



MARCH FOR WOMEN 2.0

WOMEN AT WORK

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
WOMEN IN THE UNORGANISED SECTOR

organised by

Centre for Women and Child Rights,
Gujarat National Law University

in collaboration with

Gender Resource Centre,
Department of Women and Child Development,
Government of Gujarat

7TH - 8TH MARCH, 2026



ABOUT THE CENTRE

The **GNLU Centre for Women and Child Rights (CWCR)** is a Centre of Excellence under Gujarat National Law University dedicated to research, policy engagement, and advocacy on women's and children's rights. The Centre works at the intersection of law, governance, and social justice through research, institutional partnerships, and student-led initiatives.

CWCR previously partnered with Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR); and is currently partners with Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of Gujarat and the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat; and the Gender Resource Centre, Government of Gujarat. It provides research support, policy inputs, and consultation papers to public institutions.

A key feature of the Centre is its student-led research. It has conducted focused work on the implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. Ongoing projects include a practice-oriented Handbook on Internal Committees in Universities and research on access to identity documentation and education within the sex work economy.

The Centre also undertakes advocacy initiatives. In 2023, it submitted a representation to the Union Health Ministry recommending inclusion of the HPV vaccine in the Universal Immunization Programme, which was formally acknowledged.

CWCR has contributed to UN processes through OHCHR submissions on child sexual exploitation in street situations, later cited in a UN Secretary-General's note.

ABOUT THE GRC

Gender Resource Centre (GRC), established in March 2004, is promoted by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat to provide support for incorporating gender equity and equality in overall development process and plans of the State. GRC is a Society registered under Societies Registration Act 1860 and Bombay Public Trust Act 1950.

GRC recognizes that women's inequality manifests itself in many forms such as gender discrimination in terms of declining male-female sex ratio, Social stereotyping, Gender based violence at home and at work, Low level of education, health and nutritional status, limited access to resources, etc.

GRC co-ordinates efforts of different sections of society and the government to make a noticeable difference to women's lives in the state and to serve as a nodal agency for all gender related initiatives in the state. GRC attempts to develop and make available the resources at a single place to share them across organizations in order to make their efforts in the sector more streamlined, efficient and effective. GRC aims to sensitize and facilitate Government Departments, NGOs, Academic Institutions, International agencies and Independent experts in planning, implementing and evaluating gender sensitive programs, policies, laws and schemes.

ABOUT THE PREVIOUS CONFERENCES

RTE CONCLAVE, 2022

With over a decade since the RTE Act was enacted in India, new issues have emerged in its interface with society and its evolution in the current context. The RTE Conclave 2022, in collaboration with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the Government of India, and Indus Action, was a first-of-a-kind conference that brought together academicians, students, practitioners, activists, and policymakers to work towards the effective implementation of the RTE Act, both in essence and spirit.

RTE CONCLAVE, 2024

RTE Conclave 2.0 envisaged to create a platform to develop sustainable relationships between stakeholders in the legal fraternity to collaborate on developing better clinical interventions towards advancing the cause of right to education in India.

By bringing together a diverse array of stakeholders including academicians, legal practitioners, policymakers, faculty and student convenors of university-led legal aid clinics and research centres, youth-led non-profit organisations, student researchers, this Conclave delved into creating a platform for relationship building among various stakeholders to promote collaborative research, clinical interventions and policy interventions in the field of right to education in India.

PREVIOUS NOTABLE DIGNITARIES



Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani

Former Minister,
Ministry of Women And Child Development &
Ministry of Minority Affairs,
Govt. of India
(online presence)



Sh. Priyank Kanoongo

Member of the National Commission for
Protection of Child Rights
Former Chairperson,
National commission for protection of child
rights (NCPCR), Govt. of India



Dr. Mahesh Kumar Iswarlal Joshi

Director,
Directorate of Primary Education,
Education Department, Government of
Gujarat



Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Juneja

Professor (Retd.),
National University of Educational Planning
and Administration (NUEPA)



Ms. Seema Bansal

Vice Chairperson,
Punjab Development Commission,
Government of Punjab



Mr. Ashok Agarwal

Senior Advocate,
Supreme Court of India



Prof. Ankur Sarin

Professor,
Indian Institute of Management,
Ahmedabad

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The **Women at Work: 2-Day International Conference** invites academicians, social activists, professionals, practitioners, and paralegal workers from the community to facilitate fruitful discussions and gain perspective from women working in the unorganised sector. Participants will collaboratively partake in panel briefs, build a shared analytical frame that foregrounds caste, care, migration, and the platformisation of work, and forge durable alliances among academics, advocates, funders, and civic bodies to carry these reforms forward beyond the event. This Conference has three broad themes- ***Workplace Safety for Women, Sex Work and Domestic Housework.***

Building upon the Centre's continued engagement with questions of gender justice, labour rights, and social protection, the Women at Work Conference is envisioned as a dynamic platform for robust intellectual exchange and collaborative problem-solving.

What distinguishes this conference is its emphasis on creating a participatory experience. Alongside formal sessions, participants will engage in policy presentations, moderated discussions, and informal interactions that encourage cross-sectoral learning. Through presentations by diverse stakeholders and sustained engagement across sessions, the conference aims to facilitate deeper reflection on structural inequalities and implementation challenges.

Conference shall comprise of:



PANEL DISCUSSION



**POLICY DRAFTING
COMPETITION**

PANEL DISCUSSION

Making Workspaces Inclusive

(Equal Pay; Violence and harassment at work; Maternity Protection and Menstrual Leave).



Dr. Onkar Sharma

Former Chief Labour
Commissioner of India



Dr. Prarthna Agarwal Goel

Associate Professor,
Delhi School of Economics



Dr. Balwinder Kaur

Associate Professor of Law,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law
University



Deepali Atul Deokar

Founder and Director,
Exploring Womanhood
Foundation, India



Subha Nivedha

Advocate, Bombay High Court
Founder, My Story as a (Wo)Man



Adv Shivangi Prasad

Founder and Managing Director,
The Legal Swan



Atri Prasad Rout

Independent Researcher



**Soumya S
Moderator**

Legal Analyst,
Koan Advisory Group



**Abhayaditya Singh
Moderator**

Legal Practitioner

PANEL DISCUSSION

Domestic Housework

(Paid and Unpaid Care; Placement Agencies; Wage Theft; Migration)



Dr. Onkar Sharma

Former Chief Labour
Commissioner of India



Dr. Sophy KJ

Associate Professor of Law,
National Law University Delhi



Dr. Jharna Pathak

Director Incharge,
Gujarat Institute of Development
Research



Prof Neetha N.

Professor
Centre for Women's Development Studies



**Mrudula
Vanangamudi**

Advocate,
Alternative Law Forum



Vrishti Shami

Former Research Consultant
Centre for Research and Planning,
Supreme Court of India



**Representative from
GNLU Housekeeping
Staff**



**Soumya S
Moderator**

Legal Analyst,
Koan Advisory Group



**Hunar Malik
Moderator**

Program Director,
Association for Parivartan of Nation

PANEL DISCUSSION

Sex Work

(Decriminalisation; Trafficking Conflations; Health and Safety; Welfare Access)



Prof. Sibnath Deb

Dean, School of Physical, Chemical
and Applied Sciences, Head of the
Department of Applied Psychology
Pondicherry University



Dr. Tejaswi Sevekari

Executive Director,
Saheli Sangh



Mansi Behen

Janta Foundation



Syeda Saba

Advocate,
Alternative Law Forum



Poorna Ravishankar

Advocate,
Alternative Law Forum



Hunar Mallik
Moderator

Program Director,
Association for Parivartan of Nation



Abhayaditya Singh

Moderator

Legal Practitioner

MORE TO COME...

POLICY DRAFTING COMPETITION

in collaboration with



MIGRATION & ASYLUM PROJECT

An Initiative of The Ara Trust

The Policy Drafting Competition, organised as part of the **Women at Work: International Conference at Gujarat National Law University (7-8 March 2026)**, invited students, researchers, academics, and professionals from across India to critically engage with contemporary issues affecting women in formal and informal workspaces through policy-oriented solutions. The competition encourages participants to move beyond doctrinal analysis and develop implementable, evidence-based policy interventions.

Participants will be submitted policy drafts on themes including:

- Making workplaces safer for women
- Domestic housework
- Sex work

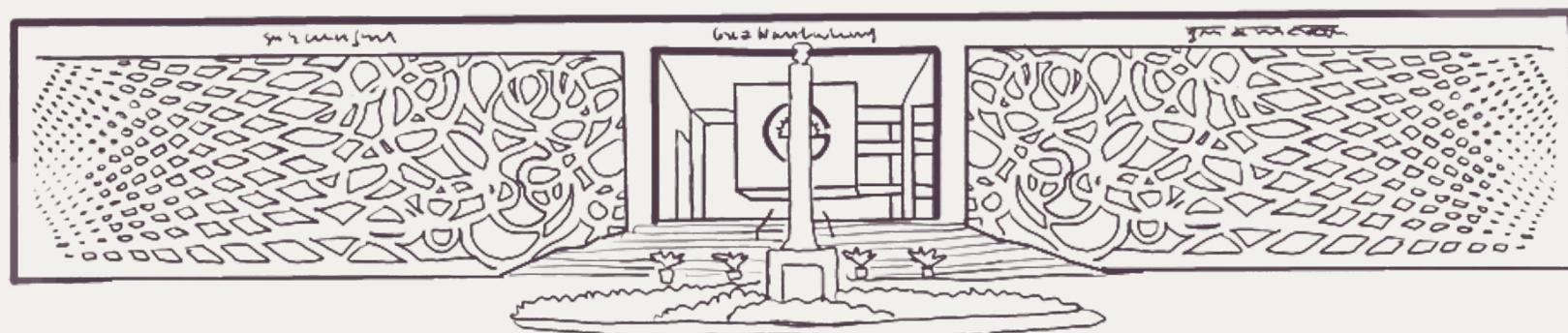
The competition will be conducted in three stages, culminating in final presentations before an expert judge panel. The Each winning team in every category will receive a cash prize of ₹20,000 along with an opportunity to intern with **Migration & Asylum Project (MAP)**, India's first dedicated law centre for forced migration and displacement.



₹60,000
Prize pool



Opportunity to intern
with **Migration &
Asylum Project (MAP)**



TENTATIVE ITINERARY

DAY 1: 7TH MARCH, SATURDAY

9:30-10:30 AM	Opening Ceremony
11:00-12:30 PM	Panel Discussion on Making Workspace Inclusive (Equal Pay; Violence and Harassment at work; Gender and non-discrimination; Maternity Protection and Menstrual Leave)
1:00-2:30 PM	Lunch
2:30-4:00 PM	Policy Paper Presentation
4:00-4:30 PM	High Tea
4:30-6:00 PM	Cultural Event

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

DAY 2: 8TH MARCH, SUNDAY

10:30-11:30 AM	Panel Discussion on Domestic housework (Paid and Unpaid care; Placement Agencies; Wage theft; migration)
11:30-1:00 PM	Policy Paper Presentation
1:00-2:30 PM	Lunch
2:30-4:00 PM	Panel Discussion Sex work (Decriminalisation Debates; Trafficking Conflations; Health and Safety; Welfare Access)
4:00-4:30 PM	High Tea
4:30-6:00 PM	Closing Ceremony Session

HOW TO ATTEND?

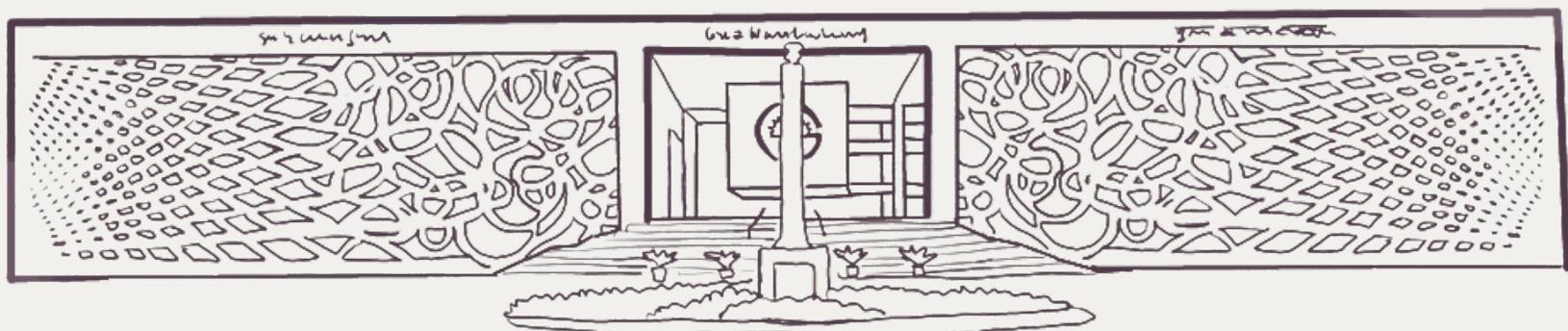
- Please note that the **Conference Attendee Fee** is Rs.1000/- which includes two meals (Lunch and High Tea) and a Certificate of Participation at the Conference.
- Please deposit the fee using this Link: [1000 rs per attendee](#).
- After payment, you are required to fill out the [Google Form](#) for Registration to complete the registration process.
- Travel and lodging are not included in the registration fee.
- You will receive an email with the Entry Pass for the Conference by 6th March, 2026.



PLEASE SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR THE REGISTRATION FORM.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

- This conference is aimed at students, educators, researchers, academicians, lawyers and practitioners in gender justice and labour spaces.
- The conference will allow attendees to gain access to Panel Discussion Sessions and engage in policy draft presentations across various themes under the interface of women in the informal sector economy.



ABOUT GANDHINAGAR

Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat, is situated at about 23 kms from Ahmedabad and falls within the Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor. Located on the banks of river Sabarmati, the city is unique because of its planned structure and layout wherein the sectors are labelled as per the Gujarati alphabets. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City also called GIFT City, is the central business district in Gandhinagar as a suburb city. It's world class infrastructure makes it a great place to visit while staying at Gandhinagar.

HOW TO REACH GNLU

Ahmedabad offers different modes of travel including metro, bus, auto and taxis. The distance of the GNLU Campus from various transport depots is:

- From Airport: 14 km (25 to 30 minutes)
- From Ahmedabad Railway Station: 20.9 km (40 minutes)
- From Ahmedabad Bus Depot: 24.5 km (45 minutes)
- From Ahmedabad City: 25 km (40 minutes)



SCAN THIS FOR GOOGLE MAPS
DIRECTION TO GNLU

Ola/Uber/Rapido Cab services are available for travel.

TRAVEL ATTRACTIONS — GUJARAT

- Sabarmati Ashram (Ahmedabad)
- Adalaj Step Well (Ahmedabad)
- Indroda Park (Gandhinagar)
- Lal Darwaza (Ahmedabad)
- Akshardham Temple (Gandhinagar)
- Somnath Temple (Somnath)
- Statue of Unity (Kevadia)
- Kankaria Lake (Ahmedabad)
- Rani ki Vav (Patan)
- Gir National Park (Junagadh)
- Mahatma Mandir (Gandhinagar)

PATRONS



PROF. (DR.) S. SHANTHAKUMAR
DIRECTOR, GUJARAT
NATIONAL LAW
UNIVERSITY



DR. NITIN MALIK
REGISTRAR, GUJARAT
NATIONAL LAW
UNIVERSITY



SHRI RAKESH SHANKAR IAS
SECRETARY, WOMEN AND CHILD
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT



MS. AMI PATEL
DIRECTOR-GENDER RESOURCE
CENTER, DEPARTMENT OF
WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT

FACULTY



DR. ASHA VERMA
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
LAW GNLU, HEAD OF
CENTRE, GCWCR



MS. SUDHANSHI SIKARWAR
TEACHING AND RESEARCH
ASSOCIATE (LAW), GNLU
CONCLAVE COORDINATOR

STUDENT COORDINATORS



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STUDENT CONVENOR, GCWCR



MS. SAKSHI JAIN
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