

ASLSA Collaborated with UN Women in Organizing Gender Sensitization Training for Empanelled Legal Aid Counsels

ASLSA was partnered by UN Women in conducting gender sensitization training for the empanelled Legal Aid Counsels of ASLSA and DLSA Udalguri and Darrang on 25th and 26th May 2019 at Radisson Blu, Guwahati. The training focused on women specific laws particularly Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 and Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013.



Inaugurating the training programme, Hon'ble Justice Mr. Arup Kumar Goswami, Acting Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman, ASLSA emphasised the role of empanelled counsels in securing justice to the victims of violence. He also stressed that the lawyers to be equipped with knowledge, skill and sensitivity to represent the women survivors of violence in the court. Mr. Satya Nath Sarma, Member Secretary, ASLSA said, "If we need to bring about gender equality and end violence against women, we need to focus on mindset change". Ms. Gitali Rabha, Deputy Secretary and Meenakshi Sarmah, Under Secretary, ASLSA interacted with the participant lawyers on prevalent issues of gender inequality.



Sharing the global statistics that 1 in every 3 women has experienced some form of violence in life, Ms. Anju Pandey, Programme Specialist, UN Women appreciated that for the first time the global community through the SDGs has recognized violence as having a direct relationship with development. As part of its commitment to work with Govt. institutions for women's access to justice, UN Women in India is collaborating with ASLSA to sensitise the empanelled advocates who can greatly influence in the process upholding the Global Goal slogan "No One is Left Behind".



Ms. Nilanju Dutta, Project Coordinator at North East Network (NEN) helped the participants understand structural causes of gender inequality. UN Women Programme Analyst Ms. Risha Syed and Advocate Mr. Soumya Bhowmik shared the key provisions of the Domestic Violence Act, highlighting definition of domestic violence, shared household, protection officers, service providers etc. Ms. Anurita P. Hazarika, Director, NEN undertook a session on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act taking the participants through recent case laws to clarify various sections of the Act and corresponding rules. Kasturi Gakul, Asstt. Professor of National Law University, Guwahati spoke on Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, General Recommendations 12 and 19 which recognize that sexual harassment leads to health and safety issues of women.



The programme was participatory and interactive facilitating the advocates to refresh their skills and get exposure to new insights.
