



**Dr. A.T. Markose Chair on Advanced Legal Studies
Government Law College, Thrissur**

TWO DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

On

**Women's Rights
Issues and Challenges**

8th & 9th November, 2017

Venue

MOOT COURT HALL, GOVT. LAW COLLEGE, THRISSUR

ABOUT THE SEMINAR:

Right to live in a peaceful and secure environment has been recognized as fundamental to human being. Without this, the development of just, equitable and healthy society cannot take place. Social structures, cultural norms and value systems influence social expectations regarding the behavior of both men and women and determines women's role and their position in society to a great extent. Oppressions within the family and also outside the family are the main reasons which led to lowering the status of women in the society. This restricts the women in all areas of social life and their access to resources, services and activities.

Tendencies for committing violence, atrocities and injustices against women generally have social, cultural & psychological aspects. They have deep rooted causes such as false sense of superiority of men over women, lack of trust, greed for money, growing consumerism etc. This aggravated many socio – economic problems like gender discrimination, dowry, and associated crimes like sexual assault, harassment, rape etc. Advancement in technology has also brought about new forms of injustices against women such as cyber stalking, dangers of pornography and invasion of privacy and dignity etc.

Although discrimination against women is a global problem, it is yet to be properly addressed as a human rights issue. Moreover, some groups of women face compounded forms of discrimination due to factors like age, ethnicity, religion & socio-economic status in addition to their gender. Lack of social and economic security has aggravated their vulnerability to violence and discrimination. At the same time, the lack of access to political power, to organize, to express opinions freely, and inability in access to justice are also been major obstacles in achieving social justice.

The principle of gender equality is also enshrined in the Constitution of India. It not only grants equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women for neutralizing the cumulative socio-economic, education and political disadvantages faced by them. India also ratified various International Conventions & human rights instruments to secure equal rights of women. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) affirms all rights and fundamental freedoms equally to both men and women. The U.N Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) observes that discrimination against women is a negation of principles of equality and respect for human dignity. As signatory to these instruments, India is bound to take all necessary measures to prevent and combat violence against women.

To ensure women's human rights, a comprehensive understanding of the social structures and power relations that frames not only laws but also the economy, social dynamics, family and community life are to be evaluated. Even the best legislation cannot stand on its own, the existing statutory and customary laws should be reviewed in their entirety to resolve

contradictions and fill loopholes. Effective implementations like educational and sensitization work in the community, a functional judiciary and law enforcement system, and adequate training of law enforcement officials are incumbent in treating and handling of survivors of violence.

In this backdrop, Dr. A. T. Markose Chair on Advanced Legal Studies, Government Law College, Thrissur is conducting Two Day National Seminar on “Women’s Rights –Issues & Challenges” on November 8th & 9th, 2017.

We welcome enlightened participants from various fields including academicians, law faculties, law students, women activists, members of NGO’s, and all those interested in women issues.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Papers are invited from interested academicians, practitioners, faculties, research scholars and law students to share their intellectual reflections on the above mentioned theme and related areas on the sub – themes mentioned below.

SUB – THEMES:

1. Gender Discrimination : Root cause

Gender Inequality & Women’s Rights ; Socio – economic Factors; Gender based violence & discrimination; Implications of gender bias; Achieving Gender Equality etc.

2. Violence against women : A hardcore reality

Rape; Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Women in work places; Domestic violence & Honour based violence; Dowry Death; Trafficking; Forced Prostitution; Female Feoticide; Violence against Indigenous Women etc.

3. Technological Advancement & Women Rights

Cyber Space and Women; Reproductive Technologies and Rights of Women; Embryo Ethics and Stem Cell Research; Surrogacy, Illegal Abortions etc.

4. Role of Law in Protecting Women Rights

Women and Labour Laws; Women’s Rights and Personal Law- Maintenance, inheritance; Women’s Rights and the Proposed Uniform Civil Code; Laws preventing Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, Indecent Representation of Women etc.

5. Role of Judiciary in Protecting Women Rights

Access to Justice and Women’s Rights; Judiciary and Gender Equality; Judicial Activism and Women empowerment; Role of Supreme Court in interpreting International instruments for Women empowerment; Role of Supreme Court in Protecting Victims of Crimes etc.

