

GSICC-I ANNUAL REPORT - 2017

[As required under Rule 7(2)(III) of the Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment of women at the High Court of Madras (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2013]

The Madras High Court Gender Sensitisation & Internal complaints Committee [the GSICC-I] was constituted by then the Hon'ble Chief Justice vide order dated 18.12.2013.

From 01.01.2017 to 15.12.2017 THE GENDER SENSITISATION & INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE FOR THE PRINCIPAL SEAT AT MADRAS GSICC-I was functioning with the following Chairperson and Members.

1. The Hon'ble Ms. Justice Mala - Chairperson
High Court, Madras. (upto March 2017)
2. The Hon'ble Dr. Justice S.Vimala - Chairperson
High Court, Madras. (from June 2017)
3. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.Kalyanasundaram, - Member
High Court, Madras.
4. The Hon'ble Dr. Justice Anita Sumanth - Member
High Court, Madras.
5. Mr.P.H.Arvinth Pandian, - Member
Senior Advocate,
High Court, Madras.

6. Mrs. Hema Sampath, - Member
Senior Advocate, High Court, Madras.
7. Mr. M.K.Kabir, - Member
Senior Advocate, High Court, Madras.
8. Mr. G. Mohana Krishnan, Advocate, - Member
High Court, Madras.
9. Ms. R.Vaigai, - Member
Senior Advocate, High Court, Madras.
10. Mrs. AL. Gandhimathi, - Member
Advocate, High Court, Madras.
11. Mrs. D. Prasanna, - Member
Advocate, High Court, Madras.
12. Mrs.M.Jayashree, Joint Registrar - Member Secretary
(Original Side), High Court, Madras. (upto 30th April 2017)
13. Mrs.R. Chandrikadevi, - Member Secretary
Deputy Registrar (Accounts), (upto 14th June 2017)
High Court, Madras.
14. Mrs. K. Indumathi - Member Secretary
Registrar (Management),
High Court, Madras.
15. Ms. Vidya Reddy, - Member
Social Activist, Chennai
16. Mrs. P. Bhanumathi, - Member
Advocate Clerk, High Court, Madras.

THE GENDER SENSITISATION & INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE FOR THE PRINCIPAL SEAT AT MADRAS GSICC-I is now functioning with the following Chairperson and Members from 22.12.2017.

1. The Hon'ble Dr. Justice S.Vimala - Chairperson
High Court, Madras.
2. The Hon'ble Dr. Justice Anita Sumanth - Member
High Court, Madras.
3. Mr.G. Mohanakrishnan, Advocate, - Member
High Court, Madras.
4. Mr.V.R.Kamalanathan, Advocate, - Member
High Court, Madras.
5. Mrs.R.Sudha, Advocate, - Member
High Court, Madras.
6. Mrs.V.Nalini, Advocate, - Member
High Court, Madras.
7. Ms.Maimoona Badsha, - Member
Advocate, High Court, Madras.
8. Mrs. K.Indumathi, - Member Secretary
Registrar (Management),
High Court, Madras.
9. Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan, -Member
Social Activist.
10. Mrs. S.Premavathi, - Member
Advocate Clerk, High Court, Madras.

The object of constitution of the Committee is to sensitize the public relating to gender issues and to redress complaints made with regard to sexual harassment in the Madras High Court precincts.

In the Year 2017, 16 meetings were conducted on the following dates:

24.01.2017; 07.02.2017; 20.02.2017; 27.02.2017; 13.03.2017; 14.06.2017;
30.06.2017; 18.07.2017; 03.08.2017; 18.08.2017; 04.09.2017; 19.09.2017;
09.10.2017; 23.10.2017; 07.11.2017; & 14.12.2017.

1. COMPLAINT REDRESSAL:-

Two complaints were received in the month of April & December 2017 respectively. As far as the first Complaint is concerned Internal Sub-Committee conducted enquiry and submitted its report for consideration of the GSICC-I and in another matter notice has been issued to the complainant.

Both the matters are being taken up, with prompt and effective manner and the Committee is conducting meetings regularly to resolve the problems.

2. VOLUNTEERS:

18 volunteers have been selected to assist the committee in the Gender Sensitisation, crisis management duties to enable the aggrieved person to approach the GSICC-I and their names are made available in the Madras High Court's Website.

3. **SENSITIZATION AND PUBLICITY:-**

The matter of devising the strategy, as required by clause 7 (2) (i) & (ii) for publicity and creating awareness holding seminars and workshops for sensitizing persons are under consideration.

Policy to prevent gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the Madras High Court precincts was published and the said policy in Tamil and English version is made available in the Madras High Court's Website (www.hcmadras.tn.nic.in).

The complaint formats in Tamil and English version have also been made available in the said Madras High Court's Website.

Training Programme was conducted on "Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee" to Members of various disciplines viz., Advocates from the Madras Bar Association, Women Lawyers' Association, Madras High Court Advocate Association, Staff Members of the Madras High Court and Advocates' Clerks Association, Central Industrial Security Force and Local Police and for the volunteers of the GSICC-I, on 4th & 5th of March 2017, at Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, Chennai. The faculties of various resource persons viz., (i) Ms. Indira Jaising, (ii) Ms. Ujwala Kadrekar, LCWRI, (iii) Sonal Mattoo. LCWRI (iv) Dr. Gopal Mohan and Indira Jaising have given lectures

on various topics such as, (i) Setting the context, Legal Strategies in Sexual Harassment Case, & Initiation of the Complaint and Inquiry Procedure (ii) Difference between Sex and Gender; & Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (iii) Salient Features of the Sexual Harassment Act, Sexual Harassment in Court & Initiation of the Complaint and Inquiry Procedure (iv) Rights of the Complainant / and Respondent.

The Awareness Programme to Advocates and Clerks on Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee was conducted by the Madras Bar Association, Chennai on 25.10.2017.

Speech about Gender Sensitisation and Internal Compliance Committee-I (GSICC-I), Madras, was delivered by the Hon'ble Dr. Justice S.Vimala, High Court of Madras, Chairperson of the GSICC-I, High Court, Madras and The Hon'ble Dr. Justice Anita Sumanth, High Court of Madras, Member of the GSICC-I, High Court, Madras, during the awareness programme above stated.

4. FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS:-

The Government has been addressed for sanction of funds / infrastructural facilities for implementation of the Regulation and execution of the same. The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.6842271/- vide G.O.(Ms).No.724, Home (Courts-II) Department,

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Dated 17.10.2016 and for the remaining 50% of the above financial sanction is awaited.

The following expenses were met out (i) for the Purchase of Computer and Accessories

- Rs.776062/- and (ii) for the Training Programme as stated above: - - Rs.511821/-.

5. **CONCLUSION:**

The GSICC-I for the Principal Seat at Madras is functioning effectively since its constitution and redressing the grievances of aggrieved person to prevent sexual harassment of women within the precincts of the Madras High Court.

**Sd./- K.INDUMATHI
Member Secretary, GSICC-I,
High Court, Madras-104.**