

The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority (Sikkim SLSA) organized a “***Training of Trainers Programme for Panel Advocates***” on ***5th September, 2023 (Tuesday)*** at the Conference Hall of Sikkim SLSA, Development Area, Gangtok and a “***Sensitization Programme for the Internal Complaint Committees and Local Complaint Committees***” of the Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings on ***6th September, 2023 (Wednesday)*** at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok on ***Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013***.

The programmes were conducted in pursuance to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 12.05.2023 passed in ***Civil Appeal No. 2482 of 2014 titled Aureliano Fernandes Vs. State of Goa and Ors.*** and under the directions of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim & Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA as informed by Ms. Subarna Rai, Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA in her welcome address.

It was also informed that the training of trainers programme was conducted for the Panel Advocates of Sikkim SLSA and after their training, they would be conducting awareness programmes and workshops in schools, colleges and various offices of Sikkim.

The Resource Persons for the programme, Ms. Nitya Sriram Srinivasan and Ms. Varuna Singh from the Martha Farrell Foundation, New Delhi were introduced and a brief background on the Foundation and its work on gender justice was delineated.

They outlined the history behind the Act during the working sessions and interactions took place based on the audio-visual programmes. The definition of sexual harassment at workplace were deliberated upon and case studies were elaborately discussed to help the members of the Committee understand their role and responsibilities, along with penalties under the Act were also highlighted.

The programme on 5th September, 2023 was attended by the Panel Advocates of Sikkim SLSA and on 6th September, 2023, the programme saw the participation of Presiding Officers and Members of the Internal Complaint Committees of 48 departments and offices including the Registry of the Hon'ble High Court of Sikkim, Sikkim SLSA, District Courts and pharmaceutical companies and Local Complaint Committees from all the districts.