



**2017-18**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

# Partners for Law in Development



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Partners for Law in Development (PLD), New Delhi

Cover Photo: Workshop on Sexual harassment at workplace law with media-persons, 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 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). The annual report covers work carried out in the financial year, between April 2017 to March 2018.

## A. Thematic Areas of Intervention

### 1. Sexual Harassment at Workplace

#### TRAININGS CONDUCTED BY PLD

Since the enactment of the law, PLD has not just sustained, but also expanded its trainings to build awareness as well as technical skills required for implementation of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Law. In this year we conducted 22 trainings, reaching out to almost 2000 participants. In addition to trainings for government and governmental agencies, civil society sector (encompassing lawyers, social workers, NGOs) and private sector organisations, we began a new capacity development initiative with vernacular media, reaching out to grassroots reporters, writers and journalists in North Indian states. The most sustained demand for trainings continues to come from the Rajasthan WCD, making them an outstanding example of State commitment to orient as many government and government supported agencies district-wise, with information necessary for implementing the law.



Following are the details of the trainings and workshops conducted from April 2017 to March 2018:

#### FOR GOVERNMENT AND GOVT. AGENCIES

PLACE	DATE	NO OF PAX	PARTICIPANT PROFILE
New Delhi	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	100	DWCD, NCT of Delhi We conducted a session on “Rights of Complainant and Respondent”.
	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	15	DWCD, NCT of Delhi for Committee members

<b>Hyderabad</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 4 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017	272	for the NIRDPR Grade A to C employees, -Assistant Director, Project Staff, Faculty, Stenographer, Hindi translator, UCD staff, Telephone Assistant, Accounts staff, Junior Engineer etc.
<b>Rajasthan</b>  (In collaboration with WCD)	Pali 5 <sup>TH</sup> June, 2017	38	By WCD, Rajasthan for ICC and LCC member from Government Polytechnic College, District Education Office, Mahila Adhikarita, Panchayat Samiti, Agriculture, MSSK, SP Office, ICDS, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Legal Services Authority, Treasury, Mahila Police Station, UIT, Dept. of Information Technology and Communication
	Sirohi 6 <sup>th</sup> June, 2017	44	By WCD, Raj for the ICC and LCC members from SP Office (SC/ST Cell, Crime branch), Mahila Adhikarita, District Education Office, ICDS, Ayurvedic office, DTO, Police, Mahila Police Station, Ayush Dept., DSO, Agriculture, Treasury, SIPF, Collectorate office, GPF&SI, Govt. College, SDO office, PRO office, , Govt. Girls College, DEO, PO office
	Sirohi 7 <sup>th</sup> June, 2017	95	By WCD, Raj for the ICC and LCC members from Mahila Adhikarita, Ayush, Police Station, Ayurvedic, ICDS, Tehsildar, PO office, DD office, Zilla Parishad, CDPO, DFO
	Sirohi 8 <sup>th</sup> June, 2017	21	By WCD, Raj for the ICC and LCC members from Mahila Adhikarita, Ayush, ICDS, Police station, PO office, Ayurvedic, Rashtriya Mahavidyalaya, Forest Department
	Jalor 9 <sup>th</sup> June, 2017	45	By WCD, Raj for the ICC and LCC members from Children's home, Block Elementary Education office, District Education Office, District Institute of Education and Training, Treasury, Jodhpur DISCOM, Ayurvedic, ITI, PMED, DOIT&C, Medical Officer, JCCB, SI&GPF, Food and Civil Supply, DMWO, Women Cell, Zilla Parishad, Govt. Girls College, PWD, JDVVNL, Excise Department, Literacy Department, MSSK and Mahila Adhikarita
	Baran 19 <sup>th</sup> June, 2017	27	By WCD, Raj for ICC and LCC members from Police (SP office and Mahila Thana), Women Empowerment, Government College, MSSK, Animal Husbandry, Government Hospital, Forest conservation, Disha Sansthan and Unnayan Samiti.
	Baran 20 <sup>th</sup> June, 2017	24	By WCD for the ICC and LCC members from Police (SP office and Mahila Thana), MSSK, SIPF, Government School, ICDS, women and child development, women empowerment, SC/ST office
	Baran 21 <sup>st</sup> June, 2017	15	By WCD, Raj for the ICC and LCC members from Mahila Adhikarita, SIPF, Anganwadi workers, Police
	SawaiMadhopur 22 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2017	139	By WCD, Raj for the ICC and LCC members from Education, agriculture, Block elementary Education officer, Animal Husbandry, Kendriya Sahkari bank, WCD, Health, Literacy, SC/ST office, Forest Conservation, transportation, Banas Pariyojana, Government College, Police, Irrigation, Water Resource, Mahila Seva Sadan Samiti, Panchayat Samiti, Municipal Corporation, BCMO, PHED,

			Women Empowerment, ICDS, Government Girls college, Government School, MSSK, Mamata, ANM, Electricity, Rajivika
	Sikar 24 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	59	By WCD, Raj for the Women and Child Development Dept., ICDS (Child Development Project Officer, Lady Supervisor), ITI, Government Arts College, S.K. Government College, Agriculture Department, Forest Department, SDM, DTO, Shekhawati University, AD office, ADM office, SP office, DA, PRO and Local Committee member and Chairperson.
	Churu 26 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	33	By WCD, Raj for the Deputy Director, ICDS, ICDS (CDPO, LS), Government D.B. Hospital, Anganwadi Workers Training Centre, Education Department, SP office, Women Empowerment
	Dholpur 26 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017	30	By WCD, Raj for the Tehsildar Saramthura, Development officer (Panchayat Samiti), Addl. District Education Officer, APC Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, O.S. Collectorate, MSSK, One Stop Centre, Cooperation Department, Forest Department, Roadways, Bank Manager, ITI, Pankaj Shiksha Samiti, Sakhi Saheli, Rajivika, Tulsi Shiksha Samiti, Advocate (District Court).
	Karauli 8 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017	30	By WCD, Raj for the Police, Animal Husbandry Department, Women's University, Healthcare Department, Women and Child Development Department, MSSK, Sakhi One Stop Centre.
	Jaisalmer 21 <sup>st</sup> November, 2017	20	By WCD, Raj for the State Girl's University, Healthcare Department, CMHO Office, LIC, State Coordinator PCPNDT Act, Tarang NGO, Panchayat Samiti, Children's Home, Kishore Grah, Cooperative Bank, GPF, Krishi Vibhag, ICDS and Women Empowerment Department, Principal (District Institute of Education and Training).

***WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (NGOs, social workers and activists)***

PLACE	DATE	NO OF PAX	PARTICIPANT PROFILE
<b>Bhopal</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> April, 2017	29	In collaboration with Sangini Resource Centre, Bhopal for activists from districts of Rewa, Satna, Singhrauli, Sidhi, Chindwara, Gwalior, Sagar, Vidisha, Datiya and Bhopal participated which included trainers, Social Workers and Presidents from organisations working at district level in Madhya Pradesh (Mamatva Mahila Mandal, Sidhi; SamajikNyay Kendra, Sangini, CSJ, VSS, Deeprekha Samajik Sanstha, Special cell, Bhopal, Muskaan, Mahila Mandal Satna, Rewa etc.).

**FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS**

PLACE	DATE	NO OF PAX	PARTICIPANT PROFILE
New Delhi	19 <sup>th</sup> September	8	For CLEAN, Delhi, for their EO, COO, coordinator F&A, managerial staff, finance/ technology, skill & training dept, associate partners, office assistants.
	4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> September	40-45/session	Gender sensitization workshops with 1 <sup>st</sup> year B.Tech students from IIT Delhi
Amritsar	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	99	For Zigitza Healthcare Limited. Human Resources Department, Quality Control, Account department, Call Centre employees. Training conducted in four batches, each having 23, 30, 17, and 29 participants respectively.
Chakradharpur (West Singhbhum)	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	47	Training conducted with Doctors without Borders (Medecin sans frontiers). Participants included community health workers, nurse, doctors, and drivers.

**FOR MEDIA-PERSONS, WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS**

PLD initiated a new strategy to reach out to the vernacular grassroots media so as to orient and sensitise them to covering issues related to sexual harassment, and through this, reaching grassroots readership. The media is a necessary ally that can reach out to a wide cross section of the community level opinion makers and accountability seekers. Reporters, writers and journalists from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra and Telangana have participated in these trainings.



The details for the workshops are as follows:

PLACE	DATE	NO OF PAX	PARTICIPANT PROFILE
Bhopal	24 <sup>th</sup> April, 2017	37	In collaboration with Sangini Resource Centre for print and visual media, including Sabah Savere, Digi News, Bansal News, Newsbits. in, E TV, Express Media Service, Rubaru News Network, Dainik Bhaskar, DNB News, Dainik Jagran, Hindustan Times, Navdunia, IFWJ, Republic TV, India News, Vikas Samvad, D.B News and an Announcer from All India Radio, Bhopal.

Hyderabad	1 <sup>st</sup> August, 2017	13	With Bhumika Women's Collective, for print and visual media Participants included Krish TV, Nava Telangana, TV9, Mahila Margadarshi, Gemini Neo, Vanitha TV, TV5, TNIE) and an Announcer from AIR Hyderabad.
New Delhi	20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> December, 2017	31	In collaboration with Charkha Development Communication Network for grassroots writers and media persons, with participants from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi NCR
	5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> February, 2017	45	By PLD for grassroots vernacular media from Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, UP, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat

**IEC MATERIAL/ KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES**

**Posters in Urdu, Telugu (Marathi, Gujarati, Bangla, Malayalam, Tamil, Odiya, and Punjabi languages underway)**



To compliment our initiative of working CSOs, media persons and private institutions across different States, we have translated our posters on the SHW law and Laws Related to Women to Urdu, Telugu, and Gujarati. Since PLD's SHW posters are information centric, we've had a very high demand for these in different languages from across the country. As a result, translations and typesetting for SHW posters in Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam and Punjabi is underway.

As per the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, it is mandatory to "display at any conspicuous place at the workplace, the penal consequences of sexual



harassments; and the order constituting, the Internal Committee under sub-section (I) of section 4”. To ensure easy access to resources, PLD’s posters on SHW are available as soft copies, freely downloadable on PLD’s [website](#), for any interested party to print for their use or circulation. Indeed, some organisations have taken PLD’s permission to print them, such as Press Information Bureau of Kerala.

### **Videos on ‘consent’ and ‘rejection’ (in the context of sexual interest/ relationships)**

PLD developed tools for preventive interventions relating to sexual harassment in the form of a series of 11 videos around themes of consent and rejection to initiate and amplify concerns connected with sexual harassment among youth. Given that confusions around ‘consent’ and harm resulting from ‘rejection’ are the emerging concerns between peer groups at the workplace and in universities, PLD has produced these [videos](#) in collaboration with Co:Motion to initiate discussion and reflection on the same.



### **Publication of resource book on sexual harassment law in Telugu**

Our Hindi resource book on sexual harassment was translated into Telugu, a 1000 copies were printed and disseminated through Bhumika Women’s Collective in Hyderabad.

### **Monitoring the implementation of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013 by State governments**

PLD finalized the report based on RTIs filed in 2016 to map the extent to which committees and district officers have been appointed with respect to the SHW Act by state and central governments.

### **EVALUATION OF TRAININGS**

As part of due diligence, PLD undertook an evaluation to assessing its capacity development programme, the findings of which suggest that an impressive scale and quantity in outreach is being combined by quality trainings; and highlighted its impact as reported by stakeholders with whom PLD has worked. We look at this evaluation as a tool to reflect and strengthen our understanding and practice on training and capacity development.

## 2. Exploring linkages between Sexual Violence and Sexuality

### PERSPECTIVE BUILDING WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

#### i) Events organised by PLD

- Public event and discussion evaluating implementation of victim friendly responses and procedures relating to rape prosecutions:

Through a public event on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2017 held to discuss findings of the rape trial study in New Delhi, a panel discussion led by Mrinal Satish, Pratiksha Baxi, Rebecca John and Madhu Mehra, commented on findings relating to PLD's study undertaken on victim friendly responses at pre-trial and trial stages in cases prosecuted in Delhi. This study is based on studying cases in four fast track special courts in Delhi from Jan 2014 to March 2015, was widely covered in the press by leading national dailies, the coverage is available under the News and Print section below.

- Revisiting 2013 Rape Law Amendments: Critical Reflections and Feminist Dialogue:



Anational consultation on 7th & 8th Oct, 2017, was held to discuss issues of consent, sexuality, marriage, due process, fair trial and victim rights with a convening of leading feminist lawyers, academics and social workers of the country.

- Sexuality, Sexual Violence and the Law- Unpacking Contradictions, Expanding Sites of Action:



A national workshop held from 25th-28th March, 2018 in New Delhi, was held to raise awareness on the inter-linkages of rape law with the other legal provisions on sexuality, as they relate to issues of gender inequality for 29 participants from NGOs working on gender based violence, sexuality, transgender and sex worker rights, from the states of Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi.

**ii) Technical Assistance provided by PLD**

- PLD conducted a socio-legal workshop on laws relating to Violence against Women in Patna, Bihar from 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> April with 60 participants from the Women and Child Development in partnership with Sisters for Change, UK.

**iii) Events in which PLD participated/ presented:**

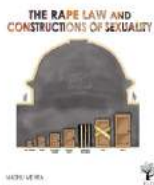
- PLD attended the report release organized by the Human Rights Watch on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 regarding barriers to justice and support services for sexual assault survivors in India titled “Everyone Blames Me”. PLD’s comment on the report, and findings drawn by HRW and PLD in their respective reports on rape prosecutions was published by The Print, and can be found [here](#).<sup>1</sup>
- Madhu Mehra attended a Consultation on Feminist Strategic Litigation organized by APWLD in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 to present on successful approaches to feminist litigation on violence against women from India.
- PLD attended the MWCD (GoI) conference for Partner NGOs on ‘Implementation of Policies, Schemes and Programmes for Women and Child Development’, on issues pertaining to violence against women, trafficking of women and children policy interventions for gender parity on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.
- Shared findings from the study of pre-trial and trial stages of rape prosecutions at a consultation organized by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative on police responses to rape victims in Delhi on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.

**RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES**

**Country Study on mapping the status of sexual health and well-being in India:** PLD, together with SAMA Resource group for Women and Health, undertook a study to prepare “Country Assessment on Human Rights in Context of Sexual Health and Reproductive Health Rights’ for the National Human Rights Commission. A draft report has been submitted.

**Resource book: The Rape Law and Constructions of Sexuality:**

This illustrated resource book examines constructions of sexuality by exploring inter-linkages of the rape law with lesser known penal offences relating to sexuality, to unpack ideologies and structures of power that shape the law.



<sup>1</sup>Talk Point: Levels of impunity enjoyed by perpetrators are alarming, ThePrint, available at [bit.ly/2jqeD31](http://bit.ly/2jqeD31)

**Videos on ‘consent’ and ‘rejection’ (in the context of friendships and intimacy):** PLD developed preventive tools against sexual harassment in the form of video series consisting of 11 videos in collaboration with Co:Motion, touching upon aspects of consent and rejection, to open discussions and amplify concerns around sexual consent among youth. A means to address confusions around ‘consent’ and harm resulting from ‘rejection’ between young adults, these videos are available freely on internet as tools of awareness raising.

**One Stop Centers:** Given the significance of One Stop Centres for transforming the legal process for victims of sexual assault, PLD took stock of the functioning of seven One Stop Centres (OSCs) - AIIMS, Ambedkar Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, LokNayak Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, and Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, a little over a year after these were established in Delhi.

### **INTERVENTIONS IN PILS**

#### **Submissions to the amicus curiae in RIT Foundation v. Union of India challenging the marital rape exception in the penal code**

PLD made submissions to the amicus curiae in the case of RIT Foundation v. Union of India, pending before the Delhi High Court, in which the constitutionality of the marital rape exception under Sec. 375 of the IPC has been challenged.

#### **Intervention in PIL challenging the criminalisation of adultery before the Supreme Court of India**

PLD had sought to intervene in the case of Joseph Shine v. Union of India, pending before the constitutional bench of Supreme Court of India, in which the constitutionality of Sec. 497 of the IPC has been challenged.

### **3. Witch-hunting**



With substantial work undertaken by PLD in relation to targeting of women as witches, this subject continues to be an area of opinion building, evidence dissemination and training. This year, PLD conducted trainings for the Rajasthan government on the state law across 14 districts with over 400

participants, produced a research paper for Institute for Development Studies, Jaipur, and participated in media discussion and coverage of the issue.<sup>2</sup>

### TRAININGS ON RAJASTHAN WITCH-HUNTING LAW

PLD continues to conduct trainings on the state law in Rajasthan for WCD, the details of these are stated below:

#### *Organized by WCD, Rajasthan*

PLACE	DATE	NO OF PAX	PARTICIPANT PROFILE
<b>Jaipur</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	18	DCP office, RTO, Education, DEP, Housing Board, Insurance, ICDS, Prosecuting officer.
<b>Ajmer</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	28	ADM, MSSK, SI, WE, PHED, CMMO office, ADO, Add SP, SDO, RSND
<b>Pratapgarh</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	30	POLICE, NGOs, WCP, Ayurvedic, District Hospital, ICDS, MahilaParishad, CDPO, CMHO, MSSK
<b>Banswara</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	49	Women Empowerment Dept., Police, ICDS, CDPO, Lady Supervisor, SP office, Education, Forest, ZilaParishad, BSW, Animal husbandry, Panchayat Samiti, Public Information, RIDS organization and Anjuman Raza-ae Mustafa organisation.
<b>Sirohi</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	37	District Collector, CEO ZilaParishad, SPO, Medical and Health, SMHO, Police, Education, DLSA, ICDS, PHED, NariJagritievamKalyanSamiti, Public Relations, MahilaAdhikarita,
<b>Jalore</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	54	DLSA, Police, Health, Tehsil office, State Insurance and Provident Fund, PMO, SC/ ST, DIET, Agriculture, Raj . Women's College, CMHO, AHD, PHED, School, Information and Public Relations, Water Conservation, WCD, DM, ZilaParishad, Collectorate, Treasury
<b>Barmer</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> July, 2017	38	District Collector, CEO ZilaParishad, CDPO, Animal Husbandry, IVDS, Police, DEO, MBC Rajasthan Women's College, MSSK, Women Empowerment, PHED, CMHO, Public relations, School, BPA, MIS
<b>Sikar</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	63	Lady Supervisor, Government Arts College, CDPO, AAO, Forest Department, Commercial Taxes Department, PRO office, SP office, BEEO, Deputy CMHO, PHED, Government Commerce College, ZilaParishad, DEP, ADEO, DWDA, MSSK
<b>Churu</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	33	RPSCO, BEEO, CDPO, RSLDC, SO, DD office, Lady Supervisor, MSSK, ASO, ICDS
<b>Dholpur</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017	20	Civil Society and government departments such as Minority department, District Secondary Education Officer, Labour department, Krishi Vibhag, Roadways, Collectorate, Rajasthan Rural

<sup>2</sup>Witches beaten, buried, burned for land in princely Indian state, Reuters, available at [reut.rs/2ogdU3c](http://reut.rs/2ogdU3c); Law fails to prevent centuries-old witch hunting, Deccan Herald, available at [bit.ly/2BCl6iu](http://bit.ly/2BCl6iu)

			Livelihood Council, Polytechnic, ITI, Primary Education, Cooperative Societies, Tulsi Siksha Samiti, Saheli Samiti, District Industrial Centre, NGO Shiv Nagar, Rural Development Institute, Women and Child Development Department, MSSK, Sakhi One Stop Centre, Prayatn Sanstha
<b>Karauli</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	31	GC Kirawal College, Rajasthan Police, PWD, Agriculture Department, Healthcare Department, Labour Department, Women and Child Development Department, MSSK, Sakhi One Stop Centre, ECAT Bodhgram
<b>Dausa</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	25	Women and Child Development Department and NGOs
<b>Jaisalmer</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017	10	Government Girl's PG College, Health Department, Panchayat Samiti, Sakhi One Stop Centre, ICDS, Women Empowerment Department
<b>Jodhpur</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	35	Rajasthan Skill and Livelihood Development Department, Police department, Health department, MSSK, Literacy Department, CPO, ICDS, Women Empowerment Department

## **RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES**

### **Comparative review of State Laws on Witch Hunting: Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan**

PLD undertook a comparative review of state laws on witch-hunting in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, for a paper commissioned by Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur. The review looks at the nature of offences created under each of the 3 state laws, the remedies available and the scope of state obligations outlined in relation to each.

### **Training and knowledge tools on Rajasthan law**

PLD created power point presentations and knowledge resources on laws against witch-hunting to be used in trainings and workshops (in both Hindi and English languages) on the Rajasthan law.

## **4. Adolescent sexuality, health and rights**

### **DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH: AGE OF CONSENT AND AGE OF MARRIAGE**

To gather evidence of the impact of laws on addressing sexuality, agency and vulnerability of adolescents, case law research was undertaken of judgments invoking the laws on child marriage and the child sexual abuse. Testimonies of adolescent girls in self-arranged marriages was also undertaken. The data management and identification of trends and impact was undertaken, towards part completion of the study. The findings indicate a significant high use of both law by parents to retaliate against self-arranged marriages and consensual relationships of their daughters, suggesting the use of law as a tool to punish rather than support/ strengthen agency of girls.

## DIALOGUE AND CONSENSUS BUILDING WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

PLD has organised and participated in several events centered on adolescent health and sexuality, the details of which are stated below-

### i) Adolescent Sexuality, Health and the Law: Mapping Interventions-



PLD organized a national consultation in partnership with CEHAT and Resource Centre for Interventions on Violence Against Women, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (RCI-VAW, TISS) from 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, with practitioners working with adolescents across domains of health, education, sexuality and the law, to map challenges and possibilities in developing adolescent capacities and agency.

### ii) Meetings in which PLD presented as panelist/ participated;

PLD made panel presentations to disseminate preliminary findings from its study on age of consent law and its impact on adolescent agency, vulnerability and early marriage at the following platforms:

- XI conference on ‘Breaking Boundaries: Sexuality, Gender, Reproduction, Health and Rights’ conducted by International Association on the Study of Sexuality, Culture, and Society in 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- National seminar to deliberate on registry for offenders of child sexual abuse on Oct. 28, 2017, organized by Tulir-Centre for the Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse and Butterflies.
- Disseminated info-graphics of findings of the study on age of consent and early marriage laws at the 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Adolescent Health organised by the International Association for Adolescent Health from October 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in New Delhi.
- South Asia Consultation on child marriage was organised by the Indian Alliance for Child Rights on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at United Nations Building, New Delhi
- A national convening of CSO coalition to end child marriage in India was organised by the Indian Alliance for Child Rights in support of the NHRC-SAIEVAC National Conference to End Child Marriage in India on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at United Nations Building, New Delhi.
- National consultation organised by Centre for Child and the Law, NLSIU, and HAQ Centre for Child Rights on the implementation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 on 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at Pride Plaza Hotel, New Delhi.
- “Love, Law and Labour: Child Marriage in West Bengal”, a workshop organized by School of Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University on 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

- Dissemination and sharing of research findings on issues related to youth rights organized by MASUM, Pune on 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

## B. Cross-cutting Initiatives

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### 1. FEMINIST LAW ARCHIVES

The third phase of Feminist Law Archives, a digital data base on women’s movements’ engagement with the law was completed. This phase saw addition of new sections on Women and Work; Women and Health, and Speech and Expression. The archives are widely appreciated, being the only digital repository of such documentation. Feedback from some of the leading academics -

- Krishna Menon, Gender Studies Professor, Ambedkar University, Delhi- “This is a marvelous effort and would help researchers, teachers, students, journalists and others who are interested in these struggles for freedom and justice. However, more importantly, it establishes the importance of collective action based on critical interrogation, and the power of democratic politics to usher in a more egalitarian world based on dignity and freedom of the individual.”
- Bijayalakshmi Nanda, Vice-principal, Miranda House, Delhi University- “The feminist law archives provide a rich resource of materials for those interested in the issue as well as becomes an advocacy resource kit to generate awareness and understanding. It is a much needed platform and will contribute towards gender justice.”
- PrabhaKotiswaran, Reader in Law and Social Justice, King’s College, London- “This new initiative is an invaluable service to researchers working on the Indian women’s movement and its many struggles for law reform and social justice. I highly commend this thorough endeavour to document the lived experiences of Indian feminism.”

### 2. ENGAGEMENT WITH UN HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES AND MECHANISMS

- PLD released a statement on the government’s response to recommendations made at the IIIrd Universal Periodic Review of India in May, 2017, with specific focus on recommendations related to women, transgender persons, and homosexuality. The statement is available at [bit.ly/2xWho1J](http://bit.ly/2xWho1J)
- Madhu Mehra delivered the key note address on CEDAW’s standards relating to women’s food security for a national meeting on 24th May, 2017 organized by FIAN India and the Child Trust.

### 3. BI-MONTHLY LEGAL NEWS

PLD’s much-valued and informative online newsletter entered its 10th and final year in 2017. Started in 2008, PLD has successfully released 6 bi-monthly newsletters every year without delay – covering issues of gender, sexuality, culture and rights. A consolidated annual digest of the newsletter was prepared every year, which are available as rich resources on our website. Having successfully completed 10 years of very rewarding and enriching experience, the newsletter in its current format comes to a close.

### 4. PUBLICATIONS AND WEB RESOURCES

All of PLD’s publications and resource material are freely available and downloadable on our [website](#).



## C. Recognition of PLD's Work

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### 1. NCPCR TO RE-PRINT PLD'S RESOURCE BOOK ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

In appreciation of the quality of PLD's resource book, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) entered into collaboration to re-print the resource book on child sexual offences, titled '*Hinsa Aur Kanoon: Baal Yaun Shoshan Par Kanoon*'

### 2. RECOGNITION OF PLD'S CONTRIBUTION TO FEMINIST RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES BY ACADEMIA

In the last ten years, PLD has produced significant body of research work on many issues such as sexual violence, sexual harassment, witch-hunting as well as the most recent on the relation between sexual violence and the law. All of our resources are freely available for download on Academia.edu and SSRN portals which show a very high number of download and reading rate. Recognizing the same, PLD was invited to discuss its approaches to feminist field research and methodologies at Ambedkar University, New Delhi and Department of Political Science, Delhi University, the details of which are as follows:

- i) **Department of Political Science, Delhi University:** PLD presented at a roundtable dialogue between academics and activists on Feminist Methodologies at Department of Political Science, Delhi University on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017 – focusing on how the specific methodologies adopted for witch-hunting concerns of women in non-marital conjugalities shaped its unique findings.
- ii) **Ambedkar and Edinburg Universities, New Delhi:** PLD was invited to discuss resource creation and pedagogy outside institutional spaces for field workers and change agents on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 under the initiative titled 'Teaching Feminisms, Transforming Lives: Questions of Identity, Pedagogy and Violence' in India and the UK.

### 3. PLD IN THE NEWS

#### Sexual Violence and Sexuality

- MoHFW Norms not followed in Medical Examination of Rape Victims: Study, News18, available at [bit.ly/2vEqksj](http://bit.ly/2vEqksj)
- Widespread victim intimidation, unrealistic time frame for rape trials in Delhi, finds study, The Wire, available at [bit.ly/2x4GlrG](http://bit.ly/2x4GlrG)
- Agency for all-round support of rape victims must: study, Deccan Herald, available at [bit.ly/2EBaRcP](http://bit.ly/2EBaRcP)
- Rape trials still tardy, insensitive to victims, The New Indian Express, available at Has Nirbhaya incident changed anything at all, The New Indian Express, available at [bit.ly/2ojcvck](http://bit.ly/2ojcvck)
- Rape trials: fast track courts guarantee speed, not necessarily justice, finds study, FirstPost, available at [bit.ly/2eXgZAV](http://bit.ly/2eXgZAV)
- Proximity of accused to rape victim reason for hostile cases, DNA, available at [bit.ly/2GueJNn](http://bit.ly/2GueJNn)
- Rape laws: A call for changes, LiveMint, available at [bit.ly/2n1rIwy](http://bit.ly/2n1rIwy)
- Rape goes on, how do we, Tehelka, available at [bit.ly/2EQ7W3h](http://bit.ly/2EQ7W3h)

- Senior Advocate Rebecca John on “How to humanize rape trials”, SheThePeopleTV, available at [bit.ly/2HsV5T4](http://bit.ly/2HsV5T4)
- ‘Attempt to Complete Rape Trial in 2 Months Unrealistic’, The Hindu, available at [bit.ly/2eU1aLR](http://bit.ly/2eU1aLR)
- ‘Balaatkar Peeditaon k iChikitsa Jaanch mei dish-nirdesho ka paalan nahi kia jaata: Adhyayan’, SamacharJagat, available at [bit.ly/2exC44J](http://bit.ly/2exC44J)
- ‘Adhyayan se hua Khulasa, Dushkarmki Peeditaon ki Jaanch mein nahi hota disha-nirdeshokapaalan’, Prabhat Khabar, available at [bit.ly/2sDAgBh](http://bit.ly/2sDAgBh)
- Madhu Mehra, *Make no Mistake, the Chandigarh Incident Was an Attempted Kidnapping, Not ‘Stalking’*, [bit.ly/2oVnJ75](http://bit.ly/2oVnJ75)
- Talk Point: Levels of impunity enjoyed by perpetrators are alarming, ThePrint, available at [bit.ly/2jqeD31](http://bit.ly/2jqeD31)

## **Sexual Harassment**

- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, Appan Samachar, available at [bit.ly/2GrN2oq](http://bit.ly/2GrN2oq)
- PLD organized Sexual Harassment Workshop in collaboration with Charkha, Lazawal Jammu, available at [bit.ly/2C84fF7](http://bit.ly/2C84fF7)
- PLD organizes National Workshop in Collaboration with Charkha, Jammu Voice, available at [bit.ly/2HwFdZ6](http://bit.ly/2HwFdZ6)
- ‘Sexual Harassment on Workplace par Media ki Bhumika par aayojit 2 divsiya karya shala mei deshke 6 rajyo se patrakaro ne lihissa’, Hindustan Times, available at [bit.ly/2HwsLz9](http://bit.ly/2HwsLz9)
- ‘Laingik Utpidan ki Roktham ke lie Jagrukta Zaruri’, Nakate, Navjyoti/Barmer, available at [bit.ly/2EDyW6M](http://bit.ly/2EDyW6M)
- ‘Europe mein 50% Mahilaye Karyasthal par Utpidan ki Shikar’, Peoples Samachar, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, available at [bit.ly/2Eiciuc](http://bit.ly/2Eiciuc)
- ‘Mahilaon ka Karyasthal par Laingik-Utpidan’, SawaiMadhopur News, available at [bit.ly/2BC6y2a](http://bit.ly/2BC6y2a)

## **D. Organizational Updates**

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### **OUR TEAM AND PROGRAMME PARTNERS**

<b>Our Team and Programme Partners</b>	
<b>Executive Director</b>	Madhu Mehra
<b>Research</b>	Aapurv Jain Stuti Tripathi Saumya Maheshwari Parul Lohia (probation)
<b>Training</b>	Rachana Sharma Advocate Monica (Consultant) Abhiti Gupta (probation)
<b>Interns</b>	Malavika Parthasarthy Anushka Baruah Laurent Toccalino DVL Vidya Anupriya Dhonchak Shubham Janghu Karan Singh Bhatia

<b>Administration</b>	Kishore Tirkey (Programme Assistant) N. Jayapriya (Programme Administration)
<b>Finance</b>	Vipin Kumar (Finance Manager) Ankur Kashyap (Accounts Officer)
<b>Programme Partners</b>	
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	Bhumika Women's Collective
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	Sangini Resource Centre
<b>Bihar</b>	Women Development Corporation (WDC) Bihar
<b>Rajasthan</b>	Ministry Women and Child Development (WCD) Rajasthan
<b>Delhi</b>	Charkha Development and Communications Network
<b>Institutions/ Companies</b>	O.P. Jindal Global University; IIT Delhi; Institute of Development Studies (Jaipur)
<b>Mapping vulnerabilities of youth in relation to sexuality, early marriage and the law</b>	Anuja Agrawal Aparna Chandra Jaya Sharma
<b>Rape Law Resource booklet and video series</b>	Rukmini Sen Dipta Bhog
<b>Video Series: Consent/ Rejection</b>	Co:Motion films
<b>Advisors, Resource Pool</b>	
<b>Advisors to PLD</b>	Mrinal Satish Anuja Agrawal Uma Chakravarti Nandini Narula
<b>Board of Trustees</b>	
	Aradhna Nanda Geetha Ramaseshan Jaya Sharma Madhu Mehra Rebecca John
<b>Financial Donors</b>	
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