

Workshop on Building Consent Culture: Preventing Sexual Harassment

Gandhinagar, February 11, 2019: The Centre for Law & Society at Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar organized a one-day workshop on **Building Consent Culture: Preventing Sexual Harassment**, today.

The workshop started off with an activity of writing down words which one could think of related to “Consent” and “Rejection”. The audience was shown Case Studies which emphasised the importance of explicit consent, the lack of which could lead to emotional stress. The audience then shared a few instances they knew wherein sexual consent was assumed by one person which in turn caused fear and shame for the other person involved in a relationship. The workshop quickly moved on to an interactive discussion on themes of usage of power in workplaces and peer pressure in forming relationships. There was a debate on gender-neutral rape laws wherein a few felt a gendered law is the need of the hour since rape is a particularly gendered crime. The audience also raised questions on ways to respond to situations involving usage of power hierarchy to coerce a person into sexual relations in a workplace, the role of Internal Complaints Committee and healthy coping mechanisms on facing rejection. A small activity was conducted wherein a few situations involving intimacy were described and the audience was asked to reflect on the same and respond how comfortable or uncomfortable they would be in such scenarios.

The workshop was conducted in collaboration with Partners for Law in Development (PLD) Anandi. PLD is an NGO based in Delhi which works closely on Human Rights law related to women. They routinely conduct workshops on the theme of Consent in Sexual Relations in various colleges and Universities across India. Anandi is a grassroots organization in Gujarat working on similar themes.

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