support of the National Mission on Empowerment of Women (NMEW).

The convergence is sought to be facilitated mainly through community leaders and paralegals. We identified and selected 4 social workers as paralegals to facilitate work in the two blocks, besides constituting a cadre of 20 community leaders drawn from *anganwadi* workers, elected women representatives (EWRs), ASHA workers and sathins in the two blocks to initiate convergence. A task force of district level bodies was constituted to monitor, guide and evaluate the project. A series of trainings were conducted to build capacities of these community leaders and paralegals. Through the interventions carried out in this project, convergence was facilitated on a case by case basis, to obtain pensions, food security, maintenance, legal redress, and entitlements under other schemes for women. Public education and awareness was carried out by the community workers and the paralegals on issues of violence against women and state government's welfare schemes. Two booklets were published and widely disseminated as part of this initiative in Ajmer district – one on laws relating to women and social justice, another on state government's welfare schemes.



Please see Table A for details of the trainings conducted.

Table A: OUTREACH OF CAPACITY BUILDING

| NO. | DATE & LOCATION | THEME | PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS |
|------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| BIHAR | | | |
| 1. | 16-18 July 2014, Patna | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 38 trainers of Bihar Mahila Samakhya working as paralegals and resource persons from 20 districts of Bihar |
| 2. | 20-21 July 2014, Gaya | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 25 Sahyognis, district resource persons, members of Nari Adalats from Gaya, Jamui, Rohtas and Khemur |
| 3. | 10-12 March 2015, Patna | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 31 master trainers, working as paralegals and district trainers, from 15 districts of Bihar |
| 4. | 14-16 March 2015, Patna | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 17 district resource persons and resource persons, from 17 districts of Bihar |
| DELHI | | | |
| 5. | 1-4 October 2014, Delhi | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 26 paralegals, social workers and district resource persons from 10 states including Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh |
| GUJARAT | | | |
| 6. | 13-14 December 2014, Bhuj | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 22 lawyers and counsellors from Bhuj district, covering 7 blocks |
| 7. | 16-18 December 2014, Bhuj | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 20 paralegals of Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan from Bhuj district, covering 5 blocks |
| 8. | 15-17 January 2015, Bhuj | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 21 counsellors from Gramsasini Manch, Ujjas Mahila Sangathan, Saiyere Jo Sangathan, Sakhi Sangini and Goonj, from Bhuj district, covering 4 blocks |
| JHARKHAND | | | |
| 9. | 2-3 February 2015, Ranchi | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 27 district resource persons and master trainers from 10 districts of Jharkhand |
| 10. | 6-8 February 2015, Ranchi | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 20 Sahyoginis and members of Nari Adalat in the Mahila Samkhya from Ranchi district, covering 14 blocks |
| 11. | 10-11 February 2015, Chhatra | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 35 Nyay Dal members, Samuh Sadasyas, Sahiyoginis and members of the Mahila Samakhya federation from Chatra district |
| RAJASTHAN | | | |
| 12. | 1-2 April 2014, Ajmer | Gender and violence against women | 24 community leaders, consisting of EWRs, ASHA workers, ward Panch members and paralegals from Ajmer district |
| 13. | 29-30 April 2014, Ajmer | Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and the role of Panchayat in cases of sexual violence | 24 community leaders, consisting of EWRs, ASHA workers, ward Panch members and paralegals from Ajmer district |
| 14. | 31 May-1 June 2014, Ajmer | Sexual Harassment of Women at the | 22 community leaders, consisting of EWRs, ASHA workers, ward Panch members and |

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Workplace Act | paralegals from Ajmer district |
| 15. | 28-29 June 2014, Ajmer | Gender and social justice | 24 community leaders, consisting of EWRs, ASHA workers, ward Panch members and paralegals from Ajmer district |
| 16. | 8-10 September 2014, Jaipur | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 36 counsellors of Mahila Salah Suraksha Kendra from 16 districts of Rajasthan |
| 17. | 11 September 2014, Jaipur | Criminal Law (Amendment) Act and POCSO | 28 police personnel below the rank of Sub-Inspector |
| 18. | 15-17 September 2014, Jaipur | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 36 counsellors of Mahila Salah Suraksha Kendra from 16 districts of Rajasthan |
| 19. | 19 September 2014, Jaipur | Criminal Law (Amendment) Act and POCSO | 28 police personnel below the rank of Sub-Inspector |
| 20. | 17-19 October 2014, Jaipur | 3 new laws on sexual violence | 26 lawyers and social workers from 9 districts of Rajasthan |

1.3. RESOURCE PRODUCTION

PLD also produced a series of resources to make information on the laws accessible to grassroots workers, lawyers and other practitioners, in order to effect the laws into implementation. Resources on sexual harassment at the workplace, specifically, enable employers to discharge their statutory obligations to prevent, prohibit and redress harassment at workplaces.

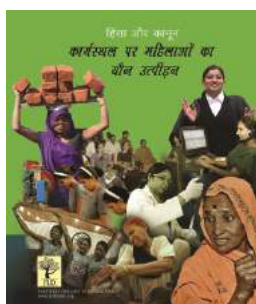


‘Mahilaon, Bachhon evam Samajik Nyay ke Kanoon’

This booklet details legislations and entitlements for realizing social justice for women and children and accessing redress for violence against women. It includes laws pertaining to sexual assault of women and children, the right to education, disability rights and the law on caste atrocities.

‘Meri Yojnaein Mera Adhikaar’

The booklet, released in collaboration with MJAS, informs users of the various Central and State schemes and legislations in effect in Rajasthan for the benefit of women, children, the elderly, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.



‘Karyasthal Par Mahilaon Ka Yaun Utpeedan’

We published a comprehensive guide on the Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. Written in simple Hindi, it is accessible to grassroots workers, committee members and lawyers alike, and enables implementation of the Act in a gender-just manner. The guide explains the provisions of the legislation along with administrative and civil procedures that are not spelt out in the Act, but are necessary for conducting conduct inquiries as per the rules of natural justice.



Posters on Sexual Harassment at the Workplace

PLD has developed a set of two posters, both available in Hindi and English, on sexual harassment of women at the workplace. The first addresses common myths and corresponding facts relating to workplace harassment and the law. The second provides a brief overview of the content of the legislation, and answers common questions such as what is sexual harassment and what can be done for its redress.

2. WITCH HUNTING

In 2013-2014, PLD concluded consolidating its data and finalizing reports from the action research on contemporary forms of ‘witch hunting’ and its interface with the law across four states. The necessity of creating evidence to understand the phenomenon of what is termed as ‘witch hunting’ and the law’s interaction with this, emerged from a the need to engage with an environment where special laws on witch hunting were being proposed and viewed as the only effective solution. Of the two studies – the first is based on primary data from testimonies and police records from Jharkhand, Bihar and Chhattisgarh, the states where special laws have been in force for a decade or more, as well as all appeal court judgments from prior to 1947 to 2012. The second study is based on primary data from Assam, where a special law is not in force, but a Bill on the same is pending enactment. Both reports were published in this period, and discussed more below.

The evidence from these studies demonstrates that special laws do not serve any purpose in states where it has been in force, as preemptive action is rarely, if ever, taken by the police. The general criminal laws can be effectively applied, and indeed are, but only when the violence escalates considerably. The findings show that the most significant policy gaps relate to reparative and restorative aspects of justice, as the victims suffer through their lifetimes once targeted, with no law or policy in place to enable recovery, reparation or rebuilding of lives – or restrain against future harm. In terms of understanding the phenomenon itself, the data challenges the prevailing framing of ‘witch hunting’ as arising from superstition, pointing instead to inter-personal conflicts amongst those proximate to each other, which escalate largely on account of impunity created by administrative and governance neglect (based on poor indicators of education, public health, poverty and barriers

This period saw production of two publications and advocacy engagements.

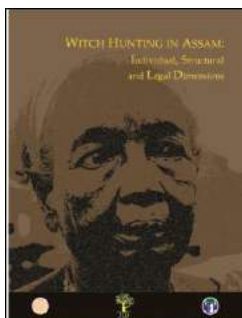
2.1. PUBLICATIONS

‘Contemporary Practices of Witch-Hunting: A Report on Social Trends and the Interface with Law’ - Action Research in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Bihar

This report is based on evidence from a study conducted collaboration with partner organizations in the districts – Bilaspur and Janjgir-Champa (Chhattisgarh), Jamui (Bihar) and Ranchi (Jharkhand); police records collected from the districts from 2010 to 2012; and all



reported High Court and Supreme Court judgments. This socio legal study examines trends and causes of witch-hunting, its impact and its interface with the law.



Witch Hunting in Assam: Individual, Structural and Legal Dimensions

The report based on a study undertaken collaboratively by three organizations- PLD, North-East Network and Assam Mahila Samata Society- draws its findings from case studies of victims from Goalpara and Sonitpur districts of Assam, as well as police records from Goalpara. It highlights the continuum of violations connected with witch hunting, also bringing into focus, structural causes that make it possible to rationalize conflicts and losses through witch hunting. It points towards gaps in law, in terms of police inaction, and importantly, lack of preventive and reparative measures that enable a continuum of violations.

2.2. ADVOCACY

We presented a briefing note to the National Legal Services Authority as well as the High Level Committee on the Status of Women to frame informed policy responses to contemporary practices of witch hunting. The note sought to critique the call for specialized laws to address the practice by elucidating the ineffectiveness of special laws in states where they already exist. By framing witch hunting through the lens of structural deficiencies in governance, administrative neglect, lack of healthcare facilities and poverty, the note sought to shift focus to prevention and reparation through the use of existing institutions. This analysis was included in the report of the High Level Committee on violence against women.

3. CEDAW AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Our engagement with the CEDAW and UN human rights processes, relating to women's rights and equality, is at two levels. *First*, we contribute to norm-setting within the international human rights framework by engaging with and participating in forums that seek to elaborate the normative structure of human rights instruments. *Second*, we contribute towards the country review of India by CEDAW and other human rights mechanisms in consultation with state and non-state actors. Our contributions in this period have been in the area of sexuality, protection to women in diverse family forms, and cultural rights/diversity. This period has involved engagement with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women, and the CEDAW.

3.1. FOURTH AND FIFTH PERIODIC REVIEW OF INDIA BY CEDAW

- PLD was invited to and participated at the CSO consultation organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, to discuss challenges in implementation of gender equality in advance of the CSW 59th session to take stock of 20 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, on February 17, 2015.

- PLD contributed chapters to the NGO shadow report coordinated and produced by NAWO for the fourth and fifth periodic review of India by the CEDAW, and provided technical inputs to the Adivasi Women's Network, for their report titled 'NGO CEDAW Shadow Report and status of Adivasi/Tribal women in India, written by the Inter State Adivasi Women's Network (ISAWN), the Indigenous Women's Forum of North East India (IWFNEI) and the Asia Indigenous People's Pact (AIPP).

3.2. DE-BRIEFING ON THE CEDAW CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SRVAW'S INDIA MISSION REPORT:

On 5 August, 2014, PLD organized a de-briefing on the concluding observations of the CEDAW and the India report of the SRVAW at the ISI, New Delhi. The de-briefing was attended by members of the press, civil society groups, women's organizations and activists. The speakers were Madhu Mehra, Asha Kowtal, Vrinda Grover, Renu Addlakha and Seema Misra.



3.3. UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

On 13 August, 2014, PLD was also a part of the WGHR briefing for parliamentarians on India's Universal Periodic Review under the CEDAW, at the Ashoka Hotel. PLD's contributions have been with respect to concerns relating to women and LGBTI.

3.4. CSO NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

PLD was a participant in the panel discussion organized by UN Women on 11-12 August, 2014, presenting concerns emerging from India's Review by CEDAW, to facilitate their integration in the priorities shortlisted by the civil society in the Beijing +20 processes.

3.5. UN WORKING GROUP ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN LAW AND PRACTICE

PLD was invited by the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice to present at a roundtable on 7 May, 2014 on the working group's next thematic report on discrimination against women in family and cultural life. This will address concerns of equality and non-discrimination in marriage, rights and responsibilities in the family and participation in all aspects of cultural life including arts, sports and cultural activities.

Our presentation emphasized need for legal protection to women in diverse family forms that lack legal recognition, drawing attention to the vulnerability resulting from making legal protection to women become contingent on legality of marriage, and indeed, on compulsory registration of marriage. Our submissions drew attention to the need to address structural causes that create conditions for early/child marriage, for facilitating social transformation,

instead of relying primarily upon law and order solutions that penalize child marriages, declaring them void.

3.6. DUE DILIGENCE PROJECT MEETING ON THE ‘ROLE OF THE STATE: DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN FAMILY AND CULTURAL LIFE’

PLD was also part of the above thematic expert group meeting organized by the Due Diligence Project with support of the OHCHR, UN Women, Carter Centre, amongst others, on December 2-3, 2014. Besides participating in the deliberations, we facilitated the session focusing on concerns relating to marriage and the family. The EGM was organized to contribute towards the forthcoming thematic report of the UN Working Group.

B. CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

In the above thematic work, as well as part of our technical assistance, contributions and participation in events and forums, PLD works towards contextualizing CEDAW to specific themes and concerns. Our collaborations and engagements have been with state and non-state actors, often on an ongoing basis. Here, we list some of the technical assistance and events where we participated.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

JUDICIARY

- PLD has been engaging with representatives of Supreme Court Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) for outreach and gender sensitisation for lawyers and non-lawyers on sexual harassment at the workplace. We conducted an orientation workshop on 28 August 2014 for volunteers among Supreme Court lawyers, who assist complainants in making complaints. We were also speakers at the gender sensitization event for class III and class IV employees of the Supreme Court on 23 February 2015.
- PLD participated in a video recording to introduce the objectives, unique features and architectural purpose of the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complex in Karkardoma District Court. This exercise is an effort to record the ways by which this deposition complex helps implement the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court and the High Court of Delhi for dealing with matters pertaining to sexual offences and child witnesses.
- PLD has been part of creating agenda and curriculum for the training programmes for all the six district courts of Delhi towards making ‘courtroom practices responsive towards victims of sexual violence’. PLD has been part of all the six training programmes for each district, organised by the Committee to monitor proper implementation of several guidelines laid down by the Hon’ble Supreme Court as well as Hon’ble High court of Delhi for dealing with matters pertaining to sexual offences and child witnesses, that commenced in about August 2013. This year, we were part of the resource pool for the weekend training programmes conducted on July 12-13, 2014 and November 8-9, 2014.

We also conducted a session in the programme on Human Rights and the Law for the judicial officers of DHJS and DJS for the Delhi Judicial Academy on February 20, 2015.

POLICE

As part of PLD's engagement with the implementation of the laws relating to sexual violence, we also conducted three trainings, one with all the trainees at the academy and two with sub-inspectors at the Police Academy in Jaipur, on the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 and the POCSO.



OTHERS

- Our Executive Director is part of the advisory group of CEDAW-ASEAN projects of UN Women South East Asia Programme, which met on November 15, 2014.
- PLD made submissions and participated in the roundtable on the issue of Violence Against Women, convened by the High Level Committee on the Status of Women.
- Madhu Mehra, our executive director, conducted a workshop for Arrow on Human Rights mechanisms from 13-15 October 2014, to further the engagement of its partners from the Asia-Pacific region on sexual health and reproductive health rights of women within the UN Human Rights mechanisms.
- We conducted an orientation on sexual harassment of women at the workplace for the staff of Landesa, on 16 February 2015.

CONFERENCES

Madhu Mehra, our Executive Director, was invited as a panellist for the following conferences/ forums, where we presented on the themes as mentioned:

- Asia Pacific Feminist Forum by APWLD:* (29 May- 1 June, 2014), PLD organized a panel discussion in collaboration with Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Nijera Kori (Bangladesh) and Saad Angan (Goa), on 'When the State Cherry Picks its Gender Justice Agenda – Conflicts and Challenges of our Times'.
- South Asia Expert Group Consultation on Equality:* Participated as a panellist in the South Asia Expert Group Consultation on Equality, held from 13-15 September, 2014, organised by the Women and Media Collective, North-East Network and Forum for Women, Law and Development.
- FLTP Graduates Meet:* As founding member of the Feminist Legal Theory and Practice



Programme at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Madhu Mehra attended the FLTP Graduates Meeting and the trainers' caucus from 13-15 November 2015. This was a stock taking meeting of graduates to take stock of the work of trainers, and to develop a statement to feed into the Beijing +20 process.

- d. *Roundtable on Law at the Intersection of Caste, Gender and Sexuality in India*, organised by Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, Ford Foundation and the University of California Human Rights Fellowship, on 6 August 2014, as a moderator for a session.
- e. *Commemoration of International Women's Day* – Talk cum discussion on the possibilities of justice for the student and faculty members of Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi University on March 9, 2015

ADVOCACY, COALITION AND ACTIVISM

We contribute to discussions within the women's movement to contribute to the discourse on women's rights, and engage with national institutions and international human rights mechanisms to shape standard-setting on women's rights, with the objective of ensuring inclusion of marginalised realities and constituencies. We also track protection of rights to draw attention to areas of advancement and gaps, and to participate in public debate. Our approach to advocacy involves a range of such engagements, including being part of alliances and coalitions, and by facilitating discussions/ events.

MEDIA OUTREACH

PLD's contribution to public debate and news continues through print and television media on concerns relating to sexuality, sexual and gender based violence and women's rights. Our website catalogues the news reports and links to track the coverage of debates.

COALITIONS

We are part of activism through coalitions and collaborative exercises. Under the umbrella of NAWO we contributed to the NGO shadow report to CEDAW; as part of the Working Group on Human Rights, we have engaged with parliamentarians; as a member of Voices Against 377, we have been part of deliberations, discussions on next steps following the Supreme Court judgement re-criminalizing homosexuality in December 2013. The curative petition (following the rejection of the review petition) is pending before the Supreme Court of India.

RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

This year, PLD produced resources and publications on laws as well as reports based on action research studies. This year saw the production of several such resources.

WITCH HUNTING

1. 'Contemporary Practices Of Witch-Hunting: A Report on Social Trends and the Interface with Law' - Action Research in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Bihar.

2. Witch Hunting in Assam: Individual, Structural and Legal Dimensions
(produced and published collaboratively by PLD, NEN and AMSS)

RESOURCES ON RIGHTS, REDRESS AND ENTITLEMENTS

1. '*Mahilaon, Bachhon evam Samajik Nyay ke Kanoon*'- on legislations and rights protection for women and children.
2. '*Meri Yojnaein Mera Adhikaar*'- The booklet, in collaboration with MJAS, covers various Central and State schemes and legislations in effect in Rajasthan for the benefit of women, children, the elderly, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
3. '*Karyasthal Par Mahilaon Ka Yaun Utpeedan*'- a comprehensive guide in Hindi on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
4. *Posters on Sexual Harassment at Workplace*- a set of two posters, both in Hindi and English, on sexual harassment of women at the workplace.

NEWSLETTER AND ANNUAL DIGEST

Since 2008, PLD has consistently produced a bi-monthly newsletter containing news reports and analyses of developments in the sphere of human rights and gender justice within a judicial/policy framework. This has been appreciated by the many subscribers over the years. Through April 2014 to March 2015, PLD has produced six newsletters, which can be downloaded from our website.

WEB DEVELOPMENT

The Feminist Law Archives

Continuing from the previous year of archiving documents on the engagement of the autonomous women's movement with law reform on a range of issues, we are in the process expanding this to an independent blog on a larger theme of issues, including sexuality, domestic violence, pornography, queer rights etc. The first phase, chronicling engagement on the issue of sexual violence, acid attacks and dowry, continues to be available and regularly updated on the PLD website. The archives makes available memoranda, articles, reports etc, presenting a rich account of the history of struggle for law reform in women's rights in India.

CEDAW South Asia Website

PLD has also been managing the CEDAW South Asia website at www.cedawsouthasia.org, and regularly updating content on it for ease of access for other organizations in the South Asia region.

C. ORGANISATIONAL UPDATES

| OUR TEAM AND PROGRAMME PARTNERS | |
|---|--|
| Executive Director | Madhu Mehra |
| Programme Co-ordinators | Ishani Cordeiro (Trainings) Deeksha Gulati (Training Resources) Radhika Chitkara (Research and Advocacy) |
| Programme Officers | Puja (Trainings) |
| Short-term Appointments | Amartya Kanjilal (Research) Smriti Minocha (Trainings) Winnie Mitra (Research) |
| Interns | Tusharika Mattoo Manimanjari Sengupta Akshi Rastogi |
| PROGRAMME ASSISTANCE AND FINANCE | |
| Administration | Kishore Tirkey (Programme Assistant) Surabhi Shastri (Programme Administration) |
| Finance | Vipin Kumar (Finance Manager) Ankur Kashyap (Finance Officer) |
| PROGRAMME PARTNERS | |
| Bihar | Mahila Samakhya |
| Jharkhand | Mahila Samakhya |
| Gujarat | Mahila Samakhya; Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan |
| Rajasthan | Mahila Salah evam Suraksha Kendra; Mahila Jan Adhikar Sangathan |
| ADVISORS, RESOURCE POOL AND CONSULTANTS | |
| Advisors | Anuja Agrawal Kamala Sankaran Malavika Rajkotia Mrinal Satish Nandini Narula Sanjay Aggarwal Uma Chakravarti |
| Trainings | Albertina Almeida Pritarani Jha |
| Monitoring Rape Trials in Delhi | Farah Naqvi Mrinal Satish Pratiksha Baxi Rebecca John |
| GOVERNANCE | |
| Board of Trustees | Aradhana Nanda Geetha Ramaseshan Jaya Sharma Madhu Mehra Rebecca John |
| FINANCIAL PARTNERS | |
| Department of Justice; Ford Foundation; MacArthur Foundation; National Mission for the Empowerment of Women; United Nations Development Programme | |