

# WORKSHOP FOR LAWYERS ON THE RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OF THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Venue: THE Park Chennai**

## Program Overview for Applicants

Ganesan and Manuraj Legal LLP is convening a one-day sensitisation workshop on the rights and protection of the LGBTQIA+ Community for lawyers practicing in India. Considering the varied legal issues faced by members of the community and the guidelines set out by the High Court of Madras in *S. Sushma & Anr. v. Commissioner of Police & Ors.*, it is evident that there is a need for sensitisation and allyship in the legal fraternity.

The program aims to sensitise lawyers on the social and legal issues faced by the community, further the dialogue on these issues and provide a medium for lawyers to interface with members of the LGBTQIA+ community as well as the legal fraternity. The sessions will be led by community members and experts working in this area.

### **Resource Persons:**

We have tried to curate the workshop with resource persons and experts having deep connection within the LGBTQIA+ community and a proven track record of championing LGBTQIA+ causes:

1. *Dr. L. Ramakrishnan* – Public Health Professional, Vice-President, SAATHII and Volunteer, Orinam
2. *Dr. Shruti Chakravarty* – Chief Advisor, Mariwala Health Initiative
3. *Pooja Nair* – Faculty Member, Mariwala Health Initiative
4. *Arvind Narrain* – Advocate and Founding Member, Alternative Law Forum
5. *C. Moulee* – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Strategist and Co-founder & Editor, Queer Chennai Chronicles
6. *Akkai Padmashali* – Founder, Ondede and Member, Indian National Congress

7. *Ragamalika Karthikeyan* – Editor, Special Projects & Experiments, The News Minute
8. *K. Arun Karthick* – Co-founder, Transman Association of Tamil Nadu and Member, Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board
9. *Vidya Dinakaran* – Psychotherapist (QACP-certified) and Member, Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board

The final list of resource persons and speakers will be shared with confirmed participants closer to the date of the program.

### **Tentative Program:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
09:00 – 09:15	Registration of Participants
09:15 – 09:30	Welcome Address
09:30 – 10:00	A Primer on Gender and Sexuality
10:00 – 11:30	The Principles and Tenets of Queer-affirmative Work
11:30 – 11:50	Mental Health Concerns and the Need for Counselling
11:50 – 12:05	Tea Break
12:05 – 13:30	Struggles faced by the Community and the Need for Allyship – Panel Discussion with Community Members
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:30	Charting a Path for Inclusive Policies – Group Discussion
15:30 – 15:45	Tea Break
15:45 – 16:15	S. 377 and Beyond
16:15 – 16:45	Building on the NALSA Judgement
16:45 – 17:00	Concluding Remarks

### **Application & Participation:**

We have received an overwhelming number of responses expressing interest in the program, through the initial Google Form for 'Registration of Interest' published on our social media handles. While we appreciate the enthusiasm, we have a limited number of slots for participants and we look to host a diverse group of vibrant and dedicated lawyers.

If you're a lawyer in India and would like to attend, please fill the form at:

<https://forms.gle/FR9Ro76UBvav8j1D7>

There is no age restriction for the participants. A total of 25 participants will be selected based on their application. Responses will be accepted till **23:59 hours on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 (Friday)**.

Upon confirmation of being shortlisted, each participant will be required to make a donation of INR 500 to the **International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCVC)**, towards participation in the Workshop. PCVC is a registered public charitable trust and non-governmental organisation, founded in 2001 to create and extend support services for women affected by domestic and interpersonal violence. Over the years, the organisation has evolved to provide both emergency and long-term rehabilitative support, by providing residential services for women, queer individuals and children, counselling and emotional support, financial support, education, skill-building and employment opportunities leading to economic freedom. For more information regarding the organisation and their work, please visit their [website](#).



Shortlisted participants will be intimated by email by the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 (Saturday). The donation will have to be made directly to PCVC, details for which will be shared at the time of shortlisting. Upon payment of the donation, further details regarding the program, including the final list of speakers and program will be shared with the confirmed participants.



*Note:*

- (1) Only the responses submitted on the Google Form provided here will be used to shortlist the participants and responses to any previous forms may not be considered.
- (2) GM Legal will not be directly collecting or receiving any registration fees / donation from participants for the Workshop. Donations collected by PCVC will be used towards the work done by the organisation.

**About the Firm:**

GM Legal is an all-services boutique law firm based out of Chennai and Delhi, founded by Muthupandi Ganesan, Barrister-at-Law (England and Wales) & Advocate, India and Manuraj Shunmugasundaram, Advocate, India. The Firm provides innovative and bespoke legal solutions and representation to its diverse national and international clients.

Please write to us at [conference@gmadvocates.in](mailto:conference@gmadvocates.in) if you have any questions concerning the Workshop.



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