

CENTRE FOR WOMEN & LAW NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA



On the Occasion of

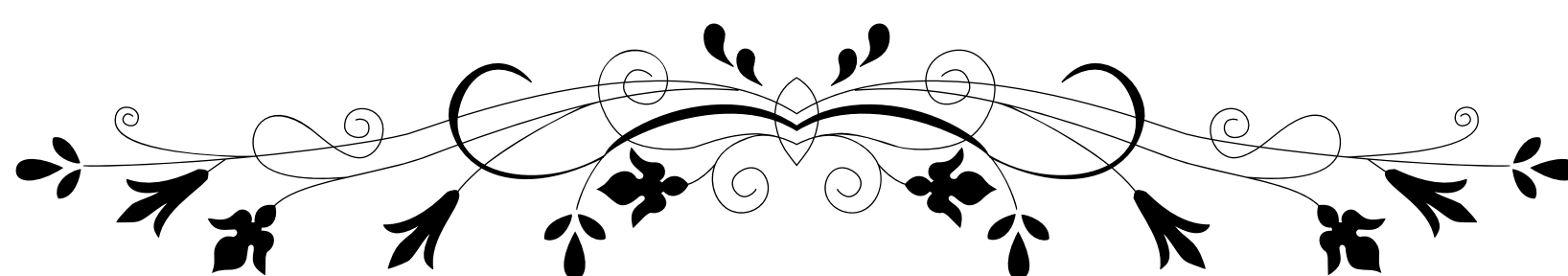


INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022



Presents

PAPER CASTLES



#Break the Bias



About the Centre



We, The Centre for Women & Law, function as a research centre in the National Law University Odisha. We, a small part of the large NLUO family, with the support of our student members and guidance of our faculty members, have embarked on a journey to come up with a platform to facilitate the conduct of study and research in gender issues, gender equality and gender justice. The centre is striving hard towards successfully coming up with such a robust platform to generate works in the form of publications, events, webinars, conferences, research projects, training and capacity building programs in this field. Through these projects, the centre attempts to achieve dual outcomes, i.e., generating sensitization in the society towards these issues and also contributing in creating rich literature in this field. The centre is looking towards achieving the large goal of engrossing itself in interdisciplinary research combining contemporary social, political and legal issues' interplay in the field of gender equity and gender justice.

The centre has been involved in varied activities lately. Recently, we successfully conducted the National Commission for Women (NCW) Eastern Regional Consultation "Review of Criminal Laws – Improvement in Status of Women." The objective of this consultation was to review and analyze the position of law; and formulate consolidated recommendations for viable amendments keeping in view the perspective and position of women in India. The centre also conducted a workshop on Sexual Harassment Law and Policy with special emphasis on the working of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) and Local Complaints Committees (LCCs), and to educate the participants about the working knowledge of the Sexual Harassment Act, 2013. The centre also actively participated in drafting Anti-Sexual harassment of our university. We also conducted a series of guest lectures on distinct issues comprising rape sentencing stereotyping, property rights of women, acid attacks & gendered violence over time featuring luminaries like Prof. Mrinal Satish, Usha Ramanathan, Kiran Gupta among many others.

For this academic year, the centre has planned to come up with various research works and other events through which there would be attempts to undertake a holistic as well as critical evaluation of existing legislations and women's rights among many other pertinent and discussion-demanding issues.



International Women's Day

2022

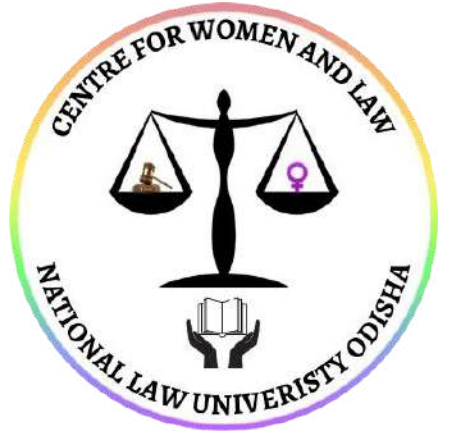


Every year on March 8th, the world comes together to celebrate an integral part of everyone's lives and society, i.e., women. It is a day on which people from all walks of life come together to celebrate and empower women and their achievements, pushing forward the cause of gender equality, something that was long-neglected and overlooked.

Its origins could be traced back to the early twentieth century as a result of the efforts of the labour groups in North America and Europe. On February 28, 1909, the Socialist Party of America organized the first National Woman's Day in commemoration of the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York, wherein women protested against substandard working conditions. In 1917, on the last Sunday of February, Russian women chose to demonstrate and strike under the banner "Bread and Peace", which fell on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar. Their fight culminated in the establishment of women's suffrage in Russia. In 1945, the United Nations Charter became the first international agreement to embrace gender equality as an objective. The United Nations established the first formal International Women's Day on March 8th, 1975, as part of International Women's Year. Since then, it has become an annual ritual.

This International Women's Day, the UN has decided upon the theme of "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". Women are increasingly recognised as being more prone to climate change consequences than males, since women make up the majority of the world's poor and are more reliant on the natural resources threatened by climate change. Simultaneously, women and girls are effective and influential leaders and change agents in the fight against climate change adaptation and mitigation. They participate in and lead sustainability projects worldwide, and their involvement and leadership result in more effective climate action.

That is why, this Women's Day, the world aims to become gender-safe and take its first step towards a sustainable future.



About Paper Castles



Paper Castles is an initiative taken by the Centre for Women and Law for the upcoming International Women's Day. Paper Castles is an event that aims to foster a feeling of togetherness in order to combat societal biases. The theme we are focusing on this year is #BreakTheBias.

The purpose of this organizing this event is to motivate and to bring people together to share their experiences, their art and their stories from their point of view and to give them a platform to express themselves to break the biases that exists against women in the modern world today as this year the theme for the International Women's Day is 'Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow'.

The views of these students and their thought process will shape our future and build a better future for the future generations. The Centre in view of the same had invited the submissions for our compendium in the form of short films, short stories, poems, posters, and art. The participants in the form of these submissions conveyed their creative writings, experiences, and so on.

Faculty Advisors



Dr. Priyanka Anand

Asst. Prof. of Law
NLUO



Ms. Rashmi Rekha Baug

Research Associate cum
Teaching Assistant, NLUO

Special thanks to:



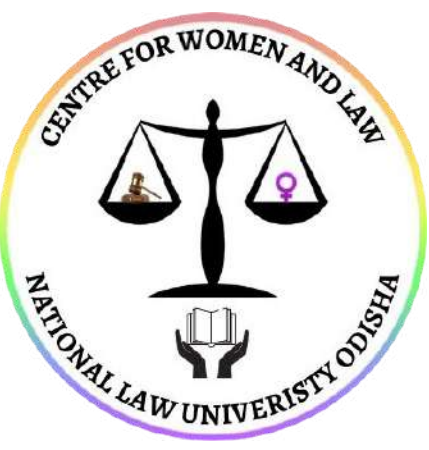
Ms. Madhubrata Rayasingh

Asst. Prof. of Economics
NLUO



Ms. Dipanwita Mitra

Research Associate cum
Teaching Assistant, NLUO



Presenting

Short Poems





THE WHITE DUST FROM THAT CHIPPED WALL

~ Akanksha Suman

The white dust from that chipped wall
Is still in my hair
The marks of your grip never go away
Seems impossible to wash off your touch
But I guess it's my blame to take
Maybe it was all for my sake
It was a nasty welcome to a nastier world
I learnt the price of trusting someone, at a very young age
Anywhere I'm alone, the terror consumes me
You still haunt my dreams
And live in the back of my mind
With years passing by, you found your way to me without fail.
Unexpected, with a new name and a new face taking away a piece
of me each time.
I know I might cross paths with you again.
Walking alone on the road
Surrounded by a 1000 people
Or in my own home
In bright day
Or middle of the night.
Just like after every visit you made
I promise myself once again
I won't let the fear take over
I will not disappoint that little girl
I will not let you get away this time.

Akanksha Suman is a Student
at Symbiosis Law School, Pune



LIBERTY & ESTEEM IS STILL AN AIM..

~ Arnika Dwivedi

I was born in a globe they say is the earth,

Born in a country where a girl is treated as a “Goddess”
but why today rape is “modest”?

I never knew that I am surrounded by beast,
As I never was an auction to their bid.
At age 4 when my toys were cars and dolls,
That bad touch still made me hidey-hole.

I was having big dreams want to conquer this world one day,
Left in turmoil, shattered and chopped across the bay.
Nobody helped me, I was weeping in tears.
When back at the guardians of justice failed to write an FIR.

When confidence, rage and passion were my best friends,
A pervert from nowhere started commenting my dress.

Acid was thrown in my eyes, my tongue was cut.
They knew I can eradicate their existence, demolish their conduct.
Does “GODDESS” ever meant to satiate a demon’s lust?
Or an epitome of grace, dignity or rugged?

My age doesn’t matter when it comes to nauseate their concupiscent desire,
Because our leaders are so busy in smoke and mirrors.
So why to call this nation great when liberty and esteem is an aim!

Arnika Dwivedi is a First year BBA LLB (H) student ,
Symbiosis law school, Pune



SHE IS ART

~Sumaiyya Anas

Head bent over
Silent tears, drip
Slowly, a quick
Hand wipes them
Away,
She is given
The supposed freedom
To express her
Emotions, but
When she does,
She is labelled
Weak,
What she doesn't
Know, is that
She is art,
And
On a hopeful day,
She will see that.

Another one,
With scars
Like the stripes
Of a tiger,
Winding, down
Her body,
Majestic, telling
Their own story,
Tries her best
To hide them,
While pretending
They don't
Bother her,
Torment her,
What she doesn't
Know, is that
She is art,
And
On a hopeful day,
She will realise it.

Continued...



A mother,
By name,
And more so
By heart,
She nurtures
Love, affection
In all,
For themselves,
For others,
She teaches
To believe,
She teaches
To succeed,
But when she
Turns to her
Reflection,
She cannot
See her pain,
Her sacrifice,
Her blood
Without seeing
Her flaws
Reiterated to
Her, by the
Cruel society
What she doesn't
Know, is that
She is art,
And
On a hopeful day,
She will teach herself that.

Oh, so many
Bright, inspiring
Souls, out there
Girls with dreams,
Women with goals,
Humans, with love
Suppressed,
Told, only how
Useless they are,

Continued...



How horrific
They look,
How much
They have failed,
Never, how
Each one,
Is a piece of
Art,
A masterpiece
A plethora of
Colours, shades
All, very perfect
So on a hopeful
Day, I wish
Each of those
Breathtaking souls
Find their way,
To self-love.

Sumaiyyah Airu is a Student
at Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai



BREAK THE BIAS

~Dr. Akhaya kumar Nayak

A woman,
Is the spirit of the universe
Inspiration of the humanity.
Having heavenly love and affection for all
Dedicated to sacrifice
For the cause of others.
Leaving all personal emotions and desire
For which SHE,
Is the best creation of the God.
Who can break the ugly bias around her
With a new sunrise
At the horizon.

Dr. Akhaya Kumar Nayak is a Lecturer in Political Science
at Raghunathjew Degree College, Tulasipur, Cuttack



बेटियां..

~Deepak Kumar

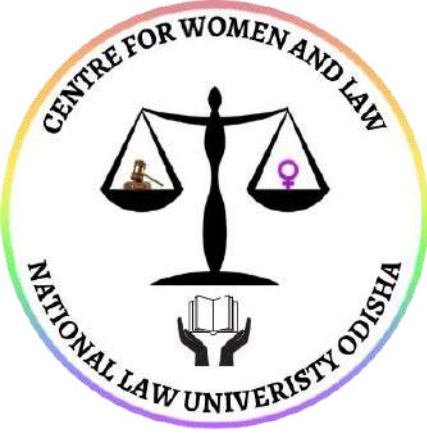
कभी मां के आंचल का प्यार
तो कभी पापा के कंधो का सहारा हो तुम ,
भाइयों के हर ज़ख्म का मानो
राखी सा मरहम हो तुम।।

अपने घर को छोड़ ,
पराए घर को भी अपनाया तुमने
पुरुषों के साथ क़दम बढ़ाकर
लड़खड़ाते पुरुषों को भी संभाला तुमने।।

पर लड़कियों के छोटे ड्रेस में ,
खामियां हम पुरुषों ने ही निकाला है।
दूसरो की नजरों से बचने के लिए
अपनी नजरों को झुकालो...
हमने तो उन्हें यही समझाया है।।

पर अब समझने की बारी उनकी है
जिनके नजरों की ये बीमारी है ,
क्योंकी समाज में बढ़ रही इस बीमारी को
हमे जड़ से मिटाना होगा।।

वरना एक बदलते समाज की कल्पना को
बस कल्पना मात्र बताना होगा... ।।



मैं एक स्त्री हूँ.....

~Kunal Jadoun

हाँ मैं एक स्त्री हूँ, पर मेरी भी एक अनकही कहानी है,
जो समझे उसके लिए पूरी ज़िंदगानी और
जो ना समझे उसके लिए एक साधारण कहानी है।
हाँ मैं एक पत्नी हूँ, पर मेरी भी एक अलग पहचान है,
मेरे पति के नाम के अलावा भी मेरा एकनाम है।
हाँ मैं एक बेटी हूँ, पर मेरी भी एक अलग पहचान है,
आप के बेटे के साथ-साथ इस बेटी में भी नन्ही सी जान है।
हाँ मैं एक माँ हूँ, पर मेरे भी कुछ अरमान हैं,
मेरे बेटे मेरे काम की सराहना करे बस यही मेरा अभिमान है।
हाँ मैं एक बहू हूँ, पर यह मेरा भी परिवार है,
आपके घर को मंदिर बनाने में मेरा भी योगदान है।
हाँ मैं एक बहन हूँ, पर मेरी भी कुछ योग्यताएँ हैं,
भाई से भी ज्यादा जीती मैंने स्कूल की प्रतियोगिताएँ हैं।
हाँ मैं तुम्हारी मैनेजर हूँ, पर मुझमे कुछ खास है,
शायद तुम्हारा प्रदर्शन मुझसे कम है यही बात है।
हाँ मैं एक स्त्री हूँ, पर मेरे शब्दों में एक धार है,
इन्हें जो तुमने समझलिया तो समझा मेरी बातों का सार है।
हाँ मैं एक स्त्री हूँ, पर मुझमें समाया सारा संसार है।।

Kunal Jadoun is a Law Student at
S. S. Jain Subodh Law College, Mansarovar, Jaipur, Rajasthan



WOMANHOOD

~Krishna Lohia

As a child,
Womanhood had always haunted me
Because somehow the tv serials and the society
Made me believe that
Womanhood was about giving up on my mechanics game
which dad bought me when I was three,
About giving up on sports or maybe studies too and slowing
down my steps so that my foot doesn't make sound,
About reminding myself that woman who run wildly in the
race of life are house breakers,
About not having my own opinions for the things that
concern all our life,
And about giving up on my laughter or at least shrinking it to
a graceful smile.

They told me
Womanhood was about perfectly round rotis
About leaving your parent's home
About giving up on your dream throne
About changing your surname
About being pretty and sane
And about all the stricter and harsher things,
that the child in me never wanted from her life.

They told
Women aren't complete until they are married off
and have a family.
But today,
As I am draping this saree for my convocation,
I see a complete woman in the mirror.

Continued...



A woman who isn't married yet, neither plans to in the near future.

A woman whose rotis aren't a perfect round but are comfortably edible, a woman who understands that cooking is a basic survival skill and not a gender role.

A woman who is into professional puns and laughter.

A woman who has been unstoppable, a woman whose father's colleagues must be patting his shoulder as he joins her convocation ceremony on the video conference.

A woman who will be joining the nation's leading firm as a senior associate next week, everybody there knows her by her name.

And a woman who will be paid for her opinions.

Today,

As I am draping this saree,

I realise that womanhood isn't about giving up on the dreams

It's about clenching them harder than ever before, even harder than the pallu of this saree.

Let the latter flow freely. Let yourself fly freely.

Womanhood is all about that.

Krishna Lohia is a Student at
National Law University Odisha



A BIASED TRITE

~Vivechana Chauhan

Humans, the most sophisticated creature on earth,
unintentionally paving towards ignorance since their very birth.
Being a pessimistic for a while I might be wrong,
however, society has proved, by its old cynical song.
Demarking them as “Sexist” would definitely sound rude,
palpably, our so-called tech society is that much crude.
“We are not sexist” is what we explain,
and sweating in fear with woman driver, isn’t it vain?
Weeping too, has been credited to girl’s stock,
Being emotionally weak for a while is not a reason to mock.
Oh, don’t usher me to the professional side,
Indiscriminately becoming biased categorization ride.
Even “PINK” color is not spared,
seems been patented by girls somewhere.
Ahh!! Sports gullible, I guess belongs to “men lords”,
Olympic medals of girls might be a spread of WhatsApp squad.
Every field and sector are becoming innovative,
Creating new biases and slangs is new anti-gender initiative.
Prejudices has disjointed this whole class,
despite of executing unexpected endeavor for the mass.
The list of biases is protracted, plenty still ghosting across,
Geminating them, is leading society at loss.
For women, you don’t need to prove your worth,
it is the flame, need to extinguish in the patriarchal hearth.
Hopefully, education seems an appealing recourse to quell
biases,
Since arbitrary segregation of a gender envisages future crisis.
Alas! It is a trite to water non sensical weeds to gratify ones
greed,
Rise and shine Earthians!!, “BREAKING THE BIAS “is all we need.

Vivechana Chauhan is a student at
S.S. Jain Subodh Law College, Jaipur



MEN, THEIR RIGHTS AND NOTHING LESS.. WOMEN , THEIR RIGHTS AND NOTHING MORE..

~Nilakshi Tiwari

To the man who thinks women are weak,
when you were born as a baby...
who did you seek?

You may label us as meek and at times sexualize
our physique but doesn't stop us
We won't accept defeat.

Entrance exams and parliamentary seats
For the longest time we've been asked to retreat
Cover yourself up when you go out on the street
Repetitive discriminative ideas that should have
been made obsolete
We won't accept defeat

The door is open with the shrine in sight
Why do you stop us at the temple, outside?
Menstrual blood, why consider it impure
Especially when you have no idea how hard it's to
endure

To call us the weaker sex is a shame
We've stronger than you by any other name!

Nilakshi Tiwari is a student at
Symbiosis Law School, Pune



IDIOSYNCRASIES WITHIN YOU

~Sainjali Nayak

Scratching my head out of frustration as I moved,
Scraping the dirt out of my nails on the mobile screen with a gloom

For studying law at a stretch of six hours,
I envy those filter photos
On my WhatsApp notifications for girls on their status bloomed
Stood in front of a hazy mirror full of fingerprints,
I cleared an inch with my breaths and reflected the sunlight's glint,
Noticed that porous black headed face with saggy dark circles
without a blink

I realized I am not enjoying my life,
It is going in a monotonous fling.
Wait!
This is not the truth but a generally accepted notion of our society.

Who consider studious teenagers boring and
patronize cool studs with all their mighty,
Well it's just because they never felt the beauty of a novel and
the anxiety of the climax.

As a certified reader we worship literae stuffs with all do pity.
To understand the logic behind a particular Maths or Accounts
problem is so satiating,

Absorbing the essence of a line, Structure of our Body, Earth,
Universe, Solar System is so fleecing.
When I have a long intellectual discussion with the genius soul,
a thought to give it a thought just like a white face has a black mole,

Continued...



Self suffice aberrations, Balance Sheet matches and correct
reevaluation account is our goal,
Bare Acts, BNB, Indian constitution and other legal musty books
playing my boyfriend's role.

In this world of hiking hashtags an seldom self talks,
I enjoy accepting opinions of people from different life walks,
Studying about Equator, Meridians, it is my Geography Book that my
eyes stalk,
Because in the morning it is not my loved one with the bouquet
But rather my newspaper vendor with the newspaper that knocks.

Sainjali Nayak is a 1st Year Student at
Symbiosis Law School Pune

भेदभाव से मुक्त सामान्य से युक्त

~Kunika Modi

खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वो तो झांसी वाली रानी थी,
जो बीत गई वो एक यादगार कहानी थी,
आओ फिर से हम स्वर्णिम भारत की रचना करते हैं,
इस देश के भविष्य को एक नया मोड़ देते हैं!!

"ब्रेक द बायस" का टाइटल देती हूं,
चंद शब्दों में अपनी बात कहती हूं
लफ्ज़ों को सहेज कर भावों को प्रकट करती हूं,
चलों एक नई कविता की शुरुआत करती हूं -

तुम नारी से कहते हो पीछे रहने को
तुम नारी से कहते हो पीछे रहने को;
साथ उन्हें भी बुलाओ ना
ये दुनियां भर की मंज़िल आज उन्हें भी तो दिखाओ ना,
घर की चार दिवारी से बाहर उन्हें आसमान की सेर करवाओ ना,
कलयुग के परिंदे तुम उन्हें भी उड़ना सिखाओ ना।१।।

तुम बल की बात करते हो, सहन वो भी तो करती हैं,
तुम नज़रे झूका कर देखने को कहते हों,
आंखे उनकी भी तो नम होती हैं,
तुम अपनी ख्वाहिश उन पर जो थोपते हो
तुम अपनी ख्वाहिश उन पर जो थोपते हो
, चाहत उनकी भी तो होती हैं,
तुम ज़िंदगी की किताब को बहुत संभाल कर रखते हो, किंतु उस किताब का हिस्सा
वो भी तो होती हैं।२।

एक तरफ माता की तरह पूजा जाता हैं, और वहीं औरत शब्द से ही उसे कोसा
जाता हैं,
ये साबित करना आसान हैं ना,
औरत बेकसूर हैं ये बात जान लेना,
तुम आज के हीरो हो ,हर नारी को सम्मान देना।३।

Continued

माता का पूजन हो,
हर मातृ शक्ति को नमन हो
जो बलात्कारी आंख उठाए उस ही वक्त उसका सर्वनाश हो,
सच हर नारी इतनी बलशाली हो,
जैसे उसमे बसी झांसी वाली रानी हो।४।

सुनो;
लक्ष्मी बाई व झांसी की रानी तलवार ले कर लड़ी थी,
अरे इतनी दूर मत जाओ
क्या याद हैं तुम्हे तुम्हारे इंतजार में वो मां खाना छोड़ कर दोपहर से खड़ी थी।५।

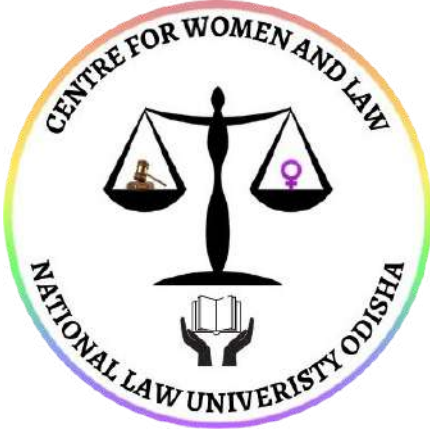
आज भी बनती हैं वो एक मिसाल रातों रात मचाई थी जिन्होंने आंधी
देश की पहली महिला मुखिया
वो थी इंदिरा गांधी।
वो नारी भी सच में थी कमाल,
मान देश का बढ़ाया दे कर अपना स्वर,
नाम था जिनका लता मंगेशकर।
गौरव थी वो धरती का,
चांद की दूरी जिन्होंने जानी थी, कल्पना चावला के नाम से ही पहचानी थी
कल्पना थी वो देश की जिसने दी कुर्बानी थी।६।

छोटी मोटी रोक टोक से,
रोज़ रोज़ की नोक झोंक से,
बाहर निकल कर आओ ओ नारी
एक तुम्हारी बुलंद आवाज़ ऊपर से तुम्हारा जज़्बा हैं सबपे भारी,
कदम मिलाओ पुरुषों से ये भी तो हैं तुम्हारी ज़िमेदारी,
घर संभालना अच्छे से जानती हो,
अब है देश संभालने की बारी,
अरे ओ नारी तू हैं बहुत हिम्मत वाली ,
एक तुम्हारी बुलंद आवाज़ ऊपर से तुम्हारा जज़्बा हैं सबपे भारी।७।

Continued

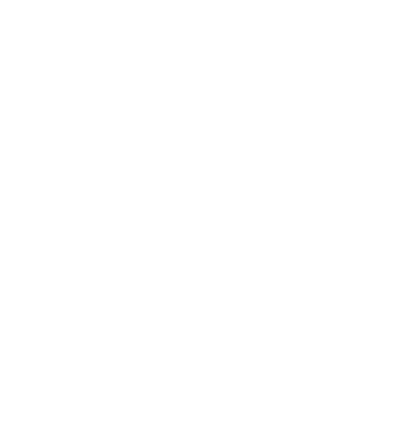


"भेदभाव और अन्याय से मुक्त हो , समानता व न्याय से युक्त हो,"
सच कहूं तो एक देश ऐसा हो जहा
हर पंक्षी उन्मुक्त हो।।
जिस दौड़ में हर पिता अपनी बेटी की जीत का इंतज़ार करे,
और बेटा खुद ही अपनी मंजिल को पार करे,
ना परवरिश में कमी ,ना ख्वाहिश हो कभी बदली,हर पिता का सर ऊंचा और हर माँ
का उच्च दर्ज़ा,
हां" समानता व न्याय से युक्त" ऐसा हो भारत का हर बच्चा।८।।



Presenting

Short Stories





BEING PRINCESS TO WARRIOR

~Sonia Chillarge

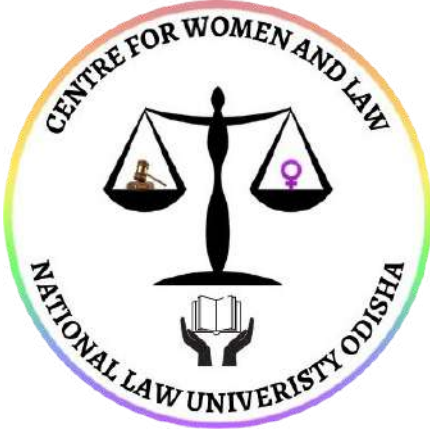
“Young Girls are told to be delicate princess, hermoine taught to be warrior” This dialogue was said by Emma Watson in the film Harry Potter which inspired to break the bias and overcome the impediment caused by traditional, customs and usage. The beauty of women can never be only a measurement scale for women but also the braveness, Intellect of a women helps in the process of women empowerment with overcoming social challenges. Beauty is not long hair, skinny legs, tanned skin or perfect teeth. Believe me beauty is the face of who cried and now smiles, beauty is the scar on your knee since you fell when you were a kid, beauty is the circles when love doesn't let you sleep, beauty is the expression on the face when the alarm rings in the morning, it's the melted makeup when you have a shower, it's the laughter when you make a joke you're the only one who can understand. Beauty is the lines marked by time. Beauty is what we feel inside which also shows outside us. Beauty is the marks the life leaves on us, all the kicks and the caresses the memories leave us. Beauty is letting yourself live. Every moment of life from childhood to lawyer, it is the brave behaviour and beauty with brain shaped into a truesense women in the present technological era.

Continued...



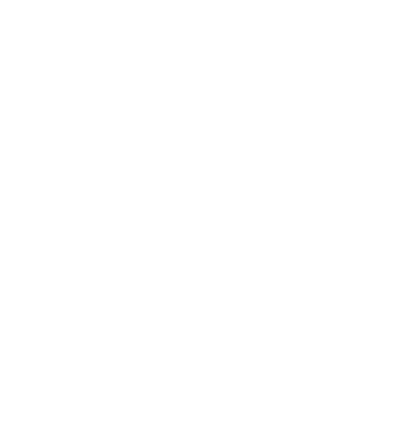
In a practical view, though as a law teacher disseminating knowledge about legal rights of a women and awareness about gender equality which gave an opportunity to break the bias in this technosavy global. The paramount intention of the Break the Bias is to strike out an equilibrium between the rights of woman and the society at large. Thus, the silhouette of legal rights of woman has always been pinched by the burgeoning in the technological world, the unfolding of digital technologies towards the dawn of the twentyfirst century as defining paradigms of new age communication embassed a whole new set of challenges to gender equality regime. Thus, in this year on eve of International Women's day as faculty in the women's university our mission is to follow, inculcate and achieve "Quality in every activity" while pursuing women empowerment.

Sonia Chillarge is an Assistant Professor (Law)
at SNDT Women's University Law School, Mumbai



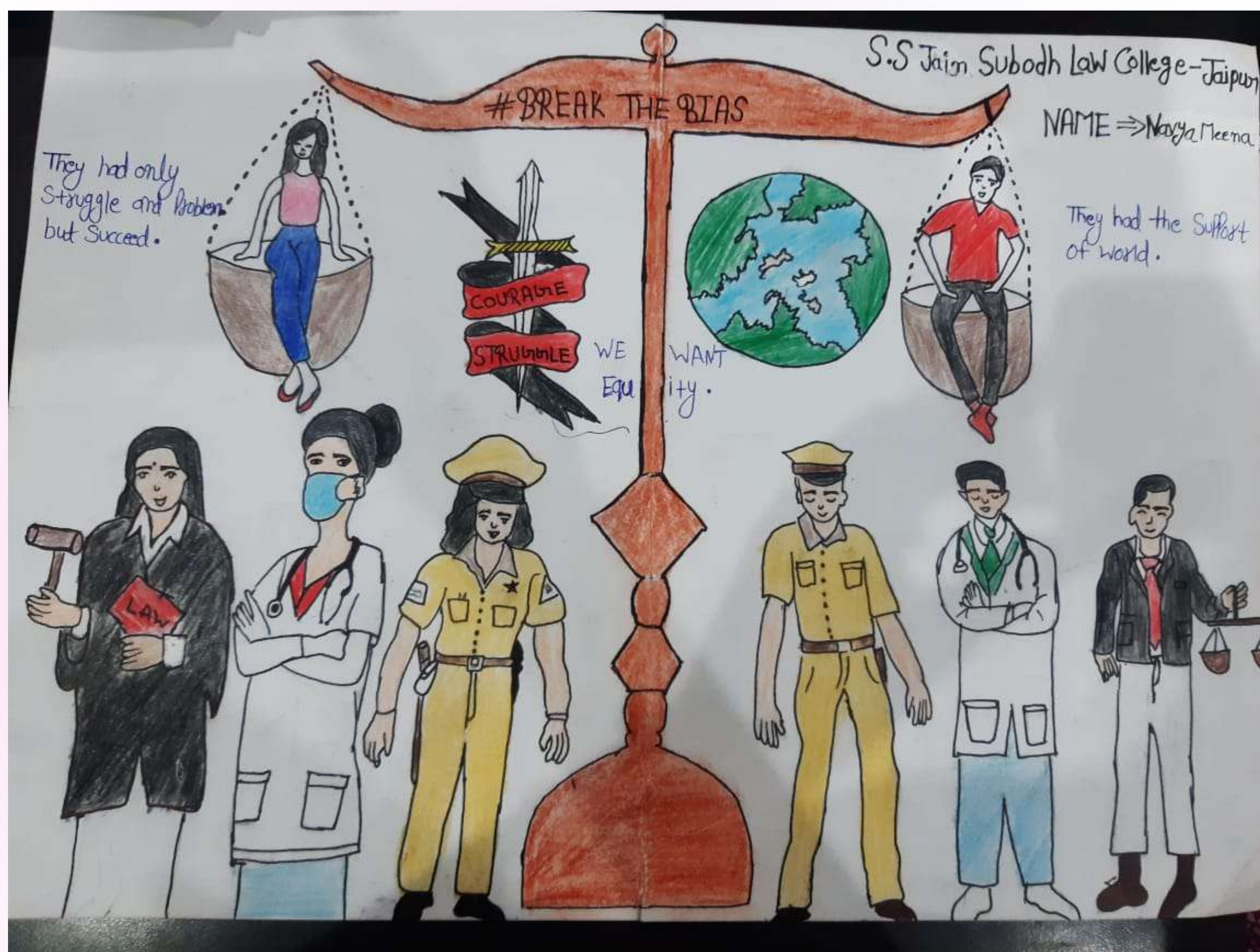
Presenting

Posters/ Arts





~ *Diksha Tamekar*
Student
National Law University Odisha



~Navya Meena
Student
S.S. Jain Subodh Law College



~Anuj Meena

Student
S.S. Jain Subodh Law College, Jaipur



~Anbu Rani A
Student
The Tamil Nadu Dr.Ambedkar Law University



The END!

We thank everyone for bringing their expertise and talent in the formulation of the compendium. We conclude by thanking all of you for your time and valuable insights. Indeed, the inputs by the participants has shed light on this year's objective of the International Women's Day and has helped our initiative of 'Paper Castles'. And we also hope that this will positively shape the thought process and help in genuinely breaking the bias against women.

This compendium is wholly owned by the Centre for women and law of National Law University Odisha.

*~Centre for Women and Law
National Law University Odisha*