



CENTRE FOR  
LAW & POLICY  
RESEARCH



**Centre for Law and Policy Research**

**Annual Report 2018-19**

CLPR is a not-for-profit organization

Dedicated to making the Constitution work for everyone through law and policy research, social and governance interventions and strategic impact litigation.

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# Constitutional Culture

## 1. The Constitutional and Civic Citizenship Project

The Constitutional and Civic Citizenship project began in July 2015 and has been one of CLPR's longstanding initiatives. The project aims to create public awareness and active engagement with India's constitutional tradition to build a popular constitutional culture in the country. Over the years the project has expanded in scope to include new websites, public events and conferences.

The project has been supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation and this partnership has extended into 2018-19. During this period CLPR worked on several initiatives under the Constitutional and Civic Citizenship umbrella.

### 1.1 CADIndia

CADIndia, through an open-access website, makes Indian constitutional and political history materials easily accessible through an innovative and unique search engine. While the 'search' continues to be the flagship and widely popular feature of the site, over the years, CADIndia has now transformed into a comprehensive portal that hosts a variety of content that includes: constitutional education materials, sharp historical-analytical takes contemporary events and informational pages on Constitution framers and the constitution-making process.

#### Content

In the past year, CLPR has reviewed editorial tagging and formatting of the Constituent Assembly Debates (CADs) transcripts to augment the accuracy of the search engine.

In addition to the CADs, the website hosts tagged transcripts of the Historical Constitutions – pre-1946 documents that reflect the Indian constitutional aspirations and British legislation. In 2018-19, we have added seven new Historical Constitutions.

Assembly members' bios and debate summaries are two important categories of content on CADIndia. In 2018-19 we have made significant progress in expanding this content. Twenty brief biographies of Constituent Assembly members have been added to the site that pays special focus to their personal and political lives, and their contributions to the constitution-making process.

Succinct summaries of the CADs on 50 Articles of the Constitution have been written up.

In addition to static write-ups, CADIndia has produced a range of content that engages with contemporary legal, political, and social developments through a constitutional and political history lens. In 2018-19 we introduced two types of monthly content: ‘This Month in Constitution Making’ and ‘Assembly Member of the Month’. The website boasts a new page – ‘Constitution in the Classroom’ that contains educational materials specially developed for K-12, undergraduate and postgraduate students.

### Website

There was no major revamp of the CADIndia website in 2018-19. However, we continued to tweak and refine the search engine and user interface.

### Events

We conducted 15 Indian constitutional history workshops that extended CADIndia materials to classrooms across the country. These workshops aimed to orient participants to the CADIndia website and facilitate engagement with its materials. Workshops were conducted at leading educational institutions across India that included National Law University, Delhi; St. Stephen’s Delhi; St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata; Ramanujan College, Delhi University; Aryabhata College, Delhi University; Symbiosis Law College, Pune.

## **1.2 Conquest Quiz**

ConQuest: India’s premier national quiz on the Indian Constitution, Politics, and History was first organized in 2016. The event aims to celebrate and generate excitement around India’s constitutional tradition among students from diverse educational backgrounds. Since the inaugural 2016 edition, ConQuest has become an annual event that has gained a formidable reputation as India’s foremost public educational events.

The third edition of ConQuest was organized in 2018. The quiz was open to undergraduate and graduate students. It had four regional rounds and a national grand finale. CLPR partnered with

leading educational institutions like National Law University, Delhi; St. Xavier's College, Kolkata; Symbiosis Law School, Pune and School of Law Christ (Deemed to be University). Arvind Datar, the Senior Advocate, continued his support for prize money and trophies. Walnuts Knowledge Solutions was our knowledge partner. ThePrint came on board as a digital partner.

ConQuest saw around 236 two-member teams participate and over 2000 students, faculty, and the general public attend the various rounds. The top two teams from each regional round took part at the national finale in Bangalore. Teams from Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar; Ramjas College, Delhi University, and Campus Law Centre, Delhi University bagged the top three prizes.







### 1.3 Supreme Court Observer Website (“SCO”)

In 2017 CLPR set up the SCO as a non-partisan, living archive of the Supreme Court of India (Court). SCO strives to build public engagement and enhance popular understanding of the Court, by making its work accessible and easily readable to any person interested in public affairs. Through an open-access database, SCO provides in-depth coverage and analysis of all major cases and controversies before the Court, both in writing and through graphical representation.

#### Content

Between April 2018 and March 2019, SCO tracked a total of 37 cases of public importance, from the first hearing to the final judgment. Emphasizing simplicity and clarity, SCO provides readers with all-important content, including descriptive overviews, original petitions, replies, and written submissions and judgments in plain English. In addition to tracking cases, SCO reported on other key developments such as the appointment of judges and administrative reforms and produced innovative content to communicate the Court’s working through statistics. Looking beyond the Court, SCO engaged with secondary material produced by academics and journalists. Finally, the team released ‘Rights in Review 2017’: CLPR’s annual review of Indian Supreme Court decisions on constitutional fundamental rights cases in the past year.

#### Website

To optimize accessibility and engagement, CLPR introduced various upgrades to the architecture



and UI of SCO's website. CLPR revamped the website's internal search engine: introducing page-specific queries and optimizing the underlying logic. The UI for various pages, such as Court by Numbers and Court in Review, was standardized, with a special focus on universalizing filters. Also, CLPR introduced updates to the in-built calendar to allow readers to more easily track cases.

## Events

CLPR held 10 SCO workshops in the 2018-19 fiscal year. These workshops aimed to engage law and social science students with key constitutional values, through the careful analysis of Supreme Court cases. The workshops challenged students to critically understand how the Constitution applies to contemporary public controversies, by tasking them with reading relevant primary and secondary material. In addition to holding workshops, CLPR organized and participated in various other events to showcase SCO's work, such as the annual National Constitution Society Convention, IIHS CityScripts 2019, and NIT Tiruchirappalli's Crossfire 2019.

### **1.4 National Constitution Society (NCS)**

In 2018, CLPR set up the 'National Constitution Society': a network of student constitutional societies across India that aim to organize events and activities to popularize and facilitate engagement with constitutional values.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018, we organized the first NCS Convention. Among 125 student applicants, we selected 31 Student Delegates from diverse educational institutes across India to be a part of the Convention. The Convention engaged with several themes through panels that included: *Why does Indian Constitutional and Political history matter?*, *Supreme Court's Push for Equality, Gender and Sexuality in the Supreme Court* and more. It allowed students to interact with academics, civil society members, lawyers, and their fellow Student Delegates. At the end of the Convention, the Student Delegates elected a 'Board' and charted an agenda for the next year. CLPR has worked with the Board and Student Delegates to encourage and anchor the setting up of NCS at their educational institutions. In the past year, NCS has conducted over eight engaging events including student debates, discussions, reading sessions, and film screenings.



## 1.5 The Abidjan Principles

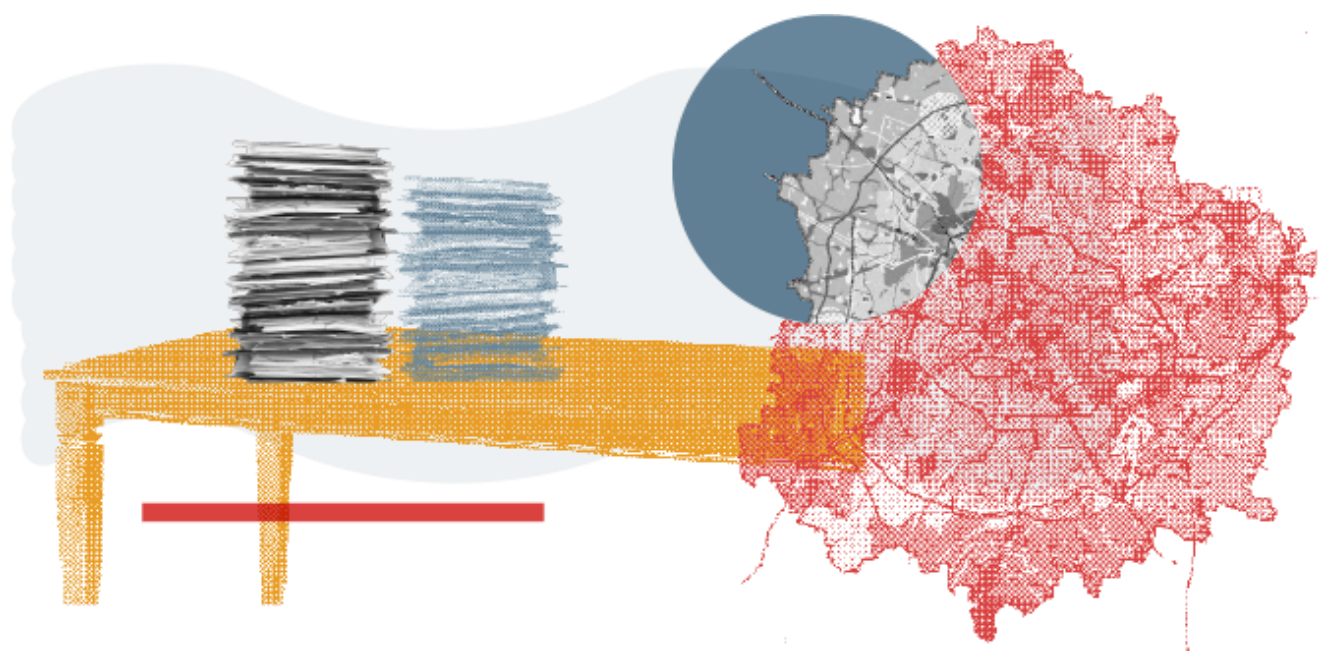
On 12-13 February 2019, human rights and education experts from around the world met in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire to adopt the Abidjan Principles on the human rights obligations of States to provide public education and to regulate private involvement in education, following a three-year participatory consultation and drafting process.

Jayna Kothari was a Member of the Drafting Committee of the Abidjan Principles. The Drafting Committee has been meeting since June 2018 to lead the drafting of the Principles to be presented at the Adoption Conference. The Committee has drafted the Principles based on a series of consultations with experts and practitioners, which began in 2016.

The Abidjan Principles are guiding principles, which aim to “clarify existing legal obligations that States have regarding the delivery of education, and in particular the role and limitations of private actors in the provision of education”. They will serve as a “reference point” for States and private actors when they debate their “respective roles and duties” in delivering education. The Principles are based on the existing human rights framework on education and will serve to compile and unpack existing legal obligations established by international human rights law.

The Abidjan Principles can be considered soft law instruments. They are not legally binding as States have not formally agreed to be bound by them. Nevertheless, they will carry considerable legal and political weight because they will serve as a benchmark for assessing the delivery of education. Therefore, they can both serve to reform existing domestic law and as a means to improve accountability for human rights violations.







# Governance Reform

## 1. 25 years of Constitutional Local Government in Urban India

On the occasion of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendments completing 25 years in 2018, CLPR initiated a collaborative research project titled “*25 years of Constitutional Local Government in Urban India*”. This project sought to take stock of the progress made in urban local governance in India in the last 25 years and sketch possible futures for the next 25 years. As a part of this collaborative project, we invited a set of scholars and experts in fields like urban planning, municipal finance, affordable housing and urban sustainability to respond to key questions in their specific domains.

On December 8, 2018, CLPR hosted the workshop “*Constitutional Local Government @ 25: The Future of Urban Governance in India*”. In this workshop, draft papers were presented by the invited scholars in the seven identified domains within urban governance. Each contributor also had a designated respondent who provided critical comments and feedback on the draft papers. The papers discussed in the workshop covered the core themes within urban governance: the legal and institutional structure of urban governance; the framework of urban planning; municipal finance systems and processes; provision of urban housing; urban environmental governance; urban civic action and participation; and urban data and technology.





## **2. Intellectual Property Rights**

Dr. Sudhir Krishnaswamy was awarded a grant by the Shuttleworth Foundation in 2017 for a study on the extent to which the traditional medicines market relies on patents for intellectual property protection. The project involves the submission of two papers analysing intellectual property protections for traditional medicines in India and globally. In 2018 – 19, we have completed a substantial part of the project and the first paper is in the final stages of editing. In 2019 – 20, we will continue to work on the project and complete the second paper.





# Transgender Rights

## 1. Transform 2018

On 14-15 April 2018, CLPR held the second edition of the ‘Transform: Transgender Rights and Law’ conference at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. The conference focused on reviewing the status of transgender rights four years since the decision of the landmark Supreme Court in *NALSA v. Union of India*. The two-day conference witnessed discussions that touched upon topics that included: judicial attitudes to transgender rights issues, trans persons in the family, and the right to a legal identity. In addition to leading transgender rights activists, lawyers, and researchers from India, CLPR hosted Prof. Carlos Zelada from Peru, Prof. Stephen Whittle from the United Kingdom, Busisiwe Deyi of Gender Dynamix from South Africa and Audrey Mbuga of Transgender Education and Advocacy from Kenya.





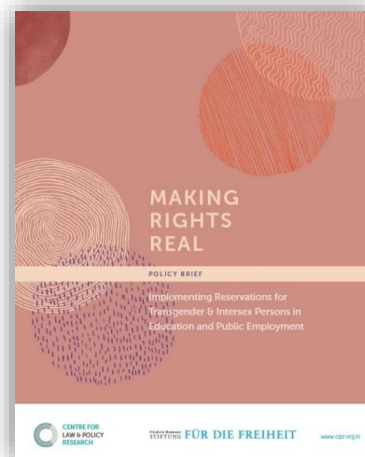
## 2. TransLaw Cell

CLPR provides free legal aid to transgender and intersex persons through the Translaw Cell. Till date, the Trans Law Cell has assisted more than 25 clients with changing their name and gender in their identity documents, preparing affidavits that record their full and informed consent for undergoing Hormonal Replacement Therapy and Sex Reassignment Surgery and taking up cases.

### **3. Policy Brief titled ‘Making Rights Real: Implementing Reservations for Transgender and Intersex Persons in Education and Public Employment’**

In September 2018 we conceptualized and began drafting a policy brief on this matter. The policy brief was an outcome of discussions held during the Transform 2018 conference and a consultation we organized at the CLPR office with members of the transgender persons and intersex community. The policy brief recommended that reservations for transgender and intersex persons should be horizontal in nature under the category of ‘woman’ or a separate category of ‘gender identity’.

On 21 December 2018, the policy brief was released at an event held at the Bangalore International Centre. Jayna Kothari presented the key recommendations, which was followed by a panel discussion with Prof. Anup Surendranath, National Law University, Delhi and Grace Banu, Founder of Trans Rights Now Collective. Hon’ble Justice L. Narayanaswamy of the Karnataka High Court formally released the policy brief. The policy brief has been disseminated widely among civil society and community-based organizations in India. It was well-received and we hope that it will push State Governments to implement the directions of the Supreme Court in a creative and effective manner.



#### 4. Trans Law Database Expansion

In 2018 GiveOut awarded CLPR an institutional grant to support its extensive and path-breaking work on transgender rights. Through this grant, CLPR further developed the South Asian Translaw Database: an open-access resource that makes accessible the legal and policy developments around transgender rights in the South Asian region. The database includes judgments, legislations, policies, reports, international conventions and declarations.



#### 5. Litigation

In 2018-19, CLPR expanded the reach of its litigation initiatives and filed several key cases before the Supreme Court, High Court of Karnataka, High Court of Telangana, and Madras High Court.

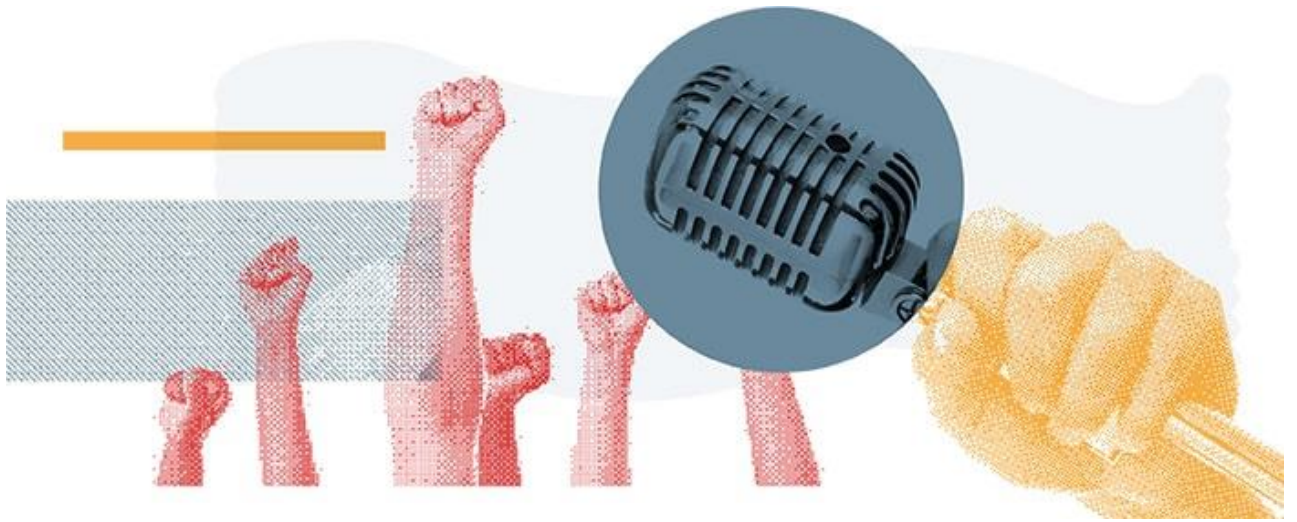
- a) *Navtej Johar and Others v. Union of India*: On behalf of 3 transgender persons and activists, CLPR filed a petition before the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. CLPR represented the only transgender petitioners in the proceedings to place the specific concerns of the trans community with respect to Section 377 before the court. In its landmark judgment dated 06.09.2018, the Supreme Court decriminalized consensual same-sex relationships between adults and specifically recognized the rights of the transgender community. This judgment and its impact on trans-persons were widely reported in India and all over the world.



- b) Vyjayanti Vasanta Mogli & Ors. v. State of Telangana: CLPR had filed public interest litigation in Telangana in early 2018 on behalf of three transgender activists challenging the constitutional validity of the Telangana Eunuchs Act, 1919. The Act was challenged on the grounds that it discriminates against and criminalizes the transgender community unfairly without any legal basis, and uses the stigmatizing term ‘eunuchs’ to target them. The petition was taken up for hearing by the High Court on 18.09.2018 and the Court passed an interim order staying the operation of the Act until the case was finally decided. This has been a huge victory for the recognition and protection of the rights of the trans community in Andhra Pradesh.
- c) KVM Monalisa & Ors. v. State of Telangana: In 2018, CLPR filed public interest litigation before the High Court of Telangana on behalf of three transgender rights activists seeking the implementation of the Supreme Court’s decision in *NALSA v. Union of India* in the State of Telangana. This included the framing of a comprehensive policy to secure the rights of transgender persons, laying down guidelines for self-identification, and constituting a Transgender Welfare Board with at least 50% representation from the transgender community. The petition is currently pending before a Division Bench of the High Court of Telangana and notice has been issued to the respondents.
- d) Grace Banu v. State of Tamil Nadu & Ors.: In order to realise the Supreme Court’s direction in *NALSA v. Union of India* on providing reservations for transgender persons, CLPR filed a petition before the Madras High Court representing a transgender rights activist. The petition prayed for the implementation of horizontal reservations for transgender and intersex persons in educational institutions and public employment and for the removal of any requirement of physical or medical examination in the issuance of transgender identity cards. The matter is pending before the Madras High Court and has been heard multiple times since its filing. So far, the respondents have been asked to inform the Court and the petitioners on the issue of whether transgender persons are being subject to medical examinations for the issuance of transgender identity cards.
- e) Jeeva v. State of Karnataka & Ors.: CLPR filed a writ petition before the High Court of Karnataka on behalf of a transgender person Jeeva seeking permission to change his name and gender in their school and pre-university educational documents. The High Court granted the prayer and disposed of the matter. Significantly, the High Court also directed the Education department to issue a circular stating that all transgender persons’ applications for name change will be done by the authorities on receiving the applications and that they need not approach the court. Since then, the Department has also released a circular to this effect.







# Discrimination and Intersectionality

## **1. Tackling Caste Discrimination Effectively: At the Intersection with Disability, Gender, and Sexuality**

In 2018, CLPR was awarded a grant by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights to undertake a project on tackling intersectional caste discrimination in South India (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu). The project aims to understand how the experiences of discrimination are aggravated due to the intersection of multiple identities like caste, sex, gender identity and disability. The project comprised of the following objectives:

- a. To draft a single and comprehensive equality legislation for India that recognizes different forms of discrimination and extends protection to various identities including caste, gender identity, sexuality and disability.
- b. To initiate strategic impact litigation for the implementation of existing laws on caste discrimination which pays special attention to the intersectional context.
- c. To improve access to justice for marginalized communities through lawyer networks and civil society coalitions.

CLPR's work between April 2018 - March 2019, included the following:

- A communications workshop was held in May 2018 to develop an effective communications strategy for the entire project period. The CLPR team participated in an activity-based off-site event involving interactive sessions with communications experts of other civil society organisations in Bangalore.
- Inception workshops were conducted in March 2018 and January 2019 to chart out a plan for the project and engage with the essential academic literature on intersectionality.
- Between March and November 2018, we conducted a first-of-its-kind participatory study involving detailed interviews and surveys on the experiences of discrimination faced by individuals at the intersection of caste with sex, gender identity, sexuality and disability. A preliminary interview with 23 individuals helped us draft the survey questionnaire. From August 2019, the survey was administered to 114 individuals across the four States. Survey responses

were coded and analysed by March 2019 and we began to compile the findings and write the report. The final report was published and released on the CLPR website in August 2019.

- In 2018, the team began preliminary research on various equality legislation in India in as a first step towards drafting an Equality Bill. This exercise along with the findings of the survey we conducted gave us a good understanding of what an equality law had to achieve. In 2019, we began drafting the law.
- A Constitutional Litigation Unit comprising CLPR Associates and 3 Equality Fellows was set up to exclusively work on caste and intersectional discrimination cases in India and engage in strategic litigation. The Equality Fellows were recruited in January 2019 and we conducted a two-week-long orientation programme for the Fellows in February 2019. The CLU identifies critical areas for intervention to secure the right of transgender persons and persons with disabilities, as well as initiate strategic litigation to better implement the laws addressing caste discrimination.






# EQUALITY FELLOWSHIP


APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
**5:00pm, Dec 30th 2018**


Eligibility Conditions and Application Details:  
<https://clpr.org.in/blog/call-for-applications-the-clpr-equality-fellowship/>


**CALL FOR APPLICANTS**  
CLPR will select 6 Equality Fellows to engage in litigation and advocacy that responds to intersectional discrimination in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. We invite talented young lawyers who are motivated and committed to work with equality and anti-discrimination law to apply for this 2-year Fellowship.

**THE Intersectionality PROJECT**  
Addressing discrimination at the intersections of caste, gender, sexuality, disability and other minorities through law.

 CENTRE FOR LAW & POLICY RESEARCH

 EQUALITY FELLOWSHIP

 Funded by the European Union







## Gender and Sexuality

### **1. Child Marriage Law Implementation**

In 2018 – 19, CLPR, in collaboration with the Centre for Reproductive Right, New York, continued to work on strengthening the legal framework on preventing child marriages. Activities included:

#### **1.1 Consultation organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):**

CLPR attended a National Consultation on Child Marriage organized by the National Human Rights Commission in Delhi that aimed at bringing together different stakeholders to examine the need to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006 (“PCMA”).

#### **1.2 Submissions to the Department of Women and Children, Government of Karnataka (“DWCD”)**

Following the release of the policy brief on the implementation of laws addressing child marriages in 2017, CLPR has been actively working with the Government of Karnataka on the better implementation of these laws, in particular the PCMA:

- In September 2018, CLPR attended a meeting with the Director of the DWCD to discuss the hurdles to the implementation of the PCMA and the Karnataka amendment to the PCMA. Given CLPR’s extensive work and experience in this field, CLPR was requested to make submissions to the DWCD on the gaps in the legislative framework to tackle child marriage. Prior to making these submissions, CLPR conducted a State-wide consultation with Karnataka civil society organisations in Bangalore on 9 March 2019 to identify legal gaps and other challenges. The submissions have been finalized and will be made available to the DWCD shortly.
- In 2019, the DWCD of the Government of Karnataka formed a panel to address issues of early and child marriages and to develop standard operating procedures on the protection, rehabilitation and empowerment of young girls. As a representative of civil society organisations, Jayna Kothari was invited to be part of this panel.



## 2. Sexual and Reproductive Rights

With a grant from the University of Bergen, and in collaboration with the University of Sussex, CLPR organized a conference on “Sexual and Reproductive Rights in India: Social Movements and Legal Battles”. It took place between April 14th and April 15th 2019 at Bangalore International Centre.

The Conference brought together sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) activists, academics and lawyers to assess the past and present of SRR work in India and chart its future. It provided a platform to engage on issues and themes that are usually at the margins of SRR discourse including right to abortion and adolescent sexuality.





### **3. Litigation**

*a) Joseph Shine v. Union of India:* CLPR represented Vimochana, a women's rights organization based in Bangalore, in the batch of petitions pending before the Supreme Court that called for the decriminalization of the offence of adultery. CLPR challenged the provision on the ground that the right to intimate association is a facet of the right to privacy, which is violated by the provision. On 27.07.2018, the Supreme Court struck down the provision on the ground that violates Articles 14, 15 and 21.

*b) Saraswati Kumar v. Lokesh Kumar:* CLPR filed a petition for annulment of a child marriage on behalf of the Petitioner before the Family Court in Bangalore. The petition was heard multiple times by the court in 2018-19 and the marriage was finally annulled on October 2019.



# Disability Rights

## 1. Litigation:

- a) NFB v. BMTC and Others: On behalf of the National Federation of the Blind, CLPR filed a public interest litigation challenging Circular No. 469/2018 dated 06.06.2018 issued by the Bangalore Municipal Transport Corporation by which the facility of free bus passes for Vajra (Volvo) buses to persons with total blindness was withdrawn. The main ground was that the Impugned Notification was against Section 41 of the RPD Act by which the State is required to develop schemes and programmes to promote the personal mobility of persons with disabilities at affordable costs. In September 2018, after a few hearings before the High Court, the BMTC issued and filed with the Hon'ble Court a Corrigendum No. 469A/2018 to the Impugned Circular permitting the issuance of free bus passes in Vajra (Volvo) buses for persons with blindness.
- b) KRVRS v. Bangalore Development Authority: In this matter a Petition was filed in public interest challenging a notification issued by the Bangalore Development Authority which reserved only 1% of the 5000 sites reserved for residential purposes. This notification was challenged on the ground that it violates Rule 28A of the Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) [Karnataka] Rules, 2003 which mandates that a minimum of 3% of the sites reserved for residential purposes must be reserved for persons with disabilities and that the same should be offered at a concessional rate. On the last day of hearing which was on 04/07/2019, the court allowed for an amendment to writ petition within one month.

## **Publications**

### **Constitutional Culture**

1. Sudhir Krishnaswamy et al., “Rights in Review 2017”, *Centre for Law & Policy Research*, 14 April 2018.
2. Mathew Idiculla et al., “Why are Indians immune to reckless police brutality against protestors?”, *Scroll.in*, 17 April 2018.
3. Satya Prasoona et al., “Karnataka floor test – has Supreme Court restored some lost prestige or has it stopped short?”, *The Print*, 18 May 2018.
4. Vineeth Krishna, “Dear Ravi Shankar Prasad, soul of Constitution resides not in images, but in its text”, *ThePrint*, 31 May 2018.
5. Satya Prasoona, “Justice Chelameswar as the textualist, the critic and dissenter”, *Caravan Magazine*, 27 June 2018.
6. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, “We must build open and inclusive cities”, *The Hindu*, 01st July 2018.
7. Satya Prasoona, “State Instruments Have Mutilated the Babri Masjid’s Corpse. Will the SC Break the Pattern?”, *The Wire*, 9 July 2018.
8. Satya Prasoona, “‘Extraordinary’ Justice and an ‘Unaccountable’ Juristocracy: Reflections on the Kathua Trial and the Supreme Court of India”, *LACL-AIDC Blog*, 13 July 2018.
9. Vineeth Krishna, “Framers Of India’s Constitution Were Divided On Representative Government For Delhi”, *Caravan Magazine*, 17 July 2018.
10. Kruthika R, “What India of today can learn from constitutional conversations on fraternity”, *ThePrint*, 31 Aug 2018.
11. Satya Prasoona, Praveen Kashyap, “The Great Evasion: Cow vigilantism and the SC”, *Deccan Herald*, 5 September 2018.
12. Mathew Idiculla, “Don’t look to SC to do it”, *Deccan Herald*, 17 September 2018.
13. Vineeth Krishna, “Constitution framers did not anticipate use of criminal law in reforming Muslim Personal Law”, *ThePrint*, 26 September 2018.
14. Satya Prasoona, Jai Brunner, “Sabarimala: A Guide to the Tricky Issues Facing the Supreme Court”, *The Wire*, 28 September 2018.
15. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, “CJI Gogoi’s no leave formula for judges: Fighting backlog in courts or mere rhetoric?”, *The Print*, 12th October 2018.
16. Satya Prasoona, Disha Choudhary, “Reservation in promotion: In equality versus social justice debate, the principle of ‘constitutional reasonableness’ is being ignored”, *Financial Express*, 2



November 2018.

17. Satya Prasoon et al., “SC cracker ban fails: Can legal diktas alter cultural habits or did police not do enough?”, *The Print*, 8 November 2018.
18. Vineeth Krishna, “India’s founders gave us our Constitution. We must prove to them that we can keep it”, *ThePrint*, 28 November 2018.
19. Mathew Idiculla, “Maharashtra has boldly expanded NOTA, with Haryana following suit. Will it pass legal scrutiny?”, *Scroll.in*, 26 November 2018)
20. Disha Chaudhry, Satya Prasoon, Jai Brunner, “10 Cases that Shaped India in 2018”, *LACL-AIDC Blog*, 1 March 2019.

## **Governance Reform**

1. Mathew Idiculla, “Federalism and Fairness”, *The Hindu*, 02 April 2018.
2. Mathew Idiculla et al, “What do people want?”, *Deccan Herald*, 9 May 2018.
3. Mathew Idiculla, “Karnataka elections: Severe anti-incumbency against Siddaramaiah or Modi-Shah-Yeddyurappa dominance?”, *ThePrint*, 15 May 2018.
4. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, “Manufacturing electoral choice”, *LiveMint*, 16 May 2018.
5. Mathew Idiculla, “Karnataka Elections: Mandate and Morality”, *Hard News*, 30 May 2018
6. Mathew Idiculla, “The Missing Tiers”, *The Hindu*, 14 June 2018
7. Mathew Idiculla, “Inside the glittering façade”, *Hindu Business Line*, 17 August 2018.
8. Mathew Idiculla, “Castles in the air”, *The Hindu*, 16 October 2018.
9. Mathew Idiculla, “City Plights: Indian states’ tight leash on urban governance”, *Caravan Magazine*, 15 November 2018.
10. Mathew Idiculla, “Local Government Elections in Rajasthan: “Let the grassroots breathe”” *The Hindu* 11 January 2019.
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13. Mathew Idiculla et al., “The shape of an urban employment guarantee”, *The Hindu*, 29 March 2019.
14. Mathew Idiculla, “Guaranteeing Urban Jobs” (co-authored with Amit Basole and Rajendran Narayan), *Business Standard*, 30 March 2019.

## **Discrimination and Intersectionality**

1. Jayna Kothari, “Women with Disabilities: The Promise of the RPD Act, 2016” XLII *The Indian Advocate: Journal of the Bar Association of India*, 115, 2018.
2. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, “Dalits see the apex court’s order on SC/ST Act as a dog whistle to destroy the law”, *The Print*, 10 April 2018.
3. Jayna Kothari, “A promise falls short”, *The Hindu*, 12 April 2018.
4. Jayna Kothari, “The Right to Privacy: The Promise for full Recognition of Transgender Rights”, *The Hindu*, 28 August 2018.
5. Jayna Kothari, “The rainbow in our clouds”, *Deccan Herald*, 10 September 2018.
6. Jayna Kothari, “The Supreme Court trans-formed”, *The Hindu*, 15 September 2018.
7. Jayna Kothari, “Transgender Persons Bill 2018: ‘A law that defeats its purpose’”, *The Hindu*, 29 December 2018.
8. Jayna Kothari, “Section 377 and Beyond: A New Era for Transgender Equality?”, *Academic Foundation*, 3 July 2019.

## **Gender and Sexuality**

1. Jayna Kothari, Maya Unnithan & Siri Gloppen, “A half-written promise”, *The Hindu*, 23 April 2019.

## Events

### **Constitutional Culture**

1. CLPR team conducted an orientation program the first year students at the St. Joseph's College of Law on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The team conducted sessions on "Constitutional Values in Action" and "Law and Social Transformation".
2. On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 CLPR hosted Usha Ramnathan, advocate and human rights activist for a public discussion. In the context of Aadhaar program, she presented on "Identity, Privacy, Data and our lives".
3. CLPR conducted an Indian Constitutional history workshop at St. Stephen's College, Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018
4. On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018, CLPR organized the NCS Convention. It brought together Student Delegates from institutions across the country and provided them with the opportunity to engage with academics, lawyers and activists.
5. CLPR in collaboration with Praja Foundation hosted a workshop on Freedom of Speech at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharm College, South Campus on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
6. On the occasion of National Youth Day, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019, CLPR in association with the Praja Foundation organised a workshop on Constitutional History and Freedom of Speech at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, University of Delhi.
7. The NCS Chapter of National Law School of India University, Bangalore hosted an interactive session on the Rafale Fighter Jet Deal Case and the CBI Dispute Case on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
8. Between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018 CLPR in collaboration with Praja Foundation conducted a series of seven workshops on CADIndia and SCObserver websites in Mumbai.
9. On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019, CLPR in association of NCS Chapter of National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, Hyderabad organized SCObserver workshop on S.377 Decriminalization case.
10. On Republic Day, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019, CLPR in association with 'The Students' Outpost hosted a film screening and discussion of "The Advocate", directed by Deepa Dhanraj.
11. On the occasion of the 70th Republic Day celebrations, on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Jayna Kothari

conducted a session on the Indian Constitution to the elementary school students at Mallya Aditi International School.

12. Law and Other Things, in collaboration with NALSAR and Azim Premji University, hosted “The Court & The Constitution: 2018 in Review’ conference on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Sudhir Krishnaswamy was invited to be on the “Developments in Equality Jurisprudence” panel.
13. St. Joseph’s College of Law invited CLPR to host a workshop for teaching faculty on “Teaching and Learning the Constitution of India” on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
14. On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Sudhir Krishnaswamy moderated a panel at IIHS’ City Scripts 2019. The panel was titled “Dignity and Law: Judgements as Public Texts”.
15. The Aligarh Muslim University Chapter of the National Constitution Society (NCS) held a public discussion on ‘Thinking Sedition, Thinking Freedom’ on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019.
16. On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 the Delhi Chapter of the National Constitution Society organised a discussion on “Sedition Laws and Fundamental Rights in India” at the Zakir Hussain Evening College, University of Delhi.
17. On 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Sudhir Krishnaswamy lead a session at ISBR Law College’s Workshop: “Constitutional Foundations of State Regulation of Religious Beliefs and Practices”.
18. Sudhir Krishnaswamy was a panelist at NIT Tiruchirappalli’s Crossfire 2019 held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019. He engaged with the question, ‘do we have the right to free speech or just compliant speech?’
19. The University Law College Chapter of the National Constitution Society (ULC-NCS) conducted a series of events, including film screening and discussion sessions. It was conducted in the context of the International Women’s Day between 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.
20. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, Sudhir Krishnaswamy was invited to speak at IFIM Law School’s national symposium on Law and Development: A Global Perspective.
21. The Bangalore Chapter of the National Constitution Society organised a film screening and discussion on “Samvidhaan: The Making of the Constitution of India” (Episode 7) – the debate among the Constitution framers on national language. The event took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 at the St. Joseph’s College of Law, Bangalore.

22. On 31 March 2019, Hidayatullah National Law University invited Jayna Kothari to speak as a part of its Lecture Series on the legal profession. She shared insights with the students on her experiences running a legal practice.

## **Governance Reform**

1. Mathew Idiculla, presented a paper titled “74th Constitutional Amendment: Derelict by design or default”, at Rethinking Urbanisation and the Right to the City, organized by Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG) at Madras Music Academy, Chennai, 2 October 2018.
2. WRI India invited Mathew Idiculla to speak on “Conversation on Governance: Decoding the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2018” on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
3. Mathew Idiculla was invited as a panelist at the IGSSS’ National Roundtable- “Looking Back at 25 years: A Review of the 74th Amendment” on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018. He spoke on the ‘Core idea of 74<sup>th</sup> and its implementation status.’
4. CLPR conducted a one-day workshop on “The Future of Urban Governance in India” on 8 December 2018. In this workshop, urban scholars and practitioners presented and responded to papers.
5. Mathew Idiculla was invited to speak at Unbox 2019’s session ‘The Burgeoning City’ at Bangalore International Centre conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019.
6. Sudhir Krishnaswamy presented at the release of the report “Politics and Society between Elections 2019”. It was organized by Azim Premji University’s Centre for Regional Political Economy and Lokniti (CSDS) on 29 March 2019.

## **Transgender Rights**

1. On 28 May 2019, Jayna Kothari took part in a crowdfunding event in London hosted by Give Out and Consortium to mark the International Day Against Transphobia. Jayna Kothari raised the most on behalf of CLPR out of all the participants – 6,750 pounds.
2. On 28 and 29 August 2019, Colors Rainbow, the Institute of Human Rights and Business, and the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business held a workshop on LGBT rights in Yangon, Myanmar.



CLPR's Jayna Kothari led a session on legal reform and LGBTQI+ equality in India. Over 60 participants from Myanmar-based businesses attended.

3. On 22 September 2019, Jayna Kothari spoke at the Jubel European Democracy Festival. She spoke on LGBTQI+ rights law in India.
4. In 26 and 27 September 2019, Jayna Kothari attended the Justice Alladi Kuppuswami Centenary Seminar organised by the Council for Social Development, Hyderabad. She spoke on legal developments with regards to transgender rights.

## **Discrimination and Intersectionality**

1. Jayna Kothari was invited as a speaker to shed light on the proceedings of the Supreme Court in the 377 case in meeting organised by Sangama on 26 July 2018.
2. CLPR, International Commission of Jurists and Ondede held a panel discussion on "Navtej Johar and its impact on the Trans Community" at CLPR, Bangalore on 6 September 2018.
3. Deekshitha Ganesan was a panellist at the launch of "Arise", by Solidarity Foundation on 5 October 2018 and spoke on the provision of employment in formal public and private sectors for transgender persons.
4. Jayna Kothari participated in the Interdisciplinary Workshop held on 11 – 13 October 2018 at Humboldt University of Berlin. She was one of the panelists in 'Systems of Inequality' and presented her paper titled 'Is the Supreme Court Cherry Picking its Gender Battles?'.
5. Jayna Kothari discussed about the constitutional developments arising from the Section 377 case ruling, the advocacy strategy in India and the response of the Indian judiciary in a seminar titled 'The decriminalization of homosexuality in India' organised by the Centre on Law and Social Transformation at University of Bergen on 22 October 2018.
6. Deekshitha Ganesan, J. Mandakini, Saumya Dadoo and S. Aadhirai participated in the joint consultation on discrimination on the basis of caste and non-normative sexualities and gender identities in South India (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana) organised by Rumi Harish, Sunil Mohan and Radhika Raj (from TISS), in collaboration with ALF on 12 and 13 October 2018.
7. Deekshitha Ganesan and J. Mandakini presented a paper titled *Beyond conventional notions of gender equality: Affirmative action for trans\* persons in India* at the conference on *Affirmative Action and the Sustainable Development Goal of Gender Equality*, hosted by the Tamil Nadu National Law University, Trichy ("TNNLU") in collaboration with the Oxford Human Rights Hub on 22-23 September, 2018.

8. Jayna Kothari was invited to speak on a panel with Honourable Justice Dr. D Y Chandrachud at the Kala Ghoda Festival 2019 in Mumbai on 9 February 2019.
9. Jayna Kothari was invited as a resource person to discuss the current legal framework affecting intersex persons, and to suggest future legal reform in a seminar organised by The Intersex Persons Expert Committee (IPEC) on 22 March 2019.
10. CLPR organised a lecture led by Dr. Annapurna Waughray on 'Caste Discrimination and Equality Law in the UK – Public Discourse and Legal Change' at the CLPR office, Bangalore on 22 March 2019.
11. Jayna Kothari was invited to attend the 'Invitational Meeting on Advancing Constitutional Economic, Social and Equal Rights: Building a Global Network and Designing a Learning Agenda to Accelerate Change' in Boschendal, South Africa, 8-10 July, 2019.
12. On 26 July 2019, CLPR released its 'Intersectionality: A Report on Discrimination based on Caste with the intersections of Sex, Gender Identity and Disability in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala'. The release event was hosted in collaboration with the International Commission of Jurists.
13. On 8 August 2019, CLPR's Krithika Balu led an orientation for IFIM Law School's students. The focus of the orientation was 'Human Rights Litigation and Policy Work'.
14. CLPR held a consultation on the Equality Bill, 2019 at Guruswamy Centre, Hyderabad on 15th May 2019. Several activists and members of Civil Society Organisations shared their feedback on the text of the Bill.
15. CLPR organised a students' "Coffee and Conversations" evening to discuss the Equality Bill, 2019 on 26th June 2019. Students from different colleges in Bangalore actively participated and discussed the Bill.
16. CLPR held a consultation on the Equality Bill, 2019 at India International Centre, New Delhi on 30th July 2019. Several lawyers, academics and activists shared their critical feedback on the Bill.
17. Jayna Kothari held a consultation on the Equality Bill, 2019 on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at National Law University, New Delhi.

## **Gender and Sexuality**

1. Jayna Kothari was invited to speak about the impact of the decision of the Supreme Court in Independent Thought v. Union of India organised by 'Women Power Connect' (Girls Not Brides) at the India International Centre, New Delhi on 8 September 2018.

2. Jayna Kothari was invited for interview and podcast by RadioActive FM, a community radio channel, to discuss laws pertaining to child marriage in the state of Karnataka.
3. Jayna Kothari was invited as a panelist to speak on ‘Amendment, Implications, Responses, Challenges in the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006’ in a colloquium organised by Childline and UNICEF on 27 December 2018.
4. Saumya Dadoo presented on the legal status of child marriage in a symposium on preventing child marriages: “Preventing Child Marriages is Critical to Achieve SDGS” at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) on 4 January 2019.
5. CLPR’s Jayna Kothari was invited to attend 6<sup>th</sup> Annual South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative (SARJAI) Workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal in May 2018. The workshop was attended by various Justices of the Nepalese Supreme Court, including former Chief Justice Kalyan Shreshta.
6. In June 2018, the Human Rights Law Network led a five-day national workshop on ‘Contemporary Developments in Law relating to Violence and Discrimination against Women’. Jayna Kothari led a session on the implementation of the Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
7. On Women’s Day 2019, 8 March, Jayna Kothari was invited to address the students of PESIT Law College.
8. In May 2019, SARJAI hosted its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop to increase government accountability for violations of women’s reproductive rights. CLPR’s Saumya Dadoo attended it.
9. On 22 October 2018, the University of Bergen held a video conference on LGBT and reproductive rights. Jayna Kothari spoke on legal developments in India.
10. On 14 and 15 April 2019, CLPR hosted its ‘Sexual and Reproductive Rights: Social Movements and Legal Battles’ conference at the Bangalore International Centre, in collaboration with the University of Bergen and University of Sussex. The conference brought together prominent activists, academics and lawyers to discuss approaches to SRR advocacy in India.
11. CLPR’s Deekshitha Ganesan attended the Southern Region Consultation on the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA) on 27 September 2019. The consultation aimed to facilitate cross-sectoral advocacy on sexual and reproductive health, in particular of adolescent girls.

## **Disability Rights**

1. On 10 March 2018, Jayna Kothari addressed a training programme, organised by the Disability Rights Foundation and Emphasis, on disability law.



### **Team Updates:**

1. In September 2019, Sudhir Krishnaswamy was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the National Law School of India University.
2. Jayna Kothari was designated as a Senior Advocate on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
3. Disha Choudhary went to Harvard Law School in August 2019 to pursue an LLM.
4. In July 2019, Satya Prasoon was awarded the 'Alex Chernov Scholarship' to pursue an LLM at the Melbourne Law School.