

FROM MILLENNIALS TO GEN Z: BREAKING INTO LEGAL AID

Date – 24th July, 2021 and
25th July, 2021

Time – 5:00 PM

Venue – MS Teams

Topic–

Day 1: Pro-bono Lawyering

Day 2: Legal Aid Journey of a
Woman Activist in India.

Speaker's Name –

Day 1: Adv. Disha Wadekar

Day 2: Adv. Flavia Agnes

Moderator –

Day 1: Lavanaya Anee

Day 2: Sarasa V.

- A two-days online workshop was organized by the Legal Aid Committee of the School of Law at NMIMS, Navi Mumbai on July 24th and 25th, 2021.
- **DAY 1** - On the first day of the workshop, Adv. Disha Wadekar delivered the keynote address. The theme of the workshop was “**Pro-bono Lawyering and the Pro-bono World**”. Ms. Wadekar is a practicing advocate at the Supreme Court of India. She comes with immense experience in the field of pro-bono. She had worked as an Associate at the Chambers of Sr. Adv. Indira Jaising on Constitutional matters, including Sabarimala Case and the Jarnail Singh Case. She has also worked as a consultant Advocate for project 39A at National Law University, Delhi and the Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi.

Ms. Wadekar began the session by explaining the distinction between pro bono lawyering and legal aid services. She emphasized the idea of inherent basic rights and governments' obligations that provided under Part IV of the Indian Constitution which is about providing legal assistance. She highlighted existence of discrimination and inequity in society. Most specifically, the actuality of obtaining justice in court was also addressed by her to make all aware about the factual conditions of the court. She entrenched the reality of justice for society's disadvantaged groups, including women, Dalits, and economically backward classes. She discussed law as a career and her personal experiences working on the Sabarimala Case, the Jarnail Singh Case, the Bhima Koregaon Violence Case, and custodial torture cases.

She also discussed the value of a lawyer and the societal duty that a lawyer has during his or her profession. She also highlighted the reactions of others in the courtroom to her lower-class clients. She gave some educational and unique advice to those interested in entering in the law field for pro bono work too.

Finally, the event/workshop concluded with a Question-and-Answer session during which students asked questions. Throughout the workshop, M/s Wadekar provided advice on time management and resolving problems independently in a controversial matter as a lawyer. She also gave summarized guidelines of handing a case with juvenile and marginalized sections of the society. She recommended collaborating actively with organizations working in this area in order to acquire expertise.

Asst. Prof. (Dr.) Megha Ojha, School of Law and faculty mentor of the legal Aid Committee, concluded the workshop with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the speaker and the Legal Aid committee for hosting the event.

- **DAY 2** - On the second day of the workshop (25th July 2021), Adv. Flavia Agnes was invited to address the workshop and was introduced by our day 2 moderator Sarasa. The theme of the workshop was **“Legal Aid Journey of a Woman Activist in India”**.

Flavia Agnes is a legal scholar and women’s right lawyer who has been able to combine her legal scholarship with active litigation support to victims of domestic and sexual violence. She started working in the field of women in law in 1980s and has been practicing lawyer at the Bombay High Court since 1988. She is a co-founder of MAJLIS that advocates for and represents women on issues such as marital rights, child custody and other legal matters.

Adv. Flavia Agnes’s session focused on the journey of women activist in the legal aid world. She began the session by talking about her journey and what motivated her to become a legal aid lawyer by setting up of her own organization MAJLIS (NGO). Adv. Flavia then gave brief introduction about Mathura rape case while talking about her association with women support group since 1980. She talked about how this case gave

rise to women's movement in India and how small girls and women started coming out protesting about the wrongs committed against them. She also focused on the hurdles faced by legal aid organizations. Additionally, she talked about how these legal aid organizations are working during the pandemic period when cases of domestic violence were increasing at the global level.

Finally, the session concluded with Question-and-Answer round, where students were given chance to ask their doubts and questions to Adv. Flavia. Through her answers ma'am talked about sexual harassment faced by women in online mode and how this pandemic has occurred as bar for women belonging to marginalized community. She also focused on the importance of women to come forward and speak for themselves.

Lastly, Asst. Prof. Manisha Band, School of Law concluded the session with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the speaker and the Legal Aid Committee for hosting the event.

**Day 1****Day 2**

**Legal Aid Committee, School of Law
NMIMS (Deemed to be University), Navi Mumbai Campus.**