

HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

Gender Sensitization & Internal Complaints Committee

ANNUAL REPORT-2022

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has constituted **Gender Sensitization & Internal Complaints Committee**, for Gender Sensitization and redressal of grievances against sexual harassment in precincts of this Court in terms of **The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**. Besides addressing any incident of sexual harassment, the committee is continuously on its path to safeguard the constitutional and legal rights of women in High Court.

The Committee has taken various initiatives since its inception in the year 2014 for gender awareness and sensitization in the society regarding rights of women at workplace. The Committee believes that introducing Gender Sensitization and legal awareness is *sine qua non* to inculcate the values of equality essential for creating a healthy and safe environment which ensures maximum output and efficiency while ensuring an atmosphere which is conducive for wholesome growth/development of all.

Composition of the *Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee* of this court is as follows:-

1. Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Lisa Gill-Chairperson
2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raj Mohan Singh
3. Hon'ble Ms. Justice Jaishree Thakur
4. Registrar (Vigilance), Punjab and Haryana High Court

h

5. Mr. R.S Cheema, Senior Advocate
6. Ms. Alka Chatrath, Advocate
7. Joint Secretary, High Court Bar Association
8. Prof. Madhurima Verma, Department of Sociology, USOL, Panjab University, Chandigarh
9. Ms. Rattan Kaur, Joint Registrar, Punjab and Haryana High Court (Member Secretary)
10. Mrs. Prabha Rawat, Executive Member, Punjab and Haryana High Court Employee's Welfare Association.

During the year **2021-2022** two complaints relating to gender issues were received; which were duly settled by the Committee after constituting Internal Sub Committee under Regulation 9 of the **Gender Sensitisation & Sexual Harassment of Women at High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal), Regulations, 2013** in its meeting(s) held on 8.10.2021, 01.11.2021, 10.11.2021, 18.11.2021, 7.12.2021, 30.8.2022, 09.09.2022, 12.09.2022, 15.09.2022, 20.09.2022 and 19.10.2022 respectively.

The Committee in its meeting held on 08.10.2022, also considered the matter, whereby the report was furnished by all the District and Sessions Judges in the State(s) of Punjab, Haryana and U.T., Chandigarh with respect to formation of **Internal Complaints Committee** and affixation of **Display Boards**. After perusal it was found that Display Boards were affixed in conspicuous places in the respective court precinct(s) except **Kurukshetra** and **Nuh** in State of Haryana and **Amritsar, Barnala, Bathinda, Fazilka, Ferozepur, Ludhiana** and **Patiala** in the State of Punjab. Concerned District and Sessions Judge(s) were accordingly directed to complete the process of affixing Display

by

Boards in their respective Sessions Divisions. Needful, it is reported, has been done.

The Committee also perused the data with regard to **pendency and status of complaints** within the purview of Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee in Subordinate Courts of Punjab, Haryana and U.T., Chandigarh; whereby the Committee resolved that quarterly report be obtained from all the District & Sessions Judges in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T., Chandigarh **qua pending complaints with status thereof**; which is being perused on regular basis.

Following the previous years, this year also **525 Table Calendars-2023** on behalf of Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee have been got printed which have been **distributed** amongst Hon'ble Judges in **Supreme Court**; Hon'ble Judges of this High Court; All the Hon'ble **High Courts**; All the **District and Sessions Judges** in the State(s) of **Punjab, Haryana and U.T.**, Chandigarh and **all members** of the Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee.

Display Boards containing composition of the Hon'ble Committee in English as well as vernacular viz. Hindi and Punjabi have also been **affixed on the strategic locations** in the **Main High Court Building**, **High Court Extension Building**, Sector-17, and **Judicial Archive Building**, Ramdarbar, Industrial Area Phase II, Chandigarh.

Besides this, on initiation by the Committee automatic **Santiary Napkin Vending Machine(s)** have been installed in the premises of this

by

Court to ensure **proper hygiene, health and easy access thereto for the womenfolk** viz,. employees, lawyers and litigants thronging this Court. Necessary steps are being undertaken for ensuring installation of said vending machines at all District Courts in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh.

Last but not the least, the **Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee** is hopeful that programmes for gender sensitization, organized from time to time shall be successful in cracking gender stereotypes, promote objective and rational thinking in this regard and help everyone to collectively move towards society, which is free from gender bias.


(Lisa Gill)
Judge, Chairperson
GSICC
Punjab and Haryana
High Court, Chandigarh