



MARCH FOR WOMEN 2.0

WOMEN AT WORK

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
WOMEN IN THE UNORGANISED SECTOR

organised by

Centre for Women and Child Rights,
Gujarat National Law University

in collaboration with

Gender Resource Centre,
Department of Women and Child Development,
Government of Gujarat

7TH - 8TH MARCH, 2026



ABOUT THE CENTRE

The **GNLU Centre for Women and Child Rights (CWCR)** is a Centre of Excellence under Gujarat National Law University dedicated to research, policy engagement, and advocacy on women's and children's rights. The Centre works at the intersection of law, governance, and social justice through research, institutional partnerships, and student-led initiatives.

CWCR currently partners with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and has previously collaborated with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India; the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR); and the Gender Resource Centre, Government of Gujarat. It provides research support, policy inputs, and consultation papers to public institutions.

A key feature of the Centre is its student-led research. It has conducted focused work on the implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. Ongoing projects include a practice-oriented Handbook on Internal Committees in Universities and research on access to identity documentation and education within the sex work economy.

The Centre also undertakes advocacy initiatives. In 2023, it submitted a representation to the Union Health Ministry recommending inclusion of the HPV vaccine in the Universal Immunization Programme, which was formally acknowledged.

CWCR has contributed to UN processes through OHCHR submissions on child sexual exploitation in street situations, later cited in a UN Secretary-General's note.

ABOUT THE GRC

Gender Resource Centre (GRC), established in March 2004, is promoted by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat to provide support for incorporating gender equity and equality in overall development process and plans of the State. GRC is a Society registered under Societies Registration Act 1860 and Bombay Public Trust Act 1950.

GRC recognizes that women's inequality manifests itself in many forms such as gender discrimination in terms of declining male-female sex ratio, Social stereotyping, Gender based violence at home and at work, Low level of education, health and nutritional status, limited access to resources, etc.

GRC co-ordinates efforts of different sections of society and the government to make a noticeable difference to women's lives in the state and to serve as a nodal agency for all gender related initiatives in the state. GRC attempts to develop and make available the resources at a single place to share them across organizations in order to make their efforts in the sector more streamlined, efficient and effective. GRC aims to sensitize and facilitate Government Departments, NGOs, Academic Institutions, International agencies and Independent experts in planning, implementing and evaluating gender sensitive programs, policies, laws and schemes.

ABOUT THE PREVIOUS CONFERENCES

RTE CONCLAVE, 2022

With over a decade since the RTE Act was enacted in India, new issues have emerged in its interface with society and its evolution in the current context. The RTE Conclave 2022, in collaboration with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the Government of India, and Indus Action, was a first-of-a-kind conference that brought together academicians, students, practitioners, activists, and policymakers to work towards the effective implementation of the RTE Act, both in essence and spirit.

RTE CONCLAVE, 2024

RTE Conclave 2.0 envisaged to create a platform to develop sustainable relationships between stakeholders in the legal fraternity to collaborate on developing better clinical interventions towards advancing the cause of right to education in India.

By bringing together a diverse array of stakeholders including academicians, legal practitioners, policymakers, faculty and student convenors of university-led legal aid clinics and research centres, youth-led non-profit organisations, student researchers, this Conclave delved into creating a platform for relationship building among various stakeholders to promote collaborative research, clinical interventions and policy interventions in the field of right to education in India.

NOTABLE DIGNITARIES



Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani

Former Minister,
Ministry of Women And Child Development &
Ministry of Minority Affairs,
Govt. of India
(online presence)



Sh. Priyank Kanoongo

Member of the National Commission for
Protection of Child Rights
Former Chairperson,
National commission for protection of child
rights (NCPCR), Govt. of India



Dr. Mahesh Kumar Iswarlal Joshi

Director,
Directorate of Primary Education,
Education Department, Government of
Gujarat



Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Juneja

Professor (Retd.),
National University of Educational Planning
and Administration (NUEPA)



Ms. Seema Bansal

Vice Chairperson,
Punjab Development Commission,
Government of Punjab



Mr. Ashok Agarwal

Senior Advocate,
Supreme Court of India



Prof. Ankur Sarin

Professor,
Indian Institute of Management,
Ahmedabad

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The **Women at Work: 2-Day International Conference** invites academicians, social activists, professionals, practitioners, and paralegal workers from the community to facilitate fruitful discussions and gain perspective from women working in the unorganised sector. Participants will collaboratively partake in panel briefs, build a shared analytical frame that foregrounds caste, care, migration, and the platformisation of work, and forge durable alliances among academics, advocates, funders, and civic bodies to carry these reforms forward beyond the event. This Conference has three broad themes- ***Workplace Safety for Women, Sex Work and Domestic Housework.***

Building upon the Centre's continued engagement with questions of gender justice, labour rights, and social protection, the Women at Work Conference is envisioned as a dynamic platform for robust intellectual exchange and collaborative problem-solving.

What distinguishes this conference is its emphasis on creating a participatory experience. Alongside formal sessions, participants will engage in policy presentations, moderated discussions, and informal interactions that encourage cross-sectoral learning. Through presentations by diverse stakeholders and sustained engagement across sessions, the conference aims to facilitate deeper reflection on structural inequalities and implementation challenges.

Conference shall comprise of:



PANEL DISCUSSION



**POLICY DRAFTING
COMPETITION**

PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel 1: Making Workspaces Inclusive (Equal Pay; Violence and harassment at work; Gender and non-discrimination; Maternity Protection and Menstrual Leave).

There is an urgent need to make workplaces, informal and formal alike, safer for women with mechanisms that inculcate the sensitivity needed to address gender based violence in the workplace, while ensuring that these mechanisms do not lead to oversecritisation, which further restricts women from entering the workforce.

Panel 2: Domestic housework (paid and unpaid care; placement agencies; wage theft; migration)

Women make up a large majority of India's informal workforce, especially in areas where any regulations are absent. Studies in urban India have found that many domestic workers earn low wages (often a fraction of formal sector rates) with little job security, no contracts or benefits, and frequent exploitation, including wage theft and abusive working conditions.

Panel 3: Sex work (decriminalisation debates; trafficking conflation; health and safety; welfare access).

The field of sex work is hard to quantify due to its largely informal and stigmatised nature, is estimated by public health and mapping studies to involve close to 1 million female sex workers across India, with significant concentrations in states like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana.

POLICY DRAFTING COMPETITION

The competition aims to encourage participants to move beyond doctrinal analysis and propose implementable, evidence-based policy interventions. It will be held in the following stages:

STAGE 1- Abstract/Pitch Selection

Abstracts will be evaluated based on originality, clarity, relevance, and policy insight.

STAGE 2- Shortlisting and Registration

Shortlisted participants will be notified, following which the problem statement will be released and registration will open.

Registration is mandatory only after abstract selection.

STAGE 3- Policy Draft Submission and Final Presentation

Participants will submit their drafted policy and present the same during the final rounds held on **7th and 8th March 2026** at GNLU.

Prize money will be awarded to winners along with certificates of recognition.



PATRONS



PROF. (DR.) S. SHANTHAKUMAR
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STUDENT COORDINATORS



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