

PRESENTS:

Equality & Inclusion 2021: LGBT-Inclusive Educational Spaces and Queer Marriage Equality



19th & 20th May



5 PM



MS Teams



Introduction



Themes of Discussion



The Organisations



The Esteemed Guests



The Sponsor



CONTENTS



The Research and FDP Committee of the School of Law at NMIMS Navi Mumbai is a spirited association with a proclivity for the process of finding sustainable solutions to rights issues. The Committee organises periodic open forums for discussion in pursuance of this goal, however, the need for expert inputs was felt come time to discuss Queer Rights. It was hence that the Committee instituted “Equality and Inclusion 2021” in collaboration with SAATHII to discuss two issues in relation to Queer Rights: Inclusion of Queer Persons in Educational Spaces and Legalising Queer Marriage in India.

The Committee warmly invites students from Schools of Law across all NMIMS Campuses to join us at 5 p.m. on June 19 and 20, 2021 to discuss the issues at hand with Dr. Sai Subasree Raghavan, Dr. L. Ramakrishnan, Adv. Suraj Sanap, Mr. Leo Ganguly, and Ms. Rachel Yassky who are national and international thought leaders and trailblazers in the LGBTQIA+ movement. These individuals have worked with the community at the grassroots level, contributed gainfully to the decriminalisation of homosexuality in India, and continue to be an active part of the Gender, Sexual, and Romantic Minorities’ socio-legal journey towards Equality & Inclusion.



Themes of Discussion

June 19, 2021: Queer Inclusivity in Educational Spaces

A Primer on LGBTQIA+ Jargon

An Introduction to the Legal History of the Indian Queer Community

When a Peer Comes Out of the Closet

An Inclusive Campus

Inclusive Spaces and E-Campus Inclusivity

A To-Do List on Anti-Harassment Measures

[Click here to Join Us!](#)

June 20, 2021: A Robust Discussion on Legalising Queer Marriage

The Constitution and the Queer Community: Developments

An Inspection of Laws and Landmark Cases

An Update on Ongoing Cases

Personal Accounts: What the Right to Marry means to a Queer Person

Marriage Equality Laws v/s Anti-Discrimination Laws: A Debate

Accommodating Queer Marriage in Indian Personal Laws

A Panel Discussion on Socio-Legal Realities of Queer Marriage

[Click here to Join Us!](#)

The Organisations



School of Law, NMIMS Navi Mumbai

The School of Law at NMIMS Navi Mumbai was established in 2018 to mould young scholars into capable global citizens by providing world-class intellectual infrastructure to impart holistic legal education. SOL has set out to create a learner-centric curriculum incorporating education in humanities and management alongside law at the Navi Mumbai Campus. The mandate of the law school is to groom students for their future roles in corporate organisations, concurrently inculcating social sensitivity and constitutional responsibility.

SAATHII

Solidarity and Action Against The HIV Infection in India (SAATHII) was founded in 2000 and legally incorporated as a Trust under the Indian Trust Act in 2002. Multiple initiatives undertaken by the organisation have positively impacted HIV/AIDS affected and infected individuals, pregnant women, children, gender/sexual minorities (LGBTIQ+), sex workers, prisoners, and marginalised populations.

SAATHII places a premium on solutions that are founded on grounds of science and human rights, interacting directly with impacted communities, and addressing issues of marginalisation based on gender, sexuality, and other characteristics that influence equitable access to high-quality treatment.

SAATHII envisions universal access to legal and social protection and health to populations marginalised by HIV status, gender, and/or sexuality. The organisation is committed to promoting access to rights by working towards stigma-free and inclusive healthcare, legal aid, and educational and social services by fostering and facilitating community support, information distribution, networking, operational studies, advocacy, training, and other technical assistance services.

The Esteemed Guests



Dr. Sai Subhasree
Raghavan

Co-Founder &
President, SAATHII

Dr. Sai Subhasree Raghavan is the Co-Founder and President of SAATHII, a renowned public health specialist.

Dr. Sai Subhasree Raghavan is the founding president of SAATHII, a non-profit working towards universal access to healthcare, justice, and social welfare for marginalized communities across 36 states in India. She has received a doctoral degree in Human Nutrition from SNDT Women's University, Mumbai in 1992 and post-doctoral training in Public Health at Columbia University in New York. Between 1996-2004, she led several clinical research studies at Harlem Hospital, served as a research preceptor for master's students, and co-taught a course on conducting large epidemiological studies in developing countries at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

In 2004, she returned to India to set up SAATHII, which is at the forefront of the HIV and TB responses, and is currently working with the National Government on Ending AIDS and Elimination of TB by 2030, reducing maternal and infant mortality, and strengthening health systems. She is a former elected member of the Governing Council of the International AIDS Society (IAS) and was awarded a Women in Global Health LEAD Fellowship from Harvard University in 2019.



Dr. L. Ramakrishnan

Vice
President, SAATHII

Dr. L. Ramakrishnan is a public health and human rights expert and Vice President of SAATHII, based in Chennai.

He earned his doctorate in population biology in 2000 from The University of Texas at Austin, USA, and has worked in health and human rights non-profit settings in the USA and India. At SAATHII, he leads LGBTIQ health and rights initiatives aimed at strengthening and increasing access to stigma-free healthcare, legal services, and social protection for communities marginalized on account of HIV, TB, gender, and/or sexuality. A strong believer in community-led programming, he works with communities to build advocacy and program implementation skills, and with service providers on changing policies, practices and guidelines. The programs he led have contributed to the inclusion of LGBTIQ concerns in the Mental Health Policy of Tamil Nadu, expansion of NCERT's teacher-training curriculum to include a gender and sexuality module, and development of the first transgender health course in India for undergraduate and postgraduate nursing students.

His other programmatic and capacity-building contributions include using data for decision-making in programs and advocacy, leveraging information technology to strengthen patient engagement, and decentralizing HIV/AIDS services to district and sub-district levels.



Adv. Suraj Sanap

Research Consultant,
C-Help

Adv. Suraj Sanap is a Research Consultant with the Centre for Health Equity, Law and Policy (C-HELP).

He graduated from Government Law College in 2013. His work is focused on constitutional law, gender and sexuality, HIV/AIDS, and labor through research, advocacy, and litigation at Lawyers Collective. He has experience offering legal support to queer communities in South East Asia and Africa and working with trans, queer, and PLHIV communities on drafting rights-based laws in India. He also works with the Humsafar Trust, providing legal representation to members of the LGBTQ+ community. Adv. Sanap was a part of the panel of lawyers who fought for the decriminalization of homosexuality in the Supreme Court in the Navtej Singh Johar v. UOI case. He has played a key role in highlighting the abuse faced by members of the community and provided legal remedies to people affected by Section 377 of the IPC.



Rachel Yassky

Board Member,
SAATHII-USA

Rachel Yassky is a Human Right Activist and Board Member of SAATHII-USA, located in New York.

Ms. Rachel Yassky is a lawyer and non-profit management specialist with over 20 years of experience in social justice, policy formulation, strategic planning, and program development and implementation. She received Juris Doctor (JD) and MBA from Yale University. Her substantive focus has revolved around gender, health and human rights, and equity, with a particular emphasis on HIV and reproductive health. She has provided technical assistance to several international agencies including Amnesty International, International Planned Parenthood, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, Global Campaign for Microbicides, and Human Rights Watch. She serves as a board member of SAATHII USA and Strategic Advisor to Hope North, a Ugandan youth development NGO.



Leo Ganguly

Project Consultant,
SAATHII

Leo Ganguly is a Project Consultant at SAATHII, managing Project Samata, an initiative focusing on LGBTIQ inclusion across health, education, and socio-legal domains in the Delhi NCR area. He completed his Bachelors in Arts (BA) in Philosophy, Education, and Bengali Literature from Calcutta University, and obtained his Masters in Social Work from Rabindra Bharati University. Prior to his engagement with SAATHII, Mr. Ganguly worked in diverse programs such as the District Planning and Monitoring Unit (DPMU) - Strengthening Rural Decentralisation (SRD) Cell in West Bengal, Society of Participatory Action and Reflection, Sabhuj Sangha, and Synergie ITCI. He has also volunteered at the UN as a Block Support Officer for community mobilization and social audit.

The Sponsor

Mushq Foundation

Mushq Foundation is a multifaceted Delhi-based non-profit organisation that was established under the Companies Act, 2013. They have offices in Mumbai, Jaipur, East Africa, and the United Kingdom. Mushq is a Persian term that refers to the lovely scent of Kasturi, which is drained from a rare deer located in Kashmir's high mountains. The Foundation is involved in educational commitments like establishing special schools, maintaining educational websites, publishing educational journals and papers with adequate encoding standards, and organising educational webinars, seminar conferences, symposiums, training programmes, and workshops.

They are also involved in many social activities like establishing and maintaining a home for orphaned children, aiding young children financially to provide them with suitable and full schooling and associated facilities, good meals, medical care, and organising vocational training. They are also engaged in organising religious events and actively work towards spreading awareness and enlightening society.

Please note:

- 1. The number of slots available on each day is limited to 250. Hence, a first come, first serve policy will be perused for admission.*
- 2. The session will be recorded on both days.*

For any queries, please contact

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