



**2019-2020**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**Partners for Law in Development**



PLD Annual Report (April 2019- March 2020)

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Partners for Law in Development (PLD), New Delhi

**Cover Photo:** Yeh Dil Maange Consent: Training of Trainers, New Delhi as part of the initiative *Building Consent Culture: Preventing Sexual Harassment* undertaken by Partners for Law in Development

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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. Our work focuses on contexts of marginalization shaped by gender, sexuality, caste, culture and poverty, to take into account the intersecting systems of oppression that diminish recognition and access to rights. We pursue our mission through three mutually complementary strategies – of building capacities, creating evidence-based knowledge, and information resources, alongside engaging with social policy at domestic and global levels. This year marks completion of 22 years of PLD's work. As we celebrate our well-recognized contribution towards development of new knowledge resources, of capacities at the national level and grassroots stakeholders working in government, private and civil society domains, and of our social policy engagement, we further resolve to deepen our continuing efforts in advancing rights of women and the marginalized.

PLD is registered as a public charitable trust under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 (registration no: 10514/ IV of 16-12-1998). The annual report covers work carried out in the financial year, between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b><i>PART 1: Programme Updates</i></b> .....                           | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>A. THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK</b> .....                                  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>1. BUILDING CONSENT CULTURE: PREVENTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT</b> .....  | <b>3</b>  |
| I. Workshops With Youth.....  | 3         |
| II. Cross Sectoral Conversations on Consent .....                       | 5         |
| III. Training Of Trainers .....   | 5         |
| IV. Presentations .....   | 6         |
| V. Social Media Outreach .....  | 6         |
| VI. Article .....   | 7         |
| <b>2. ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY AND CHILD MARRIAGE</b> .....                 | <b>7</b>  |
| I. Publications .....   | 7         |
| II. Release of Research Studies .....                                   | 8         |
| III. Consultations and Conferences .....                                | 9         |
| IV. National Coalition Advocating for Adolescent Concerns (NCAAC) ..... | 10        |
| V. Presentations .....  | 11        |
| VI. Submissions to The Government.....                                  | 12        |
| VII. Social Media Outreach .....  | 12        |
| <b>3. PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT THE WORKPLACE</b> .....        | <b>14</b> |
| I. Trainings.....   | 14        |
| II. Technical Assistance .....  | 15        |
| III. IEC Materials/ Posters .....                                       | 15        |
| <b>4. SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUALITY</b> .....                           | <b>15</b> |
| I. Resource Inputs and Presentations.....                               | 15        |
| <b>5. TARGETING OF WOMEN AS WITCHES</b> .....                           | <b>16</b> |
| I. Presentations and Resource Inputs.....                               | 16        |
| <b>B. FEMINIST LAW ARCHIVING</b> .....                                  | <b>16</b> |
| I. Expansion of Digital Archives .....                                  | 17        |
| II. National Feminist Archiving Meet- ‘The Past is Before Us’.....      | 17        |
| <b>C. PLD IN THE NEWS</b> .....   | <b>18</b> |
| <br>  |           |
| <b><i>Part 2: Organisational Updates</i></b> .....                      | <b>20</b> |
| I. New website and Maintenance of Online Resources .....                | 20        |
| II. Demise of Trustee, Aradhana Nanda.....                              | 20        |
| III. Shift to New Premises .....  | 20        |
| IV. Our Team And Programme Partners .....                               | 21        |

## PART 1: PROGRAMME UPDATES

This section draws out thematic sequence of initiatives, collaborative efforts and participation in events undertaken in relation to five themes, being: building consent culture - preventing sexual harassment, adolescent sexuality and child marriage, prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace, sexuality and sexual violence, and witch-hunting.

The thematic updates is followed by developments in relation to the Feminist Law Archives, the digital repository of the women's movements documentation and engagements with law and policy; and the last section is a listing of news coverage on references to Partners for Law in Development (PLD)'s work, or opinions/ quotes from us, reflecting the bearing PLD's work has on public discourses and recognition of its contribution to the sector.

### A. THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK

#### 1. BUILDING CONSENT CULTURE: PREVENTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

In the last year, PLD built on its ongoing preventive efforts around sexual harassment and understanding of consent targeting the youth on account of age-related vulnerabilities, lack of access to reliable information and spaces to discuss confusions and queries around sexuality. Using creative tools like videos (PLD's 11-part series on *Conversations About Consent and Rejection*), post-cards and posters that speak to lived experiences of youth and conducting college workshops, our youth outreach helps develop a culture of consent, self-esteem, and self-awareness to equip youth with skills to navigate relationships.

##### I. WORKSHOPS WITH YOUTH

To involve youth and peer leaders in conversations and to mobilize them to reach out to others, PLD has held workshops with colleges, universities, vocational training centres, community groups and NGO<sup>1</sup>s like Action India and Jagori reaching out to approximately 150 youth participants. Using PLD's video-series to facilitate discussions, the workshops have been enthusiastically received.

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<sup>1</sup> Non-Governmental Organisations



The list of youth outreach workshops is as follows:

| DATE     | NO. OF PAX | ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS   | PARTICIPANTS PROFILE   |
|----------|------------|--|--|
| 07.05.19 | 20         | Initiative for Gender Equity and Sensitization (IGES), IIT Delhi     | Students of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D).   |
| 17.05.19 | 15         | Internal Quality Assurance Cell, National Law University (NLU) Delhi | Student volunteers and members of Internal Complaints Committee at National Law University, Delhi. |
| 28.05.19 | 30         | Breakthrough India   | School students from Sangam Vihar, Delhi.  |
| 06.06.19 | 33         | Breakthrough India   | Students and staff from different universities in Delhi -NCR <sup>2</sup> .                        |
| 02.08.19 | 43         | Action India   | Youth working in different sectors in different areas of Delhi.                                    |

<sup>2</sup> National Capital Region.

|          |    |  |   |
|----------|----|--|---|
| 22.08.19 | 45 | Initiative for Gender Equity and Sensitization (IGES), IIT Delhi | 1st year MBA students, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D). |
| 28.08.19 | 19 | Jagori Centre, JJ Colony in Bawana                               | Students and college-going youth in resettlement colonies.            |
| 29.09.19 | 13 | Jagori Centre, Madanpur Khadar                                   | Students and college-going youth in resettlement colonies.            |

## II. CROSS SECTORAL CONVERSATIONS ON CONSENT

**Consent in the Familiar and the Unfamiliar:** A day of discussion on consent in contexts of organized and unorganized labour, intimate relations, youth culture, the law and more, was held on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 (Bangalore). This public event was organized by PLD in collaboration with Hidden Pockets, Sangama, CIEDS Collective and Alternative Law Forum. The panelists addressed issues of consent, negotiation and sexual harassment, within context of garment work, sex work, hijra communities, surrogacy law, polyamory, inter-caste romantic relationships, student communities, to bring out ways in which the macro contexts of power, privilege, livelihoods, and education, shape our understanding and relationship to negotiation and consent.



## III. TRAINING OF TRAINERS

PLD organized 'Yeh Dil Maange Consent: Training of Trainers Meeting' on 10-11th September, 2019 (New Delhi). The workshop was co-facilitated by Madhu Mehra and Jasmine George (Hidden-Pockets), and saw the participation of those between 20-50+ years of age, working with youth groups and the mental health and public health sectors, crisis intervention, community mobilization, students and legal aid. The meeting closed in on the idea of taking steps to delve inwards and engage with the psyche more closely. One of the decisions taken was to conceptualize and plan a video to use as a workshop tool.

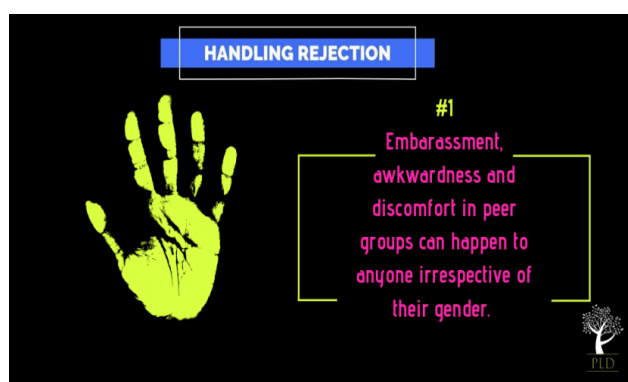


#### IV. PRESENTATIONS

- Madhu Mehra, Executive Director, PLD jointly conducted an interactive workshop with Dipta Bhog on highlighting the overlap of pleasure and danger when talking about consent using PLD's videos on consent and rejection, at 'Reconference' organised by CREA on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.
- PLD presented on two panels at the Sexing South Asia: Law, Activism and Sexual Justice conference organized by Centre for Health, Law, Ethics and Technology, Jindal Global Law School, Sussex University and University of Connecticut on 19-20<sup>th</sup> July, 2019. Madhu Mehra was a discussant on the panel '(Dis)engaging Law' reflecting on how the framing of consent predominantly in the context of violence, limits our ability to challenge the criminalization of consensual sex in case of adultery and adolescent sexuality. Prashastika Sharma and Mrinalini Ravindranath presented on PLD's experiences with workshops with youth constituencies who navigate their agencies within the social scripts and cultures of sexual exploration wrapped in danger and risk.
- Presented at 'Conversations and Crossovers on Socially Engaged Art Practices' organised by Khoj on 8<sup>th</sup> November. PLD's presentation outlined the processes through which its focus on consent in peer relations emerged, and why videos were the best medium of initiating conversations on the greys around consent. The value of film as a medium of communication has helped widen the traction and make visible the nuance around issues of hurt, rejection and the messiness of consent, which law and letters do not allow.

#### V. SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

Our social media engagement revolved around sharing of findings and perspectives from the youth workshops. The increase in engagement with issues of consent is reflected in the analytics on our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram handle Dil Maangey Consent, which reached over 150,000 people.



Consent culture as a theme was also incorporated into event related posters on social media such as for Holi and Friendship Day.



## VI. ARTICLE

PLD wrote an article 'What We Learned From Honest Conversations With Youth About Sex, Desire And Consent' published in July, 2019 presenting learnings from workshops conducted with different youth constituencies.

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## 2. ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY AND CHILD MARRIAGE

PLD's research has created the much needed evidence on the unintended harm inflicted by laws on child marriage (PCMA)<sup>3</sup> and child sexual abuse (POCSO)<sup>4</sup>; the value of a flexible child marriage law that aids persuasion and negotiations by social workers to call off forced marriages; and the disadvantaged contexts within which early marriages – forced, and self-arranged – occur. Through these studies, PLD has contributed significantly to challenging the need for stronger child marriage laws, and instead, called for enabling opportunities for adolescents and young persons from disadvantaged settings. The processes of cross sectoral dialogues and consultations culminated in the formation of a national coalition on adolescents.

### I. PUBLICATIONS

PLD released the first two volumes of the *Adolescent Sexuality and Early Marriage Series* of reports based on research conducted in the previous years:

#### **Volume I: Why Girls Run Away to Marry: Adolescent Realities and Socio-Legal Responses in India**

This research study maps the stories of 15 girls across three cities and introduces the issue of self-arranged marriages into the debate on early and child marriage in India. This report is Volume I in the series on Adolescent Sexuality and Early Marriage brought out by PLD.

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<sup>3</sup> The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

<sup>4</sup> The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012



## Volume II: Grassroots Experiences of Using the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

Based on case studies submitted by 25 organizations undertaking field work on preventive efforts to avoid and exit forced marriages, this report illustrates the grassroots efforts of using the law to persuade and mediate with families to help girls out of forced marriages; and equally, the obstacles and harm arising out of formal prosecutions. This report is Volume II in the series on Adolescent Sexuality and Early Marriage.

**Adolescent Sexuality and Early Marriage Series**

For copies of the books write to us at [resources@pldindia.org](mailto:resources@pldindia.org)

**Volume I**

Based on stories of girls from three cities, this study introduces the issue of self-arranged marriages into the debate on child and early marriage in India.

**Volume II**

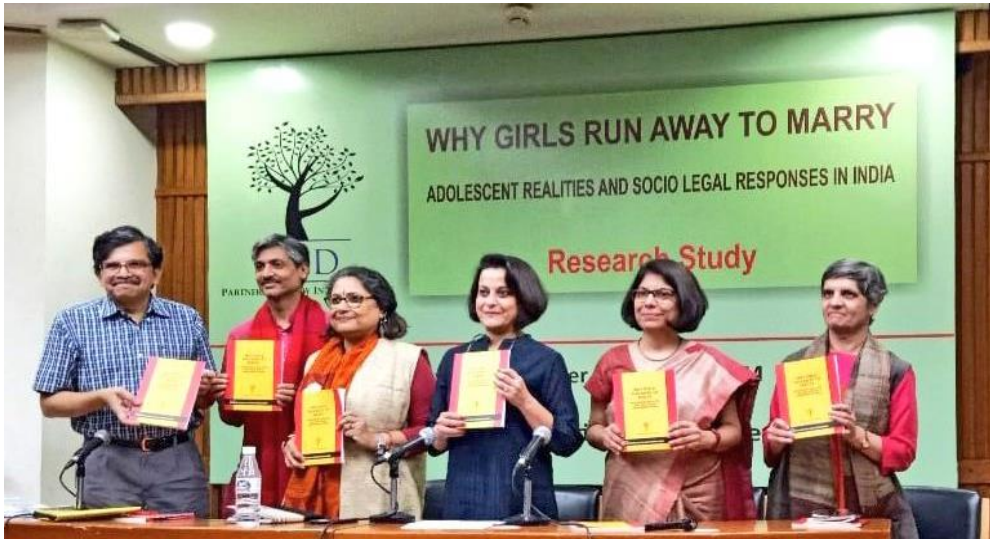
Based on case studies submitted by 25 organizations, this report aims to comprehend the grassroots experience of what "using the law" means for girls in a position of vulnerability.

PLD PARTNERS FOR LAW IN DEVELOPMENT

## II. RELEASE OF RESEARCH STUDIES

A launch of the studies with panel discussion was held in each of the three cities, Chennai, Delhi and Kolkata as follows:

- On 28th September, 2019 in Chennai with a panel discussion by Retired Justice Vimala (Madras High Court), Vaishna Roy (The Hindu), lawyer Geeta Ramaseshan and Madhu Mehra.
- On 9th November, 2019 in New Delhi with a panel discussion by Justice S. Muralidhar (Delhi High Court), Enakshi Ganguly (Founder, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights), Bharat (Vishakha), Mary John (Centre for Women and Development Studies), senior journalist Namita Bhandare and Madhu Mehra.
- On 5th February, 2020 in Kolkata with a panel discussion by Retired Justice Nadira Patherya (Kolkata High Court), Ruchira Goswami (National University of Juridical Sciences), Bulbul Bakshi (Samikshani) and Madhu Mehra.



Delhi Release of Why Girls Run Away to Marry at India International Centre.

### III. CONSULTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

- PLD organized the **Southern Region Meeting on Adolescent Sexuality and the Law** and the launch of its study '*Why Girls Run Away to Marry*' on 27-28<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 in collaboration with Tulir - CPHCSA<sup>5</sup> (Chennai) to discuss the cross-sectoral concerns arising in rights frameworks and protections for adolescents' agency and sexuality across themes of health, early marriage and criminalization. From Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, over 60 participants represented diverse areas of work-gynaecologists and mental health professionals and public health sector, child rights groups, Childline, Child Welfare Committees, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, UNICEF<sup>6</sup>, disability rights groups, queer groups and women's rights groups. The report for the meeting may be found [here](#).
- PLD organized the **Eastern Region Meeting on Adolescent Sexuality and the Law** and the launch of its study '*Why Girls Run Away to Marry*' on 4-5<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 in collaboration with New Alipore Praajak Development Society and Swayam (Kolkata). Resource persons from sectors such as sexual and reproductive health, law, child abuse, and sexuality education participated in the consultation and shared experiences of challenges faced while working with adolescents. The report consolidating cross sectoral experiences may be found [here](#).
- PLD's co-leading a South Asian initiative to expand community of practice through evidence collection and cross sectoral framing of child and early marriage and adolescent sexuality. Applying PLD's ground up methodology, through the **Feminist Inquiries into Rights and Equality (FIRE) project** with a consortium of organizations- Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust

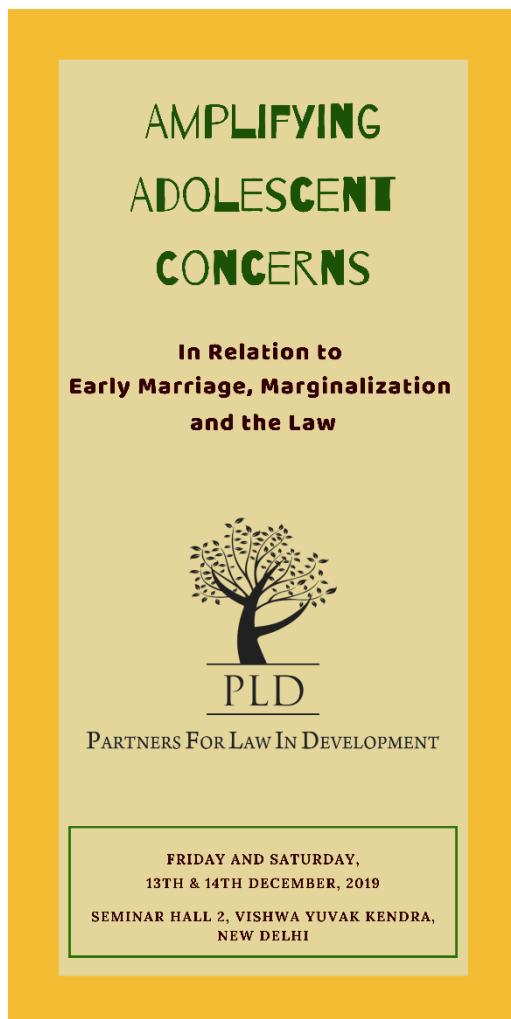
<sup>5</sup> Tulir - Centre for the Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse

<sup>6</sup> The United Nations Children's Fund

(BLAST) from Bangladesh, Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) from Nepal, Social Scientists’ Association (SSA) from Sri Lanka and International Women’s Rights Action Watch- Asia Pacific (IWRAW-AP) from Malaysia. Research plans were drawn up with the objective of understanding how laws on child marriage work, and their impact on girls.

#### IV. NATIONAL COALITION ADVOCATING FOR ADOLESCENT CONCERNS (NCAAC)

After organising consultations collaboratively with partners over the past few years and building cross sectoral alliances, PLD together with allied organisations agreed on the need to collectively raise concerns about recognition of the specificities of adolescent concerns in law and policy. This laid ground for the formation of the **National Coalition Advocating for Adolescent Concerns (NCAAC)**, with the first formal meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 with 19 member organisations and a Public Meeting to announce the coalition on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.



## V. PRESENTATIONS

- PLD presented findings in relation to socio legal context of elopements, and harmful impact of law on girls and young couples at ANANDI's<sup>7</sup> roundtable on “*Young Girls and Women: Negotiating Agency, Choice and Consent*” on 18-19<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.
- Presented findings on the impact of POCSO on sexual and reproductive health services for minors and contributed to the Action Plan submitted for review of ICPD<sup>8</sup> +25 processes at ‘Maternal Health and Reproductive Rights in the ICPD - Promises Made, Are They Being Kept? Examining the Gaps and Gains at ICPD +25’ hosted by Sahayog and NAMMHR<sup>9</sup> in Delhi on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.
- Conducted an orientation for UNFPA<sup>10</sup> South Asian country-level offices involved in the Global Programme to End Child Marriage on unintended harm of no-exception child marriage laws on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019.
- Held a presentation for UNICEF staff from all state offices at a meeting jointly conducted by UNFPA and UNICEF on child marriage on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.
- Presented research findings on the use of POCSO and PCMA, child sexual abuse and child marriage law at the national level ‘Cross-sectoral Dialogue on Child Marriage’ hosted by HAQ: Centre for Child Rights and SAHAJ<sup>11</sup> in New Delhi on 27-28<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.
- Presented on rights of young persons to access sexual and reproductive health services and information at the ‘Onward to ICPD@25 Nairobi Summit’ meeting organized by UNFPA on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.
- Presented and participated at ‘Is Agency Enough? A Conversation Between Organisations Working with or Researching on Girls and Adolescents’ organised by the AJWS<sup>12</sup> on the agency framework and beyond, for radical change in girls’ lives on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.
- Madhu Mehra spoke about the study ‘*Why Girls Run Away to Marry*’ at the *Anhad Baat Cheet* series at Oxford Bookstore on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.
- Madhu Mehra also was a resource person on the theme of ‘Target Oriented Approaches to Child Marriage: Critical Perspectives on Sustainable Development Goals 5’, at the Winter School organised by the Centre of Law, Justice and Development in collaboration with National Academy of Law Teachers and University of Antwerp on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

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<sup>7</sup> Area Networking and Development Initiatives, Ahmedabad, India

<sup>8</sup> International Conference on Population and Development

<sup>9</sup> The National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Population Fund

<sup>11</sup> Society for Health Alternatives

<sup>12</sup> American Jewish World Service

- Presented concerns arising out of increased criminalisation and impact on young girls' lives due to the impact of child marriage and POCSO laws at the Indian Association of Women's Studies conference on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

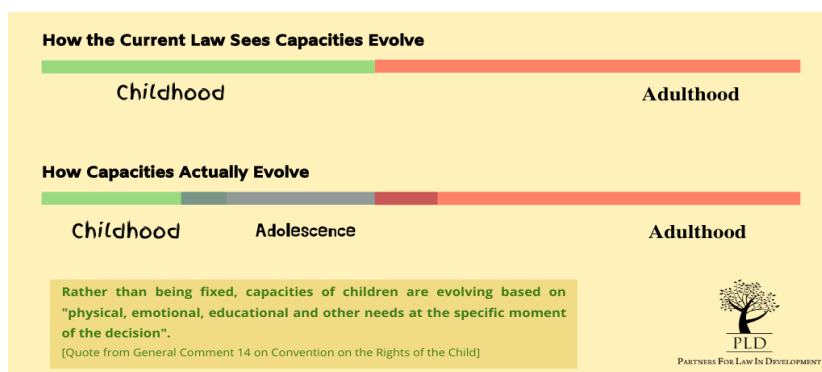


## VI. SUBMISSIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

- Submissions made by PLD alongside child rights groups to the Parliament at time of introduction of the POCSO Amendment Bill, 2019 that brought higher criminal sentences and the death penalty in punishments. (July, 2019)
- Submissions made by PLD to the MWCD to press for wider stakeholder consultations on proposed changes to the PCMA and POCSO. (November, 2019)
- On behalf of the NCAAC, PLD presented its submission to the Ministry of Women and Child Development expressing concerns about the reported news that underage marriages would be made *void ab initio*. (February, 2020)

## VII. SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

Our work aimed to unpack the intersections of law with social realities that impact adolescents, by creating simple and concise content on the overlaps of the age of consent and age of marriage, the harms of punitive responses to child protection and impact of child marriage and child sexual abuse laws on rights of adolescents.



PLD undertook the '16 Days of Activism' campaign between 25<sup>th</sup> November-10<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 and reached out to over 10000 people in this period. In the process, PLD also incorporated concerns surrounding adolescent sexuality into digital engagement over events.



In March, 2020 PLD partnered with Feminism in India at a 4-week campaign on decriminalizing adolescent sexuality to reach over 36000 people. Each week a different sub-theme was focused on. Week 1 introduced the concept of adolescent sexuality and its criminalization while Week 2 focused on narratives of abuse and consent in this context. Week 3 addressed underage marriages. Week 4 concluded the poster series with focus on sexual and reproductive health as well as focus on PLD's ongoing work on this issue. The campaign concluded with publication of PLD's article on elopements published on Feminism in India.



**INDIAN ADOLESCENTS ARE HAVING SEX!**

A 2007 study found that **42% of men and 26% of women in ages of 15-24 had sex with their partner** in India.

Source: International Institute for Population Sciences and Population Council

Multiple studies have shown that Indian adolescents, like adolescents in most countries, are sexually active. Yet, **the law does not recognise consensual sexual activity among adolescents.**



**DESTIGMATISE ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY!**



**NATIONAL COMMISSION OF PROTECTION FOR CHILD RIGHTS (NCPCR) RECOMMENDATIONS**

stressed on the **need for the law to recognise consensual sexual exploration among adolescents** by decriminalising it when it is between:

- Children above 12 years when the age-gap was less than two years and;
- Children above 14 years when the age-gap was less than three years.

**(also known as the Romeo-Juliet proximity clause)**



**All forms of consensual sex among children are criminalised under POCSO, without regard for their autonomy. Age-gaps are not considered, and neither are evolving capacities of children and adolescents as they grow older.**

### 3. PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT THE WORKPLACE

#### I. TRAININGS

PLD's trainings have continued to equip stakeholders with skills to prevent, prohibit and redress sexual harassment at workplace. Through conducting orientation for organizations and specialized trainings that engender due process and natural justice for the internal committees, PLD has built capacities for implementing the Sexual Harassment against Women at Workplace Act. This year we conducted 9 trainings, reaching out to over 177 participants, on requests received from organizations.

The details of training workshops conducted are as follows:

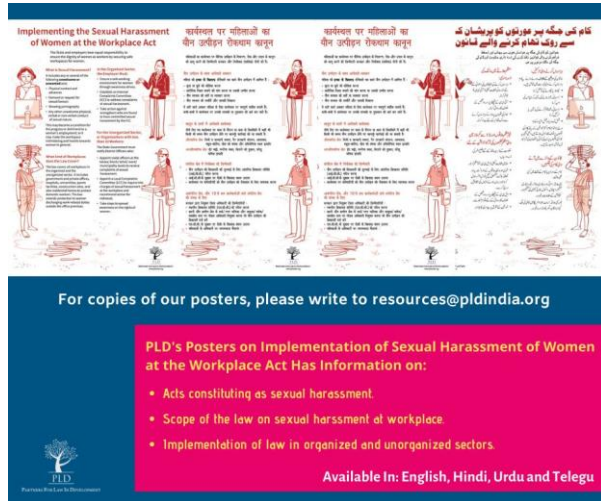
| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Number of Participants</b> | <b>Organization and Place</b>                                  |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>03.04.2019</b>   | 10                            | Centre for Internet and Society, Delhi                         |
| <b>17.05.2019</b>   | 15                            | National Law University, Delhi                                 |
| <b>24.05.2019</b><br><b>29.05.2019</b>                      | 8-10                          | Institute of Social Studies Trust, Delhi                       |
| <b>30.05.2019</b>   | 10                            | Housing and Land Rights Network, Delhi                         |
| <b>29.07.2019</b><br><b>30.07.2019</b><br><b>31.07.2019</b> | 65                            | Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Gujarat.                         |
| <b>23.08.2019</b>   | 12                            | Center for Internet and Society, Delhi                         |
| <b>30.08.2019</b>   | 6                             | Quicksand Studios, Delhi                                       |
| <b>12.09.2019</b>   | 9                             | Strategic Alliance Management Services Pvt. Ltd. (SAMS), Delhi |
| <b>19.09.2019</b><br><b>24.09.2019</b>                      | 40                            | Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), Delhi |

## II. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Madhu Mehra provided inputs to Centre for Human Rights Studies, initiative to review working of Internal Complaints Committees [ICCs] of Higher Education Institutions situated within the Delhi-NCR region in May, 2019.

## III. IEC MATERIALS/ POSTERS

PLD's posters on 'Myths and Realities related to Sexual Harassment' and 'Implementing the Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act' in 9 languages, including English and Hindi, have continued to be in great demand in the last year. We have undertaken a reprint of the posters of 500 copies in English and Hindi for distribution in this period and have promoted them on social media.



As before, PLD ensures full access of its resources widely and freely downloadable by making the soft copies on available on its website.

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## 4. SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUALITY

### I. RESOURCE INPUTS AND PRESENTATIONS

In continuing its efforts towards addressing realization of the issues of sexual violence and sexuality, PLD has:

- coordinated a session, setting the context for gender justice laws for Mahila Court magistrates and public prosecutors at the Delhi Judicial Academy on 13th August, 2019.
- been part of 'Strategy Meeting' on *A Systematic Response to Gender-based Cyberviolence* at the UN House in New Delhi on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2019. It was organized by IT for Change and Indian Police Foundation with support from UN Women and Web Foundation.



- taken part in focus group discussion for a multi-country research study on online violence as part of the Due Diligence Project supported by UN Women, at the UN House in New Delhi on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.
- offered inputs as a resource person on data collection on reporting incidences of VAW<sup>13</sup>, National Council of Applied Economic Research, in November, 2019.
- been part of meeting organized by Niti Aayog as a part of women and violence group to prepare the 'Vision for Gender Equality India 2035' statement on 19th November, 2019.
- offered inputs to TARSHI<sup>14</sup>'s Orange Book revisions on CSR<sup>15</sup> for teachers on 17th December, 2019.
- been part of meeting by National Network on Shelter Homes- Lam-Lynti Netti Cheralu on strategizing next phase of work, on 5th February, 2020.
- conducted a session on re-victimization in a training organized by the YP Foundation ('Know Your Body Know Your Rights') on 17th February, 2020.

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## 5. TARGETING OF WOMEN AS WITCHES

### I. PRESENTATIONS AND RESOURCE INPUTS

Madhu Mehra presented comparative review of Witch Hunting laws in India at the workshop on Witch Branding and the Law in Jharkhand, organised by the NUSRL or National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi with SOAS, University of London and the Faculty of Law- University of New South Wales on 14th February, 2020

PLD's work continues to be cited extensively as a lead resource for researchers, academics, lawyers and practitioners in the sector. Our research studies and reports on the theme of witch-hunting have been the most sought after reports so far.

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## B. FEMINIST LAW ARCHIVING

PLD's digital repository of women's movements engagement with the law, called the [Feminist Law Archives](#) which is continuously updated, was also expanded. In

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<sup>13</sup> Violence Against Women

<sup>14</sup> Talking about Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues

<sup>15</sup> Corporate social responsibility

the last year, new themes were added, and PLD together with like-minded feminist organizations, organized a national consultation to encourage archiving.

## I. EXPANSION OF DIGITAL ARCHIVES

In addition to continuous updates to the archives, three new themes that were added were: (a) Conferences- bringing together important documents from national conferences on women's movements, UN World Conferences on Women, and on Human Rights; (b) Harassment in Higher Education- bringing together writings and materials on Caste based Harassment, Sexual Harassment related Policy Documents and the Me Too movement; (c) Films/Documentaries- archiving different forms of media including landmark films on community action, sexual violence, women and work, sexuality and women and health.

## II. NATIONAL FEMINIST ARCHIVING MEET- 'THE PAST IS BEFORE US'

For archiving to garner attention and to encourage aggregation of documents stored with them, a 'National Feminist Archiving Meet- *The Past Is Before Us*' was organized by PLD, in collaboration with Zubaan, Jagori, Swayam and Akshara Centre on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. The event was designed to facilitate exchange between those involved in archiving in relation to feminism. The purpose was to scope the diverse initiatives related to documentation and archiving, as well as to address issues of skills, resources, access, sustainability and possible convergences in the future. Seeking to incentivize archiving and facilitate convergences, it concluded with a plan of taking this forward through a working group.



**THE PAST IS BEFORE US**

**Feminist Archiving Meeting**

15th & 16th December, 2019, New Delhi

Organized by

PLD  
Akshara Centre  
Jagori  
Zubaan  
SWAYAM  
Ending Violence Against Women

**Value of Archiving in Feminism**

Knowledge gained from past struggles continually feeds into the practice of activism.

A national meeting is being held to deliberate on the importance of preserving the heritage of feminist documents and their dissemination.

A social media poster put out prior to the National Feminist Archiving Meet.

## C. PLD IN THE NEWS

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- ‘Harsher Punishments for Sexual Violence is Only the Easy, Not Best, Thing to Do’, The Wire, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020, available at: <https://bit.ly/2MSACLE>
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- महिलाओं इतनी असुरक्षित क्यों?, Naya India, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, available at: <https://bit.ly/2GBentH>
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- One Woman Reports A Rape Every 15 Minutes in India, Radio Havana Cuba (English), 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, available at: <https://bit.ly/2DD8TgU>
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- भारत में नहीं रुक रहे बलात्कार के मामले, Deutsche Welle, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, available at: <https://bit.ly/332FHbN>
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- 'Age of Consent should be Reduced to 16', New Indian Express, 28th September 2019, available at: <https://bit.ly/2XVdLFo>
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## PART 2: ORGANISATIONAL UPDATES

### I. NEW WEBSITE AND MAINTENANCE OF ONLINE RESOURCES

PLD continued to update and maintain its digital resources, posters, reports and publications. We undertook a revamp of the original website to handle traffic and address issues of readability across different devices.

Some significant work completed on the website is explained as follows-

- **Layout of the website:** Shifted to a more responsive web layout to make the website compatible and user-friendly on desktops, tablets and phones.
- **Content:** Updated the content of the website including all the latest resources and publications.
- **Publications:** Linked all the publication to [Academia](#) to make it accessible to viewers and keep a tab on analytics of the number of people visiting our publications.
- **Social Media:** Introduced our social media platforms on homepage ([Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)).

### II. DEMISE OF TRUSTEE, ARADHANA NANDA

On 28th July, 2019, our trustee and founding member, Aradhana Nanda passed away in Orissa.

PLD organized a prayer meeting in her memory in August at its office.



### III. SHIFT TO NEW PREMISES

PLD shifted its office to new premises within New Delhi at the end of year 2019. Our new address is at I-45 Second Floor, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi 110014.

An announcement regarding the change in address was made on social media, on our website and at subsequent conferences that PLD has been part of.

#### IV. OUR TEAM AND PROGRAMME PARTNERS

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Executive Director</b>    | Madhu Mehra   |
| <b>Research</b>              | Mrinalini Ravindranath<br>Swaranjali Agrawal<br>Aarushi Mahajan<br>Saumya Maheshwari (Consultant)<br>Shreya Munoth (Consultant) |
| <b>Training</b>              | Prashastika Sharma<br>Barsha Mishra (Consultant)<br>Monika (Consultant)   |
| <b>Feminist Law Archives</b> | Nalini Menon  |
| <b>Communications</b>        | Udita Chakrabarti   |
| <b>Interns</b>               | Gaurika Sood<br>Aditi Behura<br>Garima Choudhary  |
| <b>Administration</b>        | Tanvi Lomesh (Administration Officer)<br>Kishore Tirkey (Administration Assistant)  |
| <b>Finance</b>               | Vipin Kumar (Finance Manager)<br>Ankur Kashyap (Accounts Officer)   |

#### **GOVERNANCE AND ADVISORS**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Board of Trustees</b> | Jaya Sharma, Rebecca John, Geeta Ramaseshan, Aradhana Nanda, Madhu Mehra  |
| <b>Advisors to PLD</b>   | Uma Chakravarti, Sanjay Agarwal, Nandini Narula, Anuja Agrawal, Mrinal Satish, Malavika Rajkotia                                |
| <b>Donors</b>            | American Jewish World Service, The Asia Foundation, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Ford Foundation |