

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY LAWS IN SOUTH ASIA:
EXAMINING STRATEGIES FOR GENDER-JUST REFORMS AND
EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL FOR TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST LEARNINGS**
30–31 August 2024 (online)

Schedule for Day I, August 30

9.00-9.30 am **Introduction to the conference:**
Prof. (Dr.) Saumya Uma, Professor & Director, Centre for Women's Rights, Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University, India & **Dr. Stellina Jolly**, Associate Professor (SG) South Asian University, India
Welcome Remarks: Prof. (Dr.) S.G. Sreejith, Executive Dean, Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University, India
Welcome Remarks: Prof. (Dr.) Pritam Baruah, Professor & Dean, School of Law, BML Munjal, India
Welcome Remarks: Prof. Senthikumar Venugopal, Acting Vice President, South Asian University, India

9.30-11.30 am **INAUGURAL PANEL DISCUSSION**
Judge Saleem Marsoof, Non-resident Justice of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Fiji, Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka (Retired), Former President of the Court of Appeal of Sri Lanka.
Adv. Sara Hossain, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Honorary Executive Director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)
Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa, Vice Chancellor Chanakya National Law University, Patna, India

Moderator: Prof. (Dr.) Saumya Uma, Professor & Director, Centre for Women's Rights, Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University, India

11.30 am – 1.30 pm **SESSION 1: COLONIAL HISTORIES & GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION**

- Paper 1: *The Patriarchal Pact in Pakistan's Family Laws* (Dr. Afiya S Zia, Pakistan)
- Paper 2: *Equality, Customary Laws and Women's Access to Justice - A Case study of Kebang System in Arunachal Pradesh* (Dr. Anjuman Ara Begum and Nargis Choudhury, India)
- Paper 3: *The Unspoken Strands: Sexuality, Identity, and the Family in South Asia* (Gautami Pradhan and Surabhi Kumari, India)

Discussant: Dr. Saumya Saxena, Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School, India
Moderator: Dr. Stellina Jolly, Associate Professor (SG) South Asian University, India

1.30-2.00 pm

LUNCH

2.00-4.00 pm SESSION 2: GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION

- Paper 1: *Exploring the legal challenges to reform of Hindu Divorce Law in Bangladesh* (Manisha Biswas and Fahad Bin Siddique, Bangladesh)
- Paper 2: *Daughter's right to get partition from parental property vs. Newa Civilization in Nepal* (Laxmi Bakhadyo, Nepal)
- Paper 3: *Negotiating Gender Dynamics in Meghalaya: An Analysis of the Khasi Lineage Bill, 2018 and Matrilineal Inheritance Practices* (Niharika Saikia, India)
- Paper 4: *Balancing Minority Rights and Gender Equality: The case of Hindu women's inheritance rights in Bangladesh* (Dr. Sharin Shajahan, Bangladesh)
- Paper 5: *Legal Issues Pertaining to Scheduled Tribe Women in Rajasthan with Special Emphasis on Personal Law* (Heena Meena and Dr. Namita Jain, India)

Discussant: Maliha Zia Lari, Human Rights Lawyer & Associate Director - Legal Aid Society, Pakistan

Moderator: Surabhi Singh, Assistant Professor, School of Law, BML Munjal University, India

4.00 – 6.00 pm SESSION 3: GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION

pm

- Paper 1: *Balancing Culture and Law in Nepal: The Supreme Court's Stand on Polygamy and Triple Talaq* (Rupa Basnet, Nepal)
- Paper 2: *Unveiling Discriminatory Divorce Practices in Pakistan: A Review of Khula* (Seher Aftab and Ali Imtinan, Pakistan)
- Paper 3: *Unveiling Inequalities: This Disproportionate Impact of Discriminatory Provisions in Personal Laws on Minority Women in Pakistan* (Shabnaz Moswali Khan and Ali Ahmad, Pakistan)
- Paper 4: *Women's Right to Marital Property and its Compatibility with Pakistani Law and Practice* (Sameen Wasim, Maliha Zia, and Fatima Aamir, Pakistan)

Discussant: Dr. Mulki al-Sharmani, Associate Professor of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland and member of Musawah

Moderator: Shama Abbasi, Assistant Professor and Fellow, Centre for Women's Rights, Jindal Global Law School, India

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3—31 August 2024 (online)

Schedule for Day II, August 31

9.30 – 11.30 am SESSION 4: STRATEGIES & CHALLENGES

am

- Paper 1: *The evolving nature of the right to residence post Prabha Tyagi* (Arati Ranade, India)
- Paper 2: *A Step towards Marriage Equality: Redefining the Right to Marry as a Fundamental Right through the lens of International Law and Queer Rights in India* (Mahak Jain & Ishan Vijay Avadhanam, India)
- Paper 3: *Claiming Dower: Exploring Legal Battles and Gender Justice in Pakistan's Family Law* (Arshad Nawaz Khan, Pakistan)
- Paper 4: *Reimagining Gender Equity: Empowering Women through Inclusive Marriage Conditions in the Nikahnama of Pakistan* (Fatima Zahra A. Rehman & Fatima Aamir Wynn, Pakistan)
- Paper 5: *With all prejudice to 'wife' in the divorce court: A comparative analysis of judicial crafting of a wife's role behind the façade of gender-neutral divorce law in Sri Lanka* (Prof. (Dr) Rose Wijeyesekera, Sri Lanka)

Discussant: Adv. Pabitra Raut, Advocate Nepal Supreme Court

Moderator: Saumya Maheshwari, Assistant Professor, BML Munjal University

11.30 am – 1.30 pm SESSION 5: STRATEGIES & CHALLENGES

1.30 pm

- Paper 1: *Prospects of Developing the Legal Framework for Dissolution of Hindu Marriage in Bangladesh: A Critical Analysis* (Sarmin Akhtar & Mahmuda Eva, Bangladesh)
- Paper 2: *Plugging into Intersectional approaches to family law reforms: The Goa Case Study as a historico spatial minority with minorities* (Dr. Albertina De J.P. Almeida, India)
- Paper 3: *Transnational Advocacy Network in Governing Sharia in Bangladesh* (Dr. Anisur Rehman, Bangladesh)
- Paper 4: *Bridging Legal Gaps in the Special Marriage Act, 1954: Harmonizing Age Criteria for Gender Equality in Inter-Faith Marriages* (Meera Kaura Patel, India)
- Paper 5: *Muslim Women's Personal Law Reform Struggle* (Shreen Saroor & Aamir Faaiz, Sri Lanka)

Discussant: Prof. (Dr) Shehnaz Huda, Professor, Faculty of Law, Dhaka University, Bangladesh

Moderator: Sheetal Shinde, Research Scholar & Research Assistant, Centre for Women's Rights, Jindal Global Law School, India

1.30-2.00 pm

LUNCH

2.00-4.00 pm

SESSION 6: ACTORS & CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGES

- Paper 1: *The "Old" and the "New" in Supriyo: A Doctrinal Re-Examination of Article 14 in the Marriage Equality Case* (Kanav Narayan Sehgal, India)
- Paper 2: *Her Right, Her Property: A Comparative Feminist Critique Of Hindu Succession Laws In India And Nepal* (Dr. Aswathy Prakash G & Dr. Reshma Soman, India)
- Paper 3: *Gendered Families: A Case for Legal Recognition for Hijra Familial set-ups in Islamic Countries in South Asia* (Sanya Darakhshan Kishwar & Vasatika Saraswat, India)
- Paper 4: *Exploring Gender Discrimination in Kandyan Sinhalese Marriage and Inheritance Practices: An Analysis of Historical Customs, Colonial Codification, and Contemporary Legal Interpretations* (Danushika Abeyrathna, Sri Lanka)

Discussant: Prof

. (Dr.) Sarasu Ester Thomas, Professor & Faculty in charge –

Centre for Women and the Law, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, India

Moderator: Prakriti Malla, Research scholar, South Asian University, India

4.00 – 6.00 pm **CLOSING PANEL DISCUSSION**

Hyshyama Hamin, Campaign Manager - Global Campaign for Equality in Family Law
Sunil Babu Pant, First Openly Gay Member of Parliament of Nepal (2008-2012) and Founder of

the Blue Diamond Society, Nepal's first LGBTQ+ rights organization.

Adv. Rukhshanda Naz, Lawyer and Activist with the Pakistani women's movement

Moderator: Prof. (Dr) Rukmini Sen, Professor, School of Liberal Studies, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, India

6.00 – 6.10 pm **VOTE OF THANKS**

Prakriti Malla, Research scholar, South Asian University, India

Online registration link: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/21007ea3-08bf-4761-93fc-d03b41b519ff@40d8f8fd-7860-4297-a878-f9468115ad1b>