

GSCASH

Gender Sensitization committee against sexual harassment

GSCASH IS ORGANISING A DAYLONG SEMINAR ON '*SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN ACADEMIC PLACES: SOCIO-CULTURAL, LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES*' ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2009 IN 203 COMMITTEE ROOMS , 10 AM ONWARDS. ALL OF YOU ARE REQUESTED TO JOIN IN LARGE NUMBERS.

Friends,

Yet another tenure of the GSCASH is coming to an end and several issues related to gender and sexual harassment need to be addressed and discussed on our campus , where there has been a constant demand and a need to take up issues related to gender at campus level or at the national level , we have witnessed the emergence of laws such as the Act against Domestic Violence being passed due to the pressure by the women's movement or the recent judgment of the Delhi high court on homosexuality and IPC 377. This most certainly takes the women's movement to the next level. In this regard it is all the more necessary that we discuss and debate on these issues as well as GSCASH which is a result of the prolonged struggle by the JNU student community, it came into existence on 8, March 1999 on the guideline issued by the Supreme Court in Vishakha vs. state of Rajasthan case to deal with Sexual harassment. The establishment of GSCASH is no doubt an achievement and also being the first such committee in South Asia its significance and relevance lies in the fact that recently on 14, May 2009 a judgment on laying down guidelines on sexual harassment by High Court in Bangladesh followed the pattern of the GSCASH JNU! As many of you might be aware already that this committee against sexual harassment addresses complaints related to sexual harassment and also includes the essential task of working towards gender sensitization. As a student representative to this committee for nearly two years now my experiences in GSCASH include many cases of sexual harassment that came to GSCASH , the nature of these cases have mainly been in the form of domestic violence (within relationships) , eve teasing and character assassination. In cases where there is a hierarchical relation between the complainant and the defendant it is all the more important that support be provided to the complainant for whom it anyways takes a lot of courage to come forward and lodge a complaint in the GSCASH. The campus also witnessed many debates related to the rules and procedure of GSCASH, which are the most essential element in the functioning of such a committee, the most obvious rule which is violated in almost all the enquiries that take place is that an enquiry should be completed within the time span of three months . The difficulties faced by the committee are many which make it difficult for rules to be adhered to completely, therefore it is our collective responsibility as a student community to question and ensure effective functioning of these rules and procedures. In the light of these issues as well as the topic of the seminar , it is important for the student community to be a part of the day long seminar and attend it in large numbers to strengthen the institution of GSCASH and its functioning.

Sd -/ Akanksha Kumar students representative to GSCASH.