

Minutes of the consultation on 'The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences

Bill, 2011' on 21st May, 2011 at NLU Delhi

A meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of four National Law Universities: NALSAR, Hyderabad, NUJS, Calcutta, RMLNLU, Lucknow. and GNLU, Gandhinagar was convened by Prof. Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor of NLU Delhi. This initiative was taken in response to the request of Prof. Shanta Sinha, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights,. The following persons attended the meeting at NLU Delhi on 21st May, 2011.

Members present

- Prof. Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, NLU Delhi
- Prof. Shantha Sinha, Chairperson, NCPCR
- Prof. M. P. Singh, Vice-Chancellor, NUJS, Kolkata
- Prof. Veer Singh, Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR, Hyderabad
- Prof. Bimal N. Patel, Vice-Chancellor, GNLU, Gandhinagar
- Ms. Dipa Dixit, Member, NCPCR
- Mr. Vinod Tikoo, Member, NCPCR
- Mr. Lov Verma, Member Secretary, NCPCR
- Prof. Babu Mathew, NLU Delhi
- Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Registrar, NLU Delhi
- Mr. Mukul Raizada, NLU Delhi
- Mr. K. A. Pandey, RMLNLU, Lucknow
- Ms. Shachi Singh, RMLNLU, Lucknow
- Ms. Ruchira Goswami, NUJS, Kolkata
- Mr. Dharmesh Patel, GNLU, Gandhinagar

The following decisions were taken in the meeting.

1. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Prof. Ranbir Singh and Prof. Shanta Sinha.
2. The meeting primarily discussed the Bill relating to The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill, 2011 introduced in the Rajya Sabha in March, 2011. A brief comparison of the Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha with the Bill drafted by the NCPCR through six comparative tables was also made and a related text was circulated to all members present. It was agreed that this format will be used for the regional consultations especially in order to collate the feedback and suggestions in a systematic and classified manner.

3. Mr. Mukul Raizada, faculty National Law University Delhi made a brief presentation on the Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha. This was followed by brief responses to the presentation by the three Vice-Chancellors and other participants who were present.
4. Since the primary purpose of the meeting was to finalise the modalities of final consultation process, the meeting proceeded to finalise the regional consultations as follows:

Regional Consultation at GNLU, Gandhinagar	3 rd June, 2011
Regional Consultation at NALSAR, Hyderabad	7 th June, 2011
Regional Consultation at RMNLU, Lucknow	10 th June, 2011
Regional Consultation at NUJS, Kolkatta	12 th June, 2011 (to be confirmed)
National Consultation at NLU, Delhi	13-14 th June, 2011

5. The Vice-Chancellor, NLU Delhi undertook to provide Comparative laws on the subject from ten countries in both soft and hard copy within a week.
6. It was suggested that during the regional consultations, all efforts must be made to draw expertise from State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, related Government officials, Child Rights activists, practitioners, academicians and judges with the relevant experience. NCPCR also agreed to furnish a list of experts and civil society members from among whom regional consultation could invite persons as desired.
7. NCPCR agreed to meet travel costs and food costs (subject to the condition that travel is undertaken only through Air India). The member Secretary NCPCR would send a more elaborate communication to the organizers of all the consultations.
8. The host National Law Universities would take care of the local accommodation for participants of the regional consultations.
9. Despite the shortage of time, all members present agreed to conduct programmes as indicated above, especially in order to make relevant recommendations to the select committee which was expected to complete its work before 15th June, 2011. It was, therefore, agreed that experts should begin to give their feed back to the select committee at the earliest.

Prof. Ranbir Singh concluded the meeting while undertaking to organize the National level consultation on 13th and 14th of June, 2011 and requested for the co-operation of all concerned in order to make useful contribution for the protection of child rights.

Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao
Registrar, NLU Delhi