

**2020-2021**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**Partners for Law in Development**



PLD Annual Report (April 2020- March 2021)

1/11, Ground Floor, Pant Nagar  
Post Office - Jangpura Extension  
New Delhi - 110014  
Tel. No.: 011 49078282  
[admin@pldindia.org](mailto:admin@pldindia.org)  
[online@pldindia.org](mailto:online@pldindia.org)

[www.pldindia.org](http://www.pldindia.org)  
[www.pldindia.org/advocating-for-adolescent-concerns](http://www.pldindia.org/advocating-for-adolescent-concerns)  
[www.cedawsouthasia.org](http://www.cedawsouthasia.org)  
[www.feministlawarchives.pldindia.org](http://www.feministlawarchives.pldindia.org)

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Partners for Law in Development (PLD), New Delhi

**Cover Photo:** *Promote Prevention, Question Criminalization* – a regional event on responses to child and early marriage other than criminalization hosted by Partners for Law in Development on behalf of members of the South Asian consortium Feminist Inquiries into Rights and Equality (FIRE) on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

**Author:** Partners for Law in Development

**Layout and Design:** Partners for Law in Development

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.

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 2020 and March 31 2021.

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## A. THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK

This part of the report lays out in a thematic manner the focus areas in which PLD has undertaken initiatives, collaborations, and events in the year 2020-2021. The five focus areas as detailed in order are – adolescent sexuality and early marriage, building consent culture, sexual harassment at workplace, witch hunting, and gender-based violence. This period of reporting, April 2020 onwards, was overcast by the pandemic, compelling us to adapt to digital work methods. The nature of our work, comprising research, capacity development and outreach, being compatible with digital technologies, enabled us to not only cover the activities planned, but go beyond that as outlined in this report.

### I. ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY AND EARLY MARRIAGE

The major focus of PLD's endeavours in the last year have been around adolescent concerns, particularly adolescent sexuality, responses to child and early marriage and usage of the law. PLD developed a new website addressing these concerns, helmed activities within its national coalition, regional initiative, and global networks to build consensus on these issues and engaged with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India to that end.

#### 1) National Coalition Advocating for Adolescent Concerns (NCAAC):

The PLD led 22-member coalition National Coalition Advocating for Adolescent Concerns (NCAAC) formed in 2019 regularly convened for cross-sectoral conversations to respond to policy proposals on voidance of underage marriage, minimum age of marriage, adolescent sexual health, rights, and related concerns. NCAAC's website is live, hosting a range of resources and actively engaged with the consultative processes set in motion by the government appointed task force on the subject of age of marriage and motherhood.

- ❖ **New Website:** In October 2020, PLD as secretariat of the NCAAC launched the website Advocating for Adolescent Concerns that provides a comprehensive overview of the following topics: Child/ Early Marriage, Child Sexual Abuse, Juvenile Justice, Reproductive Health and Sexual Health. The website, will continue to be updated with well-selected resources and papers from member organisations of NCAAC on these subjects. It is available at <https://pldindia.org/advocating-for-adolescent-concerns/>.



- ❖ **Engagement with Government Task Force:** PLD contributed significantly to discussions by civil society organisations in response to the appointment of the Task Force by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, India in June 2020, to consider raising minimum age of marriage for girls to 21 years from 18 and to address its interlinkages with maternal and infant mortality as well as nutrition and career pursuits of girls. PLD as part of the NCAAC, made oral and written submissions to the government on the issue in July 2020.

- ❖ **Public Event on Concerns Regarding Increase of Minimum Age of Marriage:** On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020, PLD co-hosted a public event with Young Voices, a network of organisations working with children and young people, to present research findings and field experiences on concerns related to increasing the minimum age of marriage of women from 18 to 21 years in India. Moderated by Enakshi Ganguly, the panel consisted of Mary E. John, CWDS and Kavita Ratna of CWC and Young Voices alongside two young voices representing the Young Voices submissions, developed with inputs of 2500 young people from 15 states.
- ❖ **Panel Discussion at CSW65:** PLD as secretariat of NCAAC, organised and hosted a panel discussion on the *'Unintended Consequences of Child Marriage Law: The Indian Context'* at the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum arranged by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York. Moderated by Madhu Mehra, the panel discussion took place on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and featured Mamta Jangid, a Young Voice involved with Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti, Bharat from Vishakha, Archana Dwivedi from Nirantar: A Centre for Gender and Education, Sanjida Arora from CEHAT<sup>1</sup>, Bharti Ali from HAQ: Centre for Child Rights and Sejal Dand from ANANDI<sup>2</sup>; as well as Shipra Jha, Girls Not Brides and Mary E. John, Centre for Women's Development Studies. The closing comments were delivered by Mikiko Otani, Member of the Committee on the Rights of The Child. The panel discussion with translation and timestamps is available to watch [here](#).



## 2) Feminist Inquiries into Rights and Equality (FIRE)

- ❖ **Community of Practice and Regional Dialogue:** Since June 2020 PLD mentored documentation, evidence gathering, exchange and reflection for consortium partners BLAST<sup>3</sup> (Bangladesh), SSA<sup>4</sup> (Sri Lanka), WOREC<sup>5</sup> (Nepal) and IWRAW-AP<sup>6</sup> to enable

<sup>1</sup> Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes

<sup>2</sup> Area Networking and Development Initiatives

<sup>3</sup> Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust

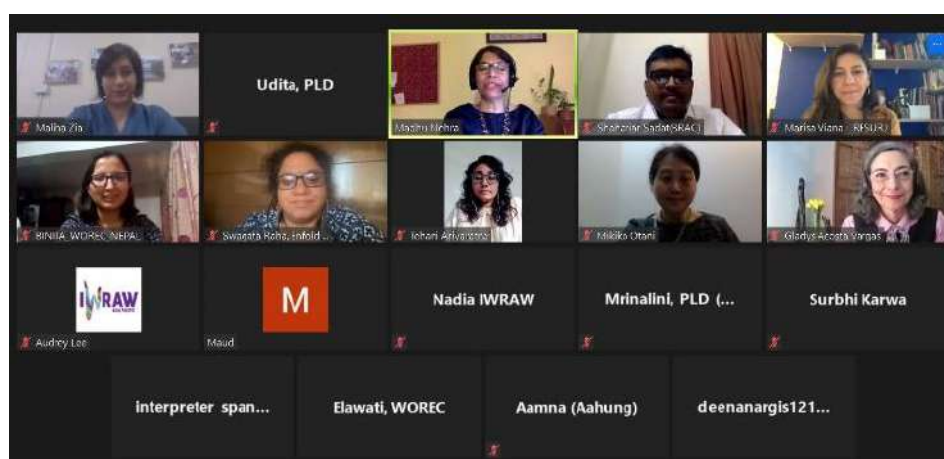
<sup>4</sup> Social Scientists' Association

<sup>5</sup> Women's Rehabilitation Centre

<sup>6</sup> International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific

each to critically examine the impact of child marriage laws within their respective country contexts, on the marginalised populations. In 2020 the consortium was joined by Aahung and the Legal Aid Society (Pakistan). This process led to engaging in dialogue with stakeholders through social media/ [insta-live](#) and through a sub-regional event hosted on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020, by PLD with BLAST, titled '*Promote Prevention, Question Criminalisation*'. Panelists from South Asia spoke on the need for structural changes, affirmative action measures for marginalised and protection of adolescent agency as approaches to addressing child and early marriage - as opposed to stringent laws and policing. The recording of the regional event can be accessed [here](#).

- ❖ **Dialogue with Members of CEDAW and CRC Committees:** The South Asia initiative held a collective private briefing titled '*Promote Prevention, Question Criminalisation: Reframing Responses to Child Marriage*' on the matter with members of the Committees on Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020. PLD as part of FIRE presented before the committees on concerns of state responses to child and early marriages that over-rely on criminalisation instead of being rooted in ground realities of marginalisation which results in child marriages. A report of the presentations can be found [here](#).
- ❖ **Panel Discussion at CSW65:** On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 PLD as part of FIRE hosted and moderated a panel discussion '*Prioritize Prevention, Question Criminalization: Reframing Approaches to Child Marriages in South Asia*' at the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York. The panel critiqued the predominance of law as response to child marriage, addressed concerns such as marginalization, adolescent realities, reproductive rights as well as unintended harm of law to adolescents. The panellists were: Tehani Ariyaratne from SSA, Maliha Zia Lari from Legal Aid Society, Binita Pandey from WOREC, Swagata Raha from Enfold Proactive Health Trust in India, Shahariar Sadat from BRAC<sup>7</sup> and Marisa Viana of RESURJ. Closing remarks were made by Gladys Acosta Vargas, Chair of CEDAW and Mikiko Otani, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The panel discussion with timestamps is available to watch [here](#).



<sup>7</sup> Building Resources Across Communities

### 3) Publications of Reports and Articles

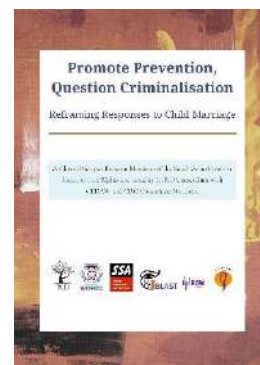
#### Who Uses The Law To Prosecute Child Marriage Most And Why? Findings from Case Law Analysis (2008 -2017)

PLD produced this infographic that summarises the findings of case law research (2008-2017) showing that 65% of all legal action relating to child/ underage marriages are initiated by parents of girls who marry against parental wishes/ or self-arranged marriages. These findings are drawn from a larger case law analysis carried out by PLD.



#### Promote Prevention, Question Criminalisation: Reframing Responses to Child Marriage

This report compiles submissions from South Asian countries by members of the FIRE consortium that were presented to the Members of the CEDAW and CRC Committees on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 on victim centric responses to child marriage, rather than criminalisation.



#### Status of Implementation of Child Marriage Law in Karnataka

A state amendment carried out in 2017 made all underage marriages void ab initio in Karnataka. A study based on official documentation, civil society experiences and case law was undertaken to evaluate whether at all, and the ways in which strict laws impact occurrence of child marriage.

- *Eloperments And "Child Marriages": Do We Know The Full Story?*, published in Feminism in India on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020.
- *Eighteen and Over*, published in The Indian Express on 25th August 2020.
- *Is POCSO Failing Adolescent Sexuality?*, published in In Plainspeak by TARSHI on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

Soft copies of above are available on PLD's website.

### 4) Panel Presentations

Madhu Mehra, the head of research and trainings at PLD, was panellist at the following events:

- *'Revisiting Conversations Around Gender and Harmful Practices'*, a webinar organized by United Nations Population Fund and Population First on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.
- *'Unintended Consequences of Enforcement of Child Marriage Laws'*, an online discussion organised by More Than Brides Alliance for occasion of the United Nations 2020 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

- ‘When Laws Harm’ - the first in the ‘Beyond Criminalization’ series of online dialogues held by RESURJ on unintended harm by protectionist legal approaches, on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- Discussion on the government's proposal to increase age of marriage for girls with civil society groups in Madhya Pradesh, organised by Muskaan, Bhopal on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- ‘PM Modi Decision on Raising Age of Marriage for Girls soon. Issue Divides Activists’, a debate on proposal to increase age of marriage moderated by journalist Barkha Dutt, livestreamed on Mojo Story on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- Webinars and discussions on age of marriage organized by the Maharashtra Mahila Arogya Hakk Parishad (MMAHP) and Maharashtra Mahila Hinsa Mukti Parishad (MMHMP) networks, coordinated by MASUM on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.
- ‘Addressing Early Marriages in India’, webinar organized by Oxfam India and South Asia Women in Media (SAWM), 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.
- ‘What's Age Got To Do With It’, an online discussion on age of marriage by The Child, Early & Forced Marriage and Sexuality Working Group, and Partners that took place on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

## II. BUILDING CONSENT CULTURE

As a preventive initiative towards developing greater awareness of power relations, the self and boundaries, PLD continues to facilitate dialogues on consent, through new tools and exchange.

**1) New Video on Navigating Consent:** As an outcome of the youth workshops and training of trainers in 2019, PLD conceptualized this video to turn attention towards the inner uncertainties and confusions, the grey terrain that lies between a clear “yes” and “no”, to encourage introspection and the need to understand the self. It speaks to awareness about agency, self-esteem, boundary setting, and structures that youth commonly grapple with, while relating to others across different domains of life. The animation video was made in collaboration with The Third Eye, a Nirantar Resource Centre initiative, and since its production in June 2020 has been peer reviewed by youth organisations, social media platforms and youth themselves. Teasers as well as the complete video can be watched [here](#).





**2) Roundtable Discussion:** *'Decoding Consent- Going Inwards to Go Outwards'*, a digital panel discussion consisting of young people across various fields of practice and moderated by Madhuri Adwani of The Third Eye was organized on 27th October 2020 by PLD in collaboration with The Third Eye. The event was held with the aim to discuss how we negotiate situations where it is neither a clear yes or no and to address inner uncertainties and confusions as part of building consent culture. Panelists leading the discussion were theatrician Katyayini Pant, content creator Varun Pandey, psychologist Adrija Chakrabarti, teacher and engineer Chirag Raveendran, independent artist Lokesh Khode, and Rituparna Borah, co-founder and co-director of Nazariya – A Queer Feminist Resource Group.



**3) Article:** In November 2021, The Third Eye through a conversation with Madhu Mehra, reflected on PLD's video series on *'Unboxing Consent'* and *'Handling Rejection'* (available to watch [here](#)) that was made in 2018 to take a deeper look at understanding consent and on PLD's subsequent workshops on *'Building Consent Culture: Preventing Sexual Harassment'*. The article is available to read in [English](#) and [Hindi](#).

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### III. SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE

PLD's resources and reports on sexual harassment at workplace and its prevention has continued to be sought after and referred to in the last year by organisations and our partners working in the same context despite pandemic restrictions.

**1) Roundtable Discussion:** On 17th August 2020, Madhu Mehra led a roundtable discussion organised by Vimochana on *'Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace'*.

**2) Assessing Status of Implementation of The Law:** Following seven years of the implementation of sexual harassment law by Madhu Mehra, contributed reflections based on PLD's experience in a review undertaken by the Delhi Ethics Council of the Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce (WICCI). The review was published in the *'Annual Review on state of Sexual Harassment in India: Review of the 2020; Application of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (Prevention, Prohibition, Redressal) Act, 2013 in the Formal Sector'*, (2020 Edition) by WICCI in an effort to encourage legal compliance by the private sector. The review is available to read [here](#).

**3) Article:** *Courageous Battles in Bleak Legalscapes*, published in The Indian Express on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

## IV. WITCH HUNTING

**1) Panel Presentation:** PLD's contribution in the form of socio legal research studies, policy advocacy, consultations, training and awareness building programmes continue to be a point of reference for academic and media discourse around witch hunting and branding.

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Madhu Mehra presented on the issue at panel at the online launch of the book '*Witch Hunts: Culture, Patriarchy & Structural Transformation*' authored by Prof. Govind Kelkar and Prof. Dev Nathan, organized by Action Aid and Cambridge University Press.

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## V. GENDER, SEXUALITY AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

### 1) Panel Presentations:

Madhu Mehra has been a panellist at the following events on the theme:

- On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 at '*Strengthening Emergency Response and Support Services for Gender-Based Violence: Amid 22nd COVID and Beyond*', a webinar initiated by LEAD at Krea University discussing the impact of COVID-19 on gender-based discrimination and violence.
- On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 5 years action recommendations over long term transformative progress for gender-based violence (GBV) by Global Action Coalition on GBV to mark 25 years since Beijing Platform for Action. The event was co-hosted by Ford Foundation, Breakthrough and Yes Trust Zimbabwe.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at '*Should Adultery Be Criminalized in Armed Forces*', a live broadcast panel hosted by at MOJO Story.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 at '*Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Justice and Ending Harmful Practices*' at the MenEngage's Global Ubuntu Symposium organised by MenEngage Alliance and hosted by UNFPA.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at '*Women's Liberation Movement: Some Critical Concerns and Debates*' at the Bangladesh National Women's Convention organised by Naripokkho.

Additionally, on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020 PLD also presented on '*Institution of Marriage and Law*' at Women's Empowerment Cell, NSS, Kirori Mal College, Delhi University, New Delhi.

**2) Transgender Rights in South Asia: Crisis and Opportunities:** To map gender and sexuality concerns as these relate to trans persons in South Asia, PLD with Varta Trust co-hosted a panel discussion on the theme moderated by Dr. Debjyoti Ghosh - with panellists Ho Chi Minh Islam and Joya Sikder (Bangladesh), Mith Mukherjee and Zainab Patel (India), Thenu Ranketh from Venasa VTN and M. Moli Magret (Sri Lanka), Rukshana Kapali and Bhumika Shrestha (Nepal), and Aradhiya Khan and Uzma Yaqoob from Forum of Dignity Initiatives (Pakistan) on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. A report on the webinar is available to read [here](#). This effort was a step towards mapping legal protections,

challenges, and vulnerabilities under COVID and emergency responses needed for vulnerable trans populations, as part of the FIRE consortium efforts.

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## VI. SUBMISSIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND UNITED NATIONS

**1) Submissions Before the Task Force Concerning Age of Motherhood and Minimum Age of Marriage:** PLD made a [submission](#) to the Task Force appointed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, to consider increasing minimum of marriage to 21 years for girls, in the context of age of motherhood, on behalf of NCAAC in July 2020, while endorsing the [Young Voices - National Report](#) submitted before the Task Force from 15 States with compilation 2500 young voices on age of marriage and related matters, and contributing to the [Civil Society Memorandum](#).

**2) Presentations to the National Commission for Women and Law Ministry:** On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 PLD presented before the National Commission for Women on ‘*Review of Legal Age of Marriage and Motherhood*’. PLD also presented before a sub-committee of the Law Ministry and the Niti Aayog on concerns regarding increase of minimum age of marriage for girls on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**3) Submission before the UN-SRVAW:** PLD made [submission](#) on perspectives of victim-centric responses to criminal justice system and highlighted need for support mechanisms, before UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women in May 2020.

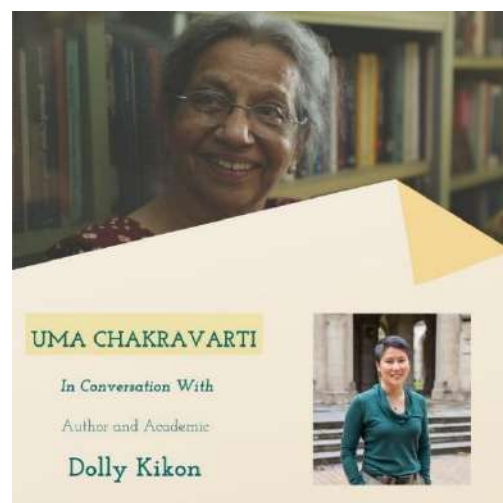
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## B. ARCHIVES & OUTREACH

### I. FEMINIST LAW ARCHIVES

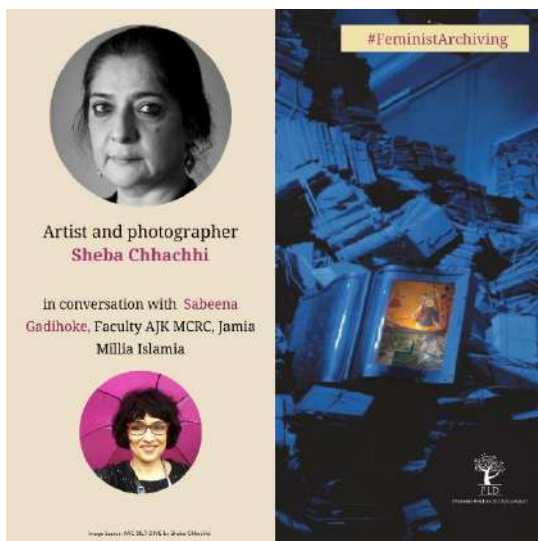
PLD’s digital repository Feminist Law Archives (FLA) was expanded to include a new theme, Child Marriage and Adolescent Sexuality, to consolidate old and contemporary resources and policy submission on the theme.

Since November 2020, PLD has hosted a six-part series ‘*Ways of Seeing and Being*’, curated by filmmaker Subasri Krishnan to capture and archive reflections of different feminist expressions in the realm of art, culture and history to unpack the idea of “feminist practices”. Conversations were held between



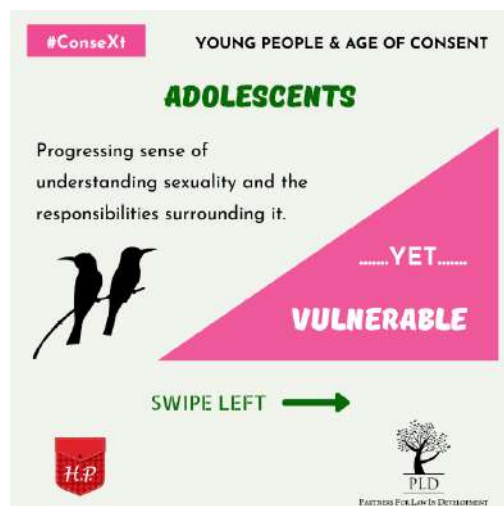
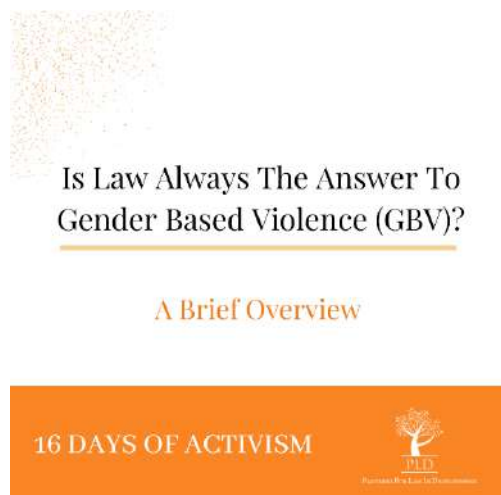
filmmakers, writers, artists to understand how their work has been shaped by different ideas of feminism.

All conversations are available [here](#) to watch in excerpts and full episodes on FLA.



## II. SOCIAL MEDIA

In the past year PLD as lead within the FIRE consortium and separately in collaboration with Hidden Pockets Collective carried out social media campaigns such as 'FireSpeak' on child marriages in South Asia region and 'Consext: Young People and Age of Consent', in addition to usual social media activities, commemorations of national events and the 16 Days of Activism. Notably, during pandemic enforced lockdown in 2020, we carried out an awareness raising series on the nature of the pandemic, necessary precautions as well as connected social justice concerns within and outside the household.



### III. PLD IN THE NEWS

#### 1) Print Media

[A Less Talked About Crime Against Women](#), The Pioneer, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

[Courageous Battles in Bleak Legalscapes](#), Indian Express, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

[Boost for India's #MeToo as Journalist Cleared of Defamation](#), The Financial Times, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Reprinted in [Eminetra](#).

[Covid-19 Silences Child Brides' Sobs](#), The Hans India, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

[Age of Marriage for Women: 21 is a Yes while 20 is a No?](#), Hidden Pockets Collective, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

[The Trinity of Patriarchy, Poverty and the Pandemic](#), The Hindustan Times, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

[India May Up Marriageable Age of Girls But What About Age of Sexual Consent?](#), SheThePeople, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

[शादी के लिए लड़की की न्यूनतम उम्र बढ़ाने से क्या बाल विवाह रुक पाएंगे?](#), BBC News (Hindi), 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

[Will Raising the Marriageable Age for Women Set Her Free or Rob Her Freedom Further?](#), The Leaflet, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

[India: Muslim Man Arrested for 'Trying to Convert Hindu Woman'](#), The National, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

["I thought she was a shy type. Then she filed a complaint."](#), The Third Eye, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Available in [Hindi](#).

[Hindu Nationalists Raise Spectre of 'Love Jihad' with Marriage Law](#), The Financial Times, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020. Reprinted in [InterConNews](#), [iNewsly Media](#) and [The Finance Info](#).

[Hyderabad Activists Want Women's Legal Marriage Age to Stay at 18, Increasing It May Cause More Harm](#), New Indian Express, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

[When to Wed: Raising the Minimum Age of Marriage](#), The Frontline (The Hindu), 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

[Why Women's Organisations Oppose Move to Increase Marriage Age](#), The Citizen, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

[Agency Not Age: Concerns On Raising The Age Of Marriage](#), Behan Box, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

[Should The Age of Marriage for Women be Raised to 21?](#), The Hindu, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

[Raising the Minimum Legal Age of Marriage for Women to 21 Years is Neither Feasible Nor Promising](#), Scroll, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

[Is POCSO Failing Adolescent Sexuality?](#), In Plainspeak (TARSHI), 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

[Reading Rhea Chakraborty's Public Vilification as A Modern-Day Witch Hunt: Actress' Harassment Has Historic Roots](#), First Post, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

[Poverty, Not Early Marriage, Cause of Ill-Health of Mothers: Experts](#), Indian Express, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[Just Another Meaningless Number](#), The Hindu, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[Marriageable Age: Law Reform Proposals Are Just Not Enough](#), VIDURA (July- Sept. 2020) Press Institute of India, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[Civil Society Bodies Urge Govt To Not Increase Women's Minimum Age Of Marriage](#), SheThePeople, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[Unintended Consequences': Ground Workers Object to Govt's Proposal to Raise Minimum Age of Marriage](#), News18, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[Eighteen and Over](#), The Indian Express, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[Increasing Women's Age of Marriage to 21 is a Superficial Idea; Rather Govt Should Focus on Education and Jobs](#), E-TV Bharat, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[करीब 100 नागरिक संस्थाओं का महिलाओं के लिए विवाह की न्यूनतम आयु नहीं बढ़ाने का आग्रह](#), Amar Ujala, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[Activists Against Raising Age of Marriage for Women](#), The Hindu, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[Do Not Increase Women's Minimum Age of Marriage: Society Bodies to Govt.](#), One India, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[महिलाओं के लिए विवाह की न्यूनतम उम्र नहीं बढ़ाने का आग्रह, 100 नागरिक संस्थाओं ने सरकार से पूछे ये सवाल](#), Live Hindustan, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[Let Us Decide': Young Women Speak Out on Raising Age of Marriage From 18 To 21](#), The News Minute, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[Focus Should Be on Root Causes of Child Marriage, Not Increasing Marriage Age: Activists](#), The Wire, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[Over 100 Civil Society Bodies Urge Govt to Not Increase Women's Minimum Age of Marriage](#), Outlook, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Reprinted in [New Indian Express](#), [India Times](#), [Deccan Herald](#), [Sify](#) and [News18](#).

[CSOs Urge Govt. Not to Increase Age of Marriage for Girls to 21](#), The Statesman, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

['ವಯಸ್ಸು ಏರಿಕೆ ಮುನ್ನ ಕಾನೂನು ಬಿಗಿಗೊಳಿಸಿ](#), Prajavani, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

[India Has 1.5 Million Underage Brides Every Year. Here's How '21' Can Change That](#), The Better India, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

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[Beyond Criminalization Dialogue 1: When Laws Harm – Madhu Mehra](#), RESURJ, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

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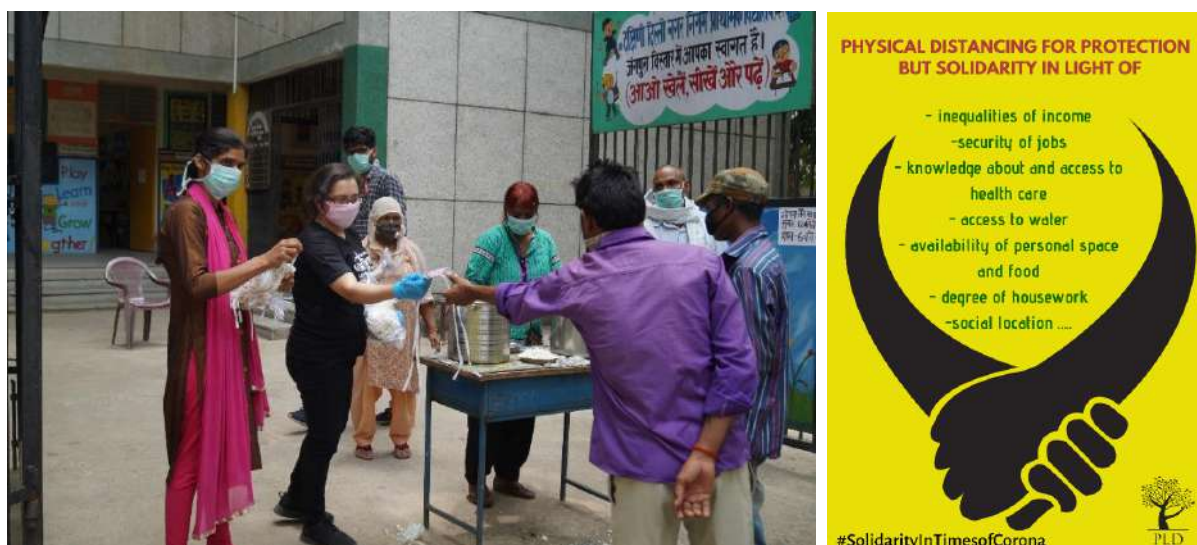
## C. ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

### I. COVID 19 RELIEF EFFORTS & AWARENESS RAISING

PLD sourced and distributed reusable masks for and to essential workers, slum dwellers, daily wagers and migrant workers so as to popularise environment friendly masks and not impede the availability of medical masks for healthcare workers. Distribution was carried out by community kitchens,



government schools, and citizens' volunteering to provide aid to poor populations. We carried out an informational poster series with #SolidarityInTimesOfCorona on social media highlighting ways of addressing gender, class, and mental health impact.



## II. WORKING FROM HOME & TEAM BUILDING

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, PLD has adopted “working from home” with protocols for daily coordination and reporting to allow programmes team to work from hometowns and essential key staff to work with strict protocols from office. Programme team was actively encouraged to participate in webinars on diverse issues and exchange and support each other as a team to keep them engaged, connected as a way of addressing isolation and mental health concerns.

## III. OFFICE SHIFT AND TEAM

PLD shifted its office to 1/11, Ground Floor, Pant Nagar, Post Office - Jangpura Extension, New Delhi – 110014. Previously Executive Director, Madhu Mehra is now the Head of Research and Trainings while Vipin Kumar who was engaged within Finance is currently the Head of Operations and Finance.

<b>Head (Research and Trainings)</b>	Madhu Mehra
<b>Head (Operations and Finance)</b>	Vipin Kumar
<b>Finance</b>	Ankur Kashyap



<b>Research</b>	Mrinalini Ravindranath Surbhi Karwa Swaranjali Agrawal Aarushi Mahajan (Probation) Athira Johnny (Intern) Saumya Maheshwari (part time)
<b>Training and Curation of Feminist Practices Conversations</b>	Monika (part time) Udita Chakrabarti Subasri Krishnan (consultant)
<b>Programme Support</b>	Tanvi Lomesh Kishore Tirkey

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