Partners for Law in Development
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- Details about the staff, advisors and partner organisations
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NO OF PAX</th>
<th>PARTICIPANT PROFILE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>13th July 2017</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>DWCD, NCT of Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st November 2017</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>We conducted a session on “Rights of Complainant and Respondent”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DWCD, NCT of Delhi for Committee members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
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<td>-----</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; July – 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; August, 2017</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan (In collaboration with WCD)</td>
<td>Pali</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June, 2017</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan (In collaboration with WCD)</td>
<td>Sirohi</td>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June, 2017</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rajasthan (In collaboration with WCD)</td>
<td>Sirohi</td>
<td>7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June, 2017</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan (In collaboration with WCD)</td>
<td>Sirohi</td>
<td>8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June, 2017</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan (In collaboration with WCD)</td>
<td>Jalor</td>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June, 2017</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawai Madhopur</td>
<td>19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June, 2017</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawai Madhopur</td>
<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June, 2017</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawai Madhopur</td>
<td>21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; June, 2017</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>By WCD, Raj for the ICC and LCC members from Mahila Adhikarita, SIPF, Anganwadi workers, Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawai Madhopur</td>
<td>22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; June, 2017</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>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 Pariyoyana, Government College, Police, Irrigation, Water Resource, Mahila Seva Sadan Samiti, Panchayat Samiti, Municipal Corporation, BCMO, PHED,</td>
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<th>PLACE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NO OF PAX</th>
<th>PARTICIPANT PROFILE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Sikar</td>
<td>24th October, 2017</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>Women Empowerment, ICDS, Government Girls college, Government School, MSSK, Mamata, ANM, Electricity, Rajivika</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churu</td>
<td>26th October, 2017</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>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, Shekhwati University, AD office, ADM office, SP office, DA, PRO and Local Committee member and Chairperson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dholpur</td>
<td>26th November, 2017</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karauli</td>
<td>8th November, 2017</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>By WCD, Raj for the Police, Animal Husbandry Department, Women’s University, Healthcare Department, Women and Child Development Department, MSSK, Sakhi One Stop Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaisalmer</td>
<td>21st November, 2017</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>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).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NO OF PAX</th>
<th>PARTICIPANT PROFILE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bhopal</td>
<td>25th April, 2017</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>In collaboration with Sangini Resource Centre, Bhopal for activists from districts of Rewa, Satna, Singhrauli, Sidhi, Chhindwara, 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 Sansha, Special cell, Bhopal, Muskaan, Mahila Mandal Satna, Rewa etc.).</td>
</tr>
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</table>
FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NO OF PAX</th>
<th>PARTICIPANT PROFILE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>19th September</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>For CLEAN, Delhi, for their EO, COO, coordinator F&amp;A, managerial staff, finance/ technology, skill &amp; training dept, associate partners, office assistants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4th-8th September</td>
<td>40-45/session</td>
<td>Gender sensitization workshops with 1st year B.Tech students from IIT Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amritsar</td>
<td>11th-12th April 2017</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chakradharpur (West Singhbhum)</td>
<td>11th-12th July, 2017</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Training conducted with Doctors without Borders (Medecin sans frontiers). Participants included community health workers, nurse, doctors, and drivers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

<table>
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<th>PLACE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NO OF PAX</th>
<th>PARTICIPANT PROFILE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
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

PLD Annual Report (Apr2017 to Mar2018)
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 he 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 1st 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 Madhur 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:**

  A national 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 19th-21st 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 8th 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.¹

• Madhu Mehra attended a Consultation on Feminist Strategic Litigation organized by APWLD in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 2nd-4th 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 9th 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 14th 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.

¹Talk Point: Levels of impunity enjoyed by perpetrators are alarming, ThePrint, available at bit.ly/2jgeD31
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.

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>DATE</th>
<th>NO OF PAX</th>
<th>PARTICIPANT PROFILE</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Ajmer</td>
<td>6th July, 2017</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>ADM, MSSK, SI, WE, PHED, CMMO office, ADO, Add SP, SDO, RSND</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pratapgarh</td>
<td>7th July, 2017</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>POLICE, NGOs, WCP, Ayurvedic, District Hospital, ICDS, MahilaParishad, CDPO, CMHO, MSSK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sirohi</td>
<td>19th July, 2017</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>District Collector, CEO ZilaParishad, SPO, Medical and Health, SMHO, Police, Education, DSLA, ICDS, PHED, NariJagritievamKalyanSamiti, Public Relations, MahilaAdhikarita,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barmer</td>
<td>21st July, 2017</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikar</td>
<td>25th October, 2017</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churu</td>
<td>27th October, 2017</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>RPSCO, BEEO, CDPO, RSLDC, SO, DD office, Lady Supervisor, MSSK, ASO, ICDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dholpur</td>
<td>7th November, 2017</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Civil Society and government departments such as Minority department, District Secondary Education Officer, Labour department, Krishi Vibhag, Roadways, Collectorate, Rajasthan Rural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Witches beaten, buried, burned for land in princely Indian state, Reuters, available at reut.rs/2ogdU3c; Law fails to prevent centuries-old witch hunting, Deccan Herald, available at bit.ly/2BC16iu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date of Visit</th>
<th>No of Days</th>
<th>Departments and Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karauli</td>
<td>9th November 2017</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dausa</td>
<td>10th November 2017</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>GC Kirawal College, Rajasthan Police, PWD, Agriculture Department, Healthcare Department, Labour Department, Women and Child Development Department, MSSK, Sakhi One Stop Centre, ECAT Bodhgram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaisalmer</td>
<td>22nd November 2017</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Government Girl’s PG College, Health Department, Panchayat Samiti, Sakhi One Stop Centre, ICDS, Women Empowerment Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jodhpur</td>
<td>24th November 2017</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Rajasthan Skill and Livelihood Development Department, Police department, Health department, MSSK, Literacy Department, CPO, ICDS, Women Empowerment Department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 23rd-24th 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:

- Disseminated info-graphics of findings of the study on age of consent and early marriage laws at the 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health organised by the International Association for Adolescent Health from October 27th-29th, 2017 in New Delhi.
- South Asia Consultation on child marriage was organised by the Indian Alliance for Child Rights on 6th 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 6th 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 24th-25th February, 2018 at Pride Plaza Hotel, New Delhi.
• Dissemination and sharing of research findings on issues related to youth rights organized by MASUM, Pune on 15th-16th March, 2018.

B. Cross-cutting Initiatives

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

- 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

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 22nd 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 5th 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
   • Widespread victim intimidation, unrealistic time frame for rape trials in Delhi, finds study, The Wire, available at bit.ly/2x4Gl�G
   • Agency for all-round support of rape victims must: study, Deccan Herald, available at 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/2ojicvck
   • Rape trials: fast track courts guarantee speed, not necessarily justice, finds study, FirstPost, available at bit.ly/2eXgZAV
   • Proximity of accused to rape victim reason for hostile cases, DNA, available at bit.ly/2GueJNn
   • Rape laws: A call for changes, LiveMint, available at bit.ly/2n1rIwy
   • Rape goes on, how do we, Tehelka, available at bit.ly/2EQ7W3h
• Senior Advocate Rebecca John on “How to humanize rape trials”, SheThePeopleTV, available at bit.ly/2HsV5T4
• ‘Attempt to Complete Rape Trial in 2 Months Unrealistic’, The Hindu, available at bit.ly/2eU1aLR
• ‘Adhyayan se hua Khulas, Dushkarmki Peeditaon ki Jaanch mein nahi hota disha-nirdeshokapaalan’, Prabhat Khabar, available at bit.ly/2sDAgBh
• Madhu Mehra, Make no Mistake, the Chandigarh Incident Was an Attempted Kidnapping, Not ‘Stalking’, bit.ly/2oVnJ75
• Talk Point: Levels of impunity enjoyed by perpetrators are alarming, ThePrint, available at bit.ly/2jgeD31

**Sexual Harassment**

- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, Appan Samachar, available at bit.ly/2GrN2oq
- PLD organized Sexual Harassment Workshop in collaboration with Charkha, Lazawal Jammu, available at bit.ly/2C84fF7
- ‘Sexual Harassment on Workplace par Media ki Bhumika par aayojit 2 divsii karya shala mei deshke 6 rajyo se patrakaro ne liahissa’, Hindustan Times, available at bit.ly/2HwsLz9

**D. Organizational Updates**

**OUR TEAM AND PROGRAMME PARTNERS**

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

PLD Annual Report (Apr2017 to Mar2018)