

# **PERFORMANCE OF LEGAL AID SOCIETY, UILS, PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH**

## **REPORT OF ACTIVITIES BY LEGAL AID SOCIETY, UILS** **(AUGUST, 2018 – APRIL, 2019)**

## **REPORT OF ACTIVITIES (Aug, 2018- Apr, 2019)**

### **August 2, 2018 (Thursday)**

The Legal Aid Society has dedicated the session 2018-19 as the 'Year of Child Rights' and is taking up various dedicated endeavours to spread awareness and enlighten the public about child rights.

An intra- department poster making competition was organized by the Legal Aid Society, University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2018 on the topic of 'Child Rights'.



The event saw immense participation from the students of the department, in which the participants made impressive and magnificent posters dwelling on various aspects of child abuse and child empowerment prevalent in our society.



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The posters conveyed and expressed the message of child empowerment in best spirits and served the purpose of the competition fully. Director, Prof. (Dr.) Rattan Singh while addressing the participants, emphasized on the need of child empowerment.



The winners of the competition were awarded trophies and certificates by the Director, UILS and Dr. Amita Verma and Dr. Karan Jawanda, the faculty coordinators of the Legal Aid Society, UILS.

To encourage the efforts of all the students and spread awareness on Child Rights, the posters were framed and displayed on the walls of the department which would constantly remind the students about their rights they have and their duties towards the society.

**August 9- 11, 2018 (Thursday- Saturday)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sh. G.K. Chatrath Memorial UILS Annual Parliamentary Debate Competition, 2018 - 'तर्क प्रबल' was organized by the Legal Aid Society, UILS in the memory of Lt. Shri G.K. Chatrath Sir.

The objective of the competition was to give an adequate exposure to the students to involve themselves in public speaking and to make them more confident and also to improve their critical thinking with sound reasoning. It focuses on the art of academic debating as a means of developing the key skills of argumentation and rhetoric.

The event saw participation of 30 teams from 18 reputed colleges and universities. To mention some:

- University of British Columbia, Canada;
- ICFAI, Telangana;
- RGNUL
- RMLNLU, Lucknow
- Amity University, Uttar Pradesh;
- Amity Law School, Noida;
- Bennett University, Noida;
- Doon University, Dehradun;
- UPES, Dehradun;
- Delhi University
- PEC
- And many other prestigious institutions

The Competition embarked on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018 with a Mock Debate and Adjudicators' test. The first and second preliminary rounds of the competition were also conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> August. The motions for the first round were based on theme of 'Tourism', the motions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round revolved around the theme of 'Politics' addressing issues like Aadhaar and referendum to set legislations.

On 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> preliminary rounds were conducted, and the motions for which were based on "Revolution" including Queer baiting of LGBT and "Child Rights and Child Protection" respectively.

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4 teams including teams from PEC and Independent Team qualified for the semi-finals, which were held on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2018. The semi- finals were based on theme of “Marital relationships in changing society.”

2 teams from PEC made it to the finals and debated on the theme of “World War.” The teams showcased a thunderous performance in the finals and gave a tough competition for winning a cash prize of Rs. 20,000/- and the prestigious trophy of 1<sup>st</sup> Sh. GK Chatrath Memorial UILS Annual Parliamentary Debate Competition, 2018.





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**August 29, 2018 (Wednesday)**

The members of Legal Aid Society, U.I.L.S., Panjab University organised a collection drive within the Panjab University campus in different departments to aid the victims of the Kerala floods.



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**September 26, 2018 (Wednesday)**

An interactive lecture was delivered by Advocate Madhu P.Singh, former Chairperson of District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Mohali, Punjab.

It was an informative lecture on Consumer laws and Family laws for all the Legal Aid members and volunteers. The students were made aware about the practical aspects of consumer and family disputes in order to equip them with the requisite knowledge and skills to address the concerns of people coming with their problems to the Legal Aid Clinic.



**October 4, 2018 (Thursday)**

A workshop on Child Right was organized in the University Institute of Legal Studies on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 by the Legal Aid Society, UILS. The workshop provided an efficacious platform where various eminent speakers addressed the legal aid members and volunteers about the issues related to children .

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Rattan Singh, Director, UILS. It began on a high note by a knowledgeable and pragmatic session by Prof. Nishtha Jaswal who is a member of the Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights; followed by an interactive session by Mr. Neil Roberts, member of Juvenile Justice Board and former Chairman of the Child Welfare Committee, Chandigarh.



The workshop continued with and informative sessions by the learned senior faculty of the department, Prof. Rajinder Kaur and Prof. Sangita Bhalla; who are experts of child laws in the likes of Right to Education Act, POSCO and Juvenile Justice Act and they made the students aware about the intricacies and practical nuances of these Social Legislations. Prof. Rajinder Kaur is also an active member of the mentorship programme run by Choti Si Asha, a Chandigarh based NGO working to provide effective and efficient means of education and livelihood to the underprivileged children and women. Mr. Jatinder and Mr. Gurjinder Singh on behalf of the organization addressed the kids about the effective dispense and implementation of various child schemes and laws.

The workshop ended with an interactive session by Mr. Kunwar Vijay Pratap, IGP, ATS Punjab who spoke about the various cyber crimes committed against children and social issues which are detrimental in their holistic growth.

This sensitization workshop on Child Rights acts as an enlightening envision for the dedicated and committed law students empowering them to tackle these problems single-



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handedly and bring about a positive revolution in the society at the grass root level. The Legal Aid Society of UILS under the mentorship of teacher co-ordinators Dr. Amita Verma and Dr. Karan Jawanda is celebrating the year 2018-19 as the year of “child rights” and pursuant to this, has taken and will continue to take various initiatives to further the cause of child empowerment.



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**October 5, 2018 (Tuesday)**

Legal Aid Society, UILS initiated its own blog on the Facebook page of Legal Aid Clinic, UILS and has received an overwhelming response of the students.

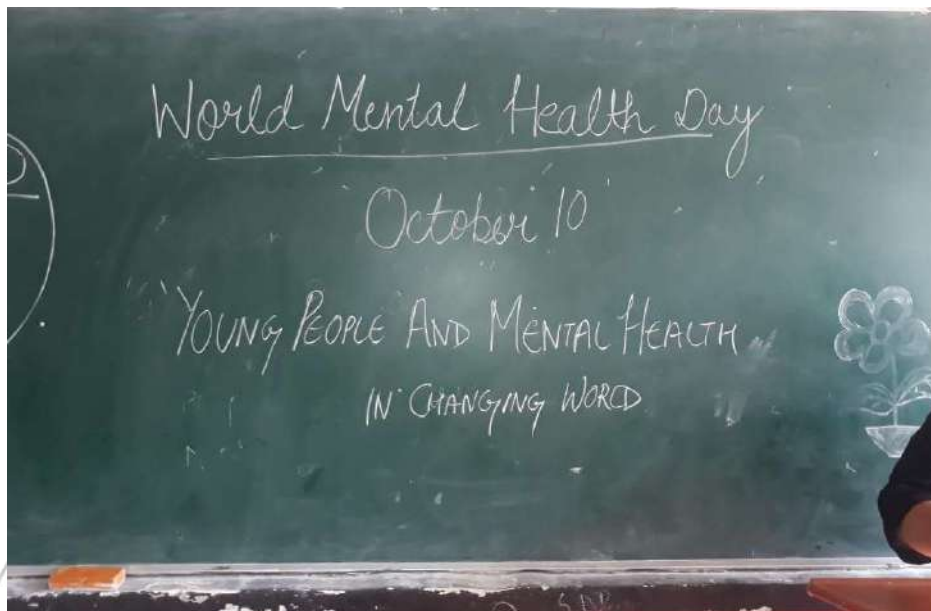
The members and volunteers of Legal Aid Society, UILS and other students of UILS have contributed articles on different aspects of social and legal importance to generate awareness through the social media platform.

The themes of the articles published on the page range from “Child Education in India”, “Woman Empowerment”, “Gender Equality”, “My Aadhaar, My Right”, “The Law of Religion”, etc. and all the articles have garnered a positive response by the followers of the page.



The Facebook page also keeps the students abreast about the past, ongoing and upcoming activities of the Legal Aid Society, UILS.

**October 10, 2018 (Wednesday)**



On World Mental Health Day, the members of Legal Aid Society, UILS sensitised the students of Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 15, Chandigarh as a part of their awareness programme.

Kushaldeep Kaur, a 5<sup>th</sup> year student and Dilpreet S. Kharbanda, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student interacted with the students, educating them about mental health and advocating against the social stigma attached to it. It is an issue of vital importance in the lives of young children and the lecture garnered a positive and enthusiastic response from all the students there.



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**October 12, 2018 (Friday)**

The Legal Aid Society, UILS, taking its commitment of rendering effective and accessible legal aid a notch higher; has launched the scheme of 'Mobile Legal Aid Clinics' under which they would be setting up legal aid clinics at various places making it more accessible for the masses to seek redressal of their grievances.



Giving an astute start to this scheme, a Legal Aid Clinic was set up in Boys Hostel No. 4 of Panjab University, Chandigarh. This clinic was conducted by Dr. Bharat, who is an Assistant Professor at UILS and also the warden of the said hostel with assistance of Adarsh Maurya, Kunal Soni and Kiran Kumar; who are the members of the Legal Aid Society. The clinic was organised under the able guidance of Dr. Emanuel Nahar, Dean Student Welfare, Panjab University who have appreciated the initiative and said to contribute fully for this unique cause.





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As a part of the said initiative, the legal aid members addressed the mess workers and other staff of the hostels about various social issues pertaining to the downtrodden sections of the society and also made them aware about their legal and fundamental rights. The primary focus of such awareness had been child rights, whose redressal is the need of the hour. The clinic also addressed one-to-one individual problems as well, providing legal consultancy and advice to the aggrieved people.



Furthermore Mr. Mukesh Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Laws, Panjab University provided detailed analysis of various rights and duties of the authorities under labour laws like Industrial Disputes Act, Factories Act, Minimum Wages Act etc. and shared knowledge on practical aspects, implications and remedies available under these statutes for the benefit and redressal of the aggrieved. He also mentioned about the steps which can be taken by an aggrieved to get access to free legal aid through various concerned authorities and elaborated upon the role of legal aid clinics as a linking pin between the aggrieved and their respective rights.



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**October 17, 2018 (Wednesday)**

Legal Aid Society, UILS conducted awareness programme in Boys Hostel No. 7 of Panjab University, Chandigarh. It was in pursuant of the Legal Aid Society's scheme of Mobile Legal Aid Clinic in order to make legal aid easily accessible to everyone.



Three members of the Legal Aid Society, UILS namely, Adarsh Maurya (3<sup>rd</sup> year student), Kunal Soni (4<sup>th</sup> year student) and Kiran Kumar (4<sup>th</sup> year student) sensitised the mess and canteen workers on labour laws and remedies available to them.



**October 25, 2018 (Thursday)**

**1. Venue: Government Model Senior Secondary School, Dhanas, Chandigarh**

Two members of the Legal Aid Society, UILS namely, Rivisha Sachdeva (4<sup>th</sup> year student) and Deeksha Arora (4<sup>th</sup> year student) sensitised the students of Government Model Senior Secondary School, Dhanas, Chandigarh as part of the awareness programme of the Legal Aid Society.



In this programme, students were made aware of Sexual offenses against children prevalent in the society. Also, special emphasis was laid on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO). The students were informed about the child helpline numbers and the immediate recourses that are available to them.





## **2. Venue: Government Model High School, Sector 42, Chandigarh**

Nandita, Pragya Tyagi and Sanighdha, all 2<sup>nd</sup> year students and members of the Legal Aid Society, UILS sensitised the students of Government Model High School, Sector 42, Chandigarh about child rights with special emphasis on Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO).



Students in both the schools showed keen interest and actively participated by raising questions of vital importance which were well answered by the members of the Legal Aid Society, UILS.

This programme was a step closer towards the motto of Legal Aid Society, UILS, i.e., 'Service to Humanity, Justice for all'.





**3. Venue: Girls Hostel No.7, Panjab University, Chandigarh**

In pursuant to the scheme of mobile Legal Aid Clinic and to make legal aid easily accessible to all by widening its reach in and around the Panjab University campus, the members of Legal Aid Society namely, Chahat (5<sup>th</sup> year student) and Nandita (2<sup>nd</sup> year student) sensitised the working staff and students of Girls Hostel No. 7 of Panjab University about labour laws.



**LEGAL SERVICES WEEK**

**November 13- 16, 2018 (Tuesday- Friday)**

As a part of the Legal Services Week, members of the Legal Aid Society, University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University spread awareness in the residents, mess workers and other staff of the various hostels in Panjab University about various social issues pertaining to the downtrodden sections of the society and also made them aware about their legal and fundamental rights, about free legal aid, importance of legal aid and the working of NALSA, DLSA, SLSA and Legal Aid Clinics. The members distributed the information brochures door to door in the Panjab University Hostels during the week. Around 450 hostel residents and mess workers were made aware of the free legal aid.



The primary focus of such awareness had been child rights, whose redressal is the need of the hour. The clinic also addressed one-to-one individual problems as well, providing legal consultancy and advice to the aggrieved people.

Further, various street plays addressing numerous social evils were organised during this week on and off the campus. In the campus students performed in various University Departments, Student Centre and Hostels. Off the Campus, students performed their plays in the Plaza, Sector-17, Chandigarh. The plays addressed issues like Child Abuse and Child Neglect, Labour Law violations, Insensitivity of Society and Child Begging etc.



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**November 14, 2018**

An awareness walk on Child Rights was also organised at Sector 17 Plaza, Chandigarh to aware the people and children regarding the Child Rights on Children's Day.



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**November 19 & 26, 2019 (Monday)**

As a part of the awareness campaign, members of the Legal Aid Society, UILS visited Sector 29, Chandigarh to aware the students of Class 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of Government Model School regarding their rights against and duties towards the society. The students gave a good response and also posed various questions to the lecture delivered by the members of Legal Aid Society.





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**February 27- 28, 2019 (Wednesday- Thursday)**

Members of Legal Aid Society, U.I.L.S., set up mobile legal aid clinics in Boys Hostel No. 2 and 4 and Girls Hostel No. 7 and 8. As a part of the awareness campaigns, the members sensitised the mess workers, staff and residents of these hostels about their legal rights and remedies available to them. They also gave legal advice for different issues faced by the residents in the hostels in their daily lives.



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**March 26, 2019 (Tuesday)**

Inquisitorial - A Regional level legal quiz was organized in University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University by the Legal Aid Society, UILS on 26th March, 2019, with the objective of creating awareness on prevalent legal events in the country. Students were given a chance not only to test but also to enhance their knowledge.



The quiz was conducted in two rounds, written round and an oral round. 40 teams comprising of 2 students each, participated in the quiz, out of which 10 teams progressed to the final rounds. The winners of the event were a team comprising of Jahnvi and Tushar Sharma. The second position was held by a team comprising of Sakshi and Shreya Bansal

and third position was held by Aseem and Saurabh. Prof. Rajinder Kaur was the Chief Guest for the valedictory ceremony and congratulated the organising team. The event was successfully organised under the expert guidance of the legal aid faculty coordinators Dr. Amita Verma and Dr. Karan Jawanda. The event augmented the legal acumen and knowledge of the participants as well as the witnessing students.

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**April 5, 2019 (Friday)**

1. **1<sup>st</sup> UILS National Legal Aid Forum, 2019** was organised by the Legal Aid Society, University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

It is well said that 'Legal Aid is central to righting wrongs and rectifying Injustice'. Equal Justice under Law is not merely a caption on the façade of the Supreme Court Building or a mere phrase occurring in the Constitution, it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society and indeed one of the ends for which our entire legal system exists. And we educated, privileged lawyers or to be lawyers have a professional and moral duty to represent the underrepresented in our society, to ensure that justice exists for all, both legal and economic justice.

Taking this objective in mind, Legal Aid Society, University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University perceived the idea of organizing the National Legal Aid Forum, where the legal aid clinics working in different legal institutions of the country could come together at a single platform and share the kind of work undertaken by them in order to make justice accessible to all. We received an overwhelming response from institutions across the country for participating in the Legal Aid Forum. The event has seen participation of 15 teams representing the legal aid clinics of esteemed law schools of the country namely,

- a. Law College Dehradun, Uttarakhand University, Dehradun
- b. University School of Law and Legal Studies
- c. Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi
- d. GD Goenka University, School of Law
- e. Galgotias university
- f. Rayat College of Law, Raigarh
- g. Maharishi Markandeshwar deemed to be University, Mullana (Ambala)
- h. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
- i. Human Rights Volunteers' Cell for Para Legal Services



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- j. National law University, Jodhpur
- k. University Of Lucknow, Lucknow
- l. Jagran Lakecity University
- m. Army Institute of Law
- n. Panjab University Swami Sarvanand Giri Regional Centre Hoshiarpur and
- o. Punjab university regional Centre, Ludhiana



The representatives of various legal aid clinics presented the roundup of various activities and programs undertaken by them in providing effective legal aid services to people. The preliminary rounds and final round was judged by the eminent jury consisting of lawyers, law officers and Member Secretaries of State Legal Services Authority Haryana and Chandigarh.

The teams were adjudged on the 5 parameters namely, types of activities, outreach of the programs carried on by legal aid clinics, social impact of the activities, innovation and the presentation given by the representatives.

Top 6 teams from the preliminary rounds were selected and they presented before the Final Jury comprising of Mr. Mahavir Singh; the Honorable Member Secretary of UT State Legal Services Authorities; Mr. Pramod Goyal, the Honorable Member Secretary of Haryana State Legal Services Authorities and Dr. Rajinder Kaur, Professor, UILS. Legal Aid Clinic of Campus Law Center, University of Delhi was adjudged as the Best Legal Aid Clinic, while the teams of NLU, Jodhpur and University School of Law and Legal Studies were adjudged as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Best and 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Legal Aid Clinics respectively. Explicating on the reformative, remedial, preventive, activist and disseminative roles of a legal aid clinic; this forum evinced as to how law can be used as an instrument of social change and betterment.





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2. The Legal Aid Forum was followed by **Panel discussion on the theme, 'ROLE AND FUNCTIONING OF LEGAL AID CLINICS'**, which was presided over by legal luminaries and distinguished intellectuals having expertise in the field of working of legal aid namely,

- a. Mr. Amrinder Sharma (Member secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Chandigarh)
- b. Adv. Amandeep Manaise,
- c. Adv. Vikas Chatrath,
- d. Adv. Mayuri Lakhanpal Kalia,
- e. Adv. Amarpreet Kaur Sandhu,
- f. Adv. Akhil Ahuja
- g. Prof. Ratan Singh
- h. Ms. Trisha Sharma
- i. Ms. Ekta Thakur
- j. Mr. Neil Roberts

The interactive session addressed the pertinent issues which are faced by the Legal Aid Clinics these days along with the mechanisms and techniques that can be undertaken by the legal aid volunteers to expand the outreach of their activities. The panelists deliberated on the diverse areas where the legal aid clinics can effectively work.



The Valedictory Function of 1<sup>st</sup> UILS National Legal Aid Forum was graced by the presence of Sr. Adv. Mr. Atul Nanda, Advocate General Punjab who was the Chief Guest for the function and was presided over by Ms. Anu Chatrath, Dean, Faculty of Laws and Prof. Rattan Singh, Director, UILS. Mr. Atul Nanda shared his personal experience and edifying insights with the students with regard to the legal profession and encouraged them to follow their dreams. The event served as a unique platform for emphasizing on the importance of Legal Aid Clinics and how their institutionalization can escalate and supplement the functioning of legal aid authorities.

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