

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT HYDERABAD
FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AND
THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH

GENDER SENSITIZATION AND INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

Consequent upon framing and publicizing of the Gender Sensitization & Sexual Harassment of Women at the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the State of Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2013, the High Court Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee for the State of Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh was constituted by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of High Court at Judicature at Hyderabad vide Notification No.11/SO/2015 in ROC No.761/SO-1/2000 dt.19.2.2015 published in Telangana Gazette Part-II Extraordinary on 9.3.2015 with the following Chairperson and Members.

1.	The Hon'ble Sri Justice K.C. Bhanu Judge, High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad.	Chairperson
2.	The Hon'ble Smt. Justice Anis Judge, High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad.	Member
3.	Mrs. D. Pramada Advocate, High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad.	Member
4.	Sri G. Elisha Advocate, High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad.	Member
5.	Ms. Manjari S. Ganu Advocate, High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad.	Member
6.	Smt. M. Bhagyasri Advocate, High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad.	Member
7.	Smt. Sunitha Krishnan General Secretary, Prajwala NGO, Hyderabad.	Member
8.	Smt. T. Lakshmi Hemalatha Joint Registrar, High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad.	Member Secretary
9.	Sri R.L.N. Charyulu Deputy Registrar, High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad.	Member

The object of constitution of the Committee is to fulfill important public function of sensitizing the public relating to gender issues and redressal of any complaint made in respect of gender sensitization/sexual harassment of women in the High Court precincts.

This report outlines the activities undertaken by the Committee and the activities/steps to be taken up in the year 2016.

The first Ordinary Meeting of the High Court Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) was held on 29.4.2015 at 4.15 pm presided over by the then Chairperson Sri Justice K.C. Bhanu in his Lordship's chamber, which was attended by all the Members of the Committee. The Committee considered the matter in the context of statutory obligations under the Act and the Regulations for providing safe, secure and enabling environment to the women and protecting women from any form of indecency, indignity and disrespect within the precincts of the High Court. The Committee was also of the view that all concerned i.e., lawyers, litigants and persons employed/deployed in or visiting the High Court premises be sensitized to ensure that there is no discrimination on the basis of gender and be made aware of the mechanism for redressal of grievances of women, constitution of Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee and statutory safeguards against making of false and malicious complaints.

The Committee recommended that:-

- (i) Separate Portal for GSICC to be created in the Official Website of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad.
- (ii) The Official Notification constituting the Committee, the Gazette Notifications and the Regulations to be placed in the GSICC portal of the Official Website.
- (iii) To undertake translation of Regulations into Telugu and Urdu languages and place them in the GSICC portal of the Official Website.
- (iv) To erect laminated flexies for prominent publicity of the policy in the precincts of High Court together with contact details of the Members of the Committee at eleven (11) conspicuous places detailed below:
 - a) Bar Council
 - b) Bar Association

- c) Mee Seva, Administrative Block
 - d) 3 main gates i.e., Gate Nos.3, 8 & 6
 - e) Advocates' Canteen
 - f) Staff Canteen
 - g) State Bank of Hyderabad, High Court Branch
 - h) High Court Legal Services Committee building
 - i) Stamp Vendors' counter
- (v) To conduct seminar by securing the services of expertise, in the first instance, at the Bar Association Hall, High Court.
- (vi) To secure necessary assistance from the Special Officer Section for maintenance of records etc.
- (vii) To secure financial assistance initially from out of the High Court budget for meeting the expenditure that may be incurred during the course of functioning of the Committee.

During the course of implementation of the recommendations of the Committee, the Chairperson Sri Justice K.C. Bhanu demitted the office on superannuation and vide A.P. Gazette notification No.59 dated 18.8.2015 and the Telangana Gazette Notification No.191 dated 19.8.2015 the Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad was pleased to nominate the Hon'ble Sri Justice R. Subhash Reddy as Chairperson for the Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the State of Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh in place of Hon'ble Sri Justice K.C. Bhanu.

In furtherance of the recommendations of the Committee, the following activities have been undertaken by the Committee.

- A separate portal for GSICC in the Official Website of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad has been created.
- The Regulations, the notification of constitution of the Committee and the Gazette Notifications have been uploaded in the GSICC portal of the Official Website.
- The English version of the Regulations has been translated into the Telugu version and has been uploaded in the GSICC portal of the Official Website.

- The contact details of the Member Secretary have been put up in the GSICC portal of the High Court's Website, by way of a notice, for the purpose of making any complaint by the aggrieved woman to the GSICC through the Member Secretary.
- The information such as - unwelcome acts or behaviour amounting to sexual harassment, the mechanism for redressal of grievances, the details of the Chairperson and Members of the Committee, the contact details of the Member Secretary for making written complaint, and statutory safeguards against making false and malicious complaints – to be displayed on the flexies that are to be erected at conspicuous places identified in the precincts of the High Court has been worked out. Pending erection of flexies, the said information has been uploaded in the GSICC portal of the High Court's Website
- A letter has been addressed to the Registrar (Management) requesting assistance by taking follow up action regarding erection of flexies in the premises of the High Court Building.
- A letter was addressed to the Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, Hyderabad requesting to work out modalities as to the organizing of workshops and awareness programmes in the High Court premises, in the first instance, in the Bar Association Hall, to identify speakers/resource persons and duration of such programmes.

Only one complaint was received in the year 2015 from an aggrieved woman. The said complaint, which was received on 08.07.2015AN and numbered as GSICC No.1 of 2015, had been withdrawn by the complainant herself on the next day forenoon i.e., 09.07.2015 and on the directions of the then Chairperson the complaint was lodged. There are no other complaints received and pending with the GSIC Committee.

(JUSTICE R.SUBHASH REDDY)
Chairperson

// BY ORDER //

T. Lakshmi Hemalatha

T.LAKSHMI HEMALATHA
Member Secretary, GSICC, High Court at Hyderabad