

Marathwada Mitra Mandal's



Shankarrao Chavan Law College, Pune 411004

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Equal Opportunity Cell REPORT 2023 -2024

Barrier-free, Inclusive and Diverse Environment

The Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) of the college is committed to fostering an environment that embraces equality and supports the varied needs of our student body. The EOC diligently organizes a range of activities throughout the academic year. These initiatives are designed to promote inclusivity, address disparities, and create a campus culture where every individual feels valued and empowered. From awareness campaigns, guest lectures, seminar and workshops to mentorship programs and events, the EOC endeavours to ensure that every student has equal access to opportunities, regardless of their background.

Following are the various activities organised by EOC in the academic year 2023- 2024 so as to celebrate diversity, breaking barriers, and building a community that thrives on the principles of equity and respect.

On 4th June, 2023 at 5:00 PM, the rally took place along the route from Chhatrapati Sambhaji Garden on JM Road to Deccan Bus Stand, passing through Good Luck Chowk, FC Road, Shirole Road, and ended at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Garden. The Pride Parade this year was organised by Yutak Charitable Trust with support from Bindu Madhav Khire, founder of Sampathik Trust Bindu Queer Rights Foundation.

It was a traditional pride parade. The theme of this year's pride walk was '**Queers Call Employment for All**', focusing on LGBTQIA+ diversity and inclusion at the workplace.

The purpose of participating in Pride Parade enables law students to contribute to the advancement of LGBTQIA+ rights, deepen their legal knowledge, and engage with diverse communities, all while promoting inclusivity and equality within the legal profession.

Pune boasts a robust educational landscape with 11 universities and over 1000 educational institutions. Among these, Marathwada Mitra Mandal Shankarrao Chavan Law College stands out as the only institution to participate in the event with Professor Dr. Renu Naidu, Assistant Professor and Chairperson of the Equal Opportunity Cell, leading the charge alongside 15 dedicated student volunteers of B.A. LLB. Our College's Equal Opportunity Cell embodies the spirit of a supportive ally, advocating for the rights of LGBTQIA+ community members.





Our EOC Volunteer students



Times of India Newspaper coverage



Our student volunteers participated in Pune Pride Parade - 4th June, 2023

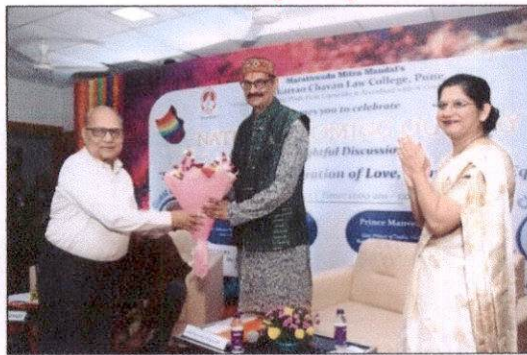
On October 7, 2023, Marathwada Mitra Mandal Shankarrao Chavan Law College's Equal Opportunity Cell orchestrated a vibrant celebration in honour of **National Coming Out Day**. The event, aptly named **"Radiant Revelations: A Celebration of Love, Identity, and Equality,"** gathered a distinguished audience, including notable figures like **Supreme Court Advocate Anand Grover** and **India's first openly gay Prince, Manvendra Singh Gohil**. The purpose was to commemorate and advocate for love, individuality, and equal rights. And also to promote acceptance, support, and empowerment for LGBTQIA+ individuals within the legal community, contributing to a more inclusive and equitable profession. The event included a question-and-answer session, with Advocate Anand Grover and Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil engaging in discussions about love, handling hatred, privacy in



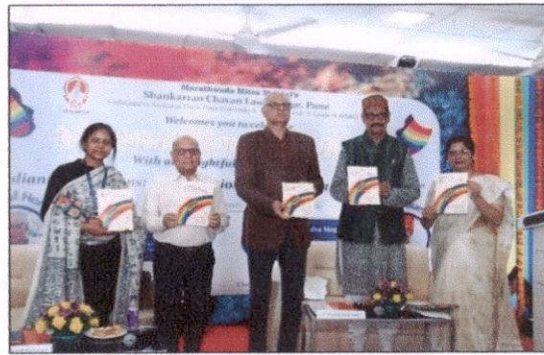
discovering one's sexuality, and the power of harmonious discussions in shaping progressive legislation. Diligent allies were felicitated for their contributions to the LGBTQIA+ community.

The event concluded with a fusion performance of Kathak and Bharatnatyam by student volunteers, depicting the poignant story of a daughter's coming out to her mother. Researchers contributing to the book 'Alternative Sexualities In India: History, Law, and Literature' were also honored. The memorable moments were captured in a photo session, marking the successful culmination of the "Radiant Revelations" event—a powerful testament to the importance of love, identity, and equality, acknowledging those dedicated to advancing LGBTQIA+ rights in India. Around 120 students of B.A.LL.B/ LLB/ LLM attended the program.

Glimpses of the National Coming Out Day - 7th October, 2023



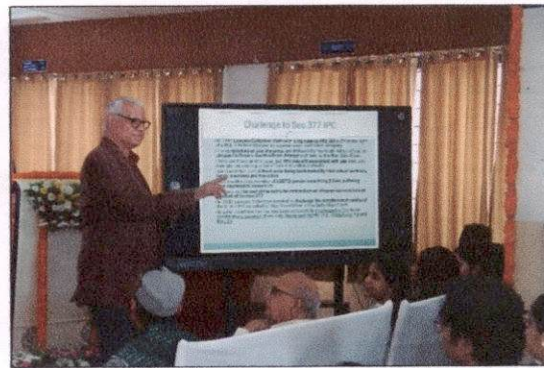
Executive President B.G Jadhav felicitating Prince Manvendra Gohil



Book release "Alternative Sexualities In India: History, Law, and Literature"



Principal Dr. Kranti Deshmukh felicitating Supreme Court Sr. Adv. Anand Grover



Sr. Adv. Anand Grover, Supreme Court of India during the session





Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil felicitating Ms. Damini Sinha, Transwoman working as a Software Engineer and public speaker



Cultural performance by B.A.LLB 4th yr students



Ms. Pooja Baghel and Dr. Renu Naidu were honored by Lakshya Trust, Gujarat for their exemplary allyship, commitment and remarkable contributions towards building a more diverse and inclusive learning environment



Students and invited guests at the event

College's Equal Opportunity Cell initiated the 3rd edition of our highly successful Certificate Course on Law and Alternative Sexualities from 25th August, 2023- 2nd December, 2023. The previous two editions of this course have received an overwhelming response from students, professionals, and researchers. It has significantly contributed to educating participants on the history, socio-legal, medical, and mental health aspects relevant to the LGBTQIA+ community. The course has garnered praise from participants, legal professionals, and activists, highlighting its significance in bridging the knowledge gap in this field.

This course helps enhance participants' employability, as there is a growing demand for professionals in NGOs and support groups working towards lesbian, gay, and transgender



rights. Moreover, government organizations have also recognized the necessity of acknowledging and promoting the recognition of LGBTQIA+ rights, further emphasizing the importance of this course.

There were 17 speakers who took different sessions and who were expert in their own professional fields. Also, there were 20 participants who registered for this course from all over India from varied professional background. The course compilation provided a comprehensive insight into the diverse content, speakers, and discussions, offering a snapshot of the rich and varied perspectives shared during the program.



Dr. Aqsa Sheikh, first Transgender Doctor, Associate Professor of Community Medicine at Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Delhi



Aditi Anand and Susan Dias, Lesbian Couple and Same Sex Marriage Equality Petitioners



Rahul Upadhayay, Deputy Manager in the Alumni Relations Office at Ashoka University



Parmesh Shahani, Author, Public Speaker, Culture Curator, TED speaker, LGBT+ DEI Head Godrej India



Cmdr. Dr. Sanay Sharma- CEO ATHI with Ms. Aruna Desai- Sweekar Rainbow Parents



Participants during the group presentation





Ziya and Zahad Paval- India's first transgender couple who became parents to their biological child



Abhay Dang and Supriyo Chakraborty- Gay Couple, Same Sex Marriage Equality Petitioners

Few images from the sessions held in the 3rd Edition of the Certificate Course on "Law and Alternative Sexualities"

The certificate course, 'Law and Alternative Sexualities,' has received significant recognition and acclaim. On 17th June, 2023 the esteemed C20 Samajshala, a G20 Initiative, has honoured our college's professors Dr. Renu Naidu and Ms. Pooja Baghel for pioneering this ground-breaking course. This recognition serves as a testament to the impactful work we are doing to create a more inclusive society and empower individuals through socio-legal education.



Pune Police DCP Sandeep Gill felicitated Dr. Renu Naidu and Ms. Pooja Baghel at C20 Samajshala, a G20 Initiative event organised in Pune





**Ms. Pooja Baghel, Assistant Professor of Law,
Placement Cell Coordinator, Program Coordinator
Equal Opportunity Cell**

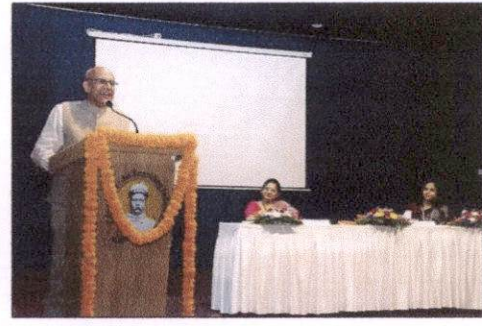


**Dr. Renu Naidu, Assistant Professor of
Sociology, Chairperson, Equal Opportunity Cell**

On 9th December, 2023 and expert discourse was organised by Equal Opportunity Cell in collaboration with Human Rights Cell. In the lecture titled "**The Tapestry of Justice: Recent Supreme Court Judgements Weaving the Fabric of Human Rights in India,**" by **Dr. Colin Gonsalves, a leading human rights activist, Senior Advocate Supreme Court of India** shared key insights on significant case laws. focusing on critical legal issues while preserving Dr. Gonsalves' distinctive style and perspectives.

In the expert discourse, Dr. Gonsalves highlighted several key points. Firstly, he underscored the efforts of the Human Rights Law Network in addressing the right to food and combating malnutrition, emphasizing the provision of subsidized food grains to the impoverished. Secondly, he discussed the significance of practical legal education, using the Chardham Case to illustrate the need for on-the-ground comprehension of climate change issues. Thirdly, he addressed contemporary challenges surrounding sedition and freedom of speech, mentioning activist arrests and ongoing legal cases. Fourthly, Dr. Gonsalves shed light on environmental and tribal rights issues in India, emphasizing legislative frameworks and vulnerabilities to industrial encroachment. Additionally, he emphasized essential qualities for legal professionals, including candor, fearlessness, and a dynamic approach. Finally, the discourse touched on the global context of the right to marry and the role of legal education in shaping informed opinions and societal betterment.





Felicitation of the Guest of Honour Dr. Colin Gonsalves



Dr. Colin Gonsalves with Executive President Prin. B.G Jadhav, Principal Dr. Kranti Deshmukh, HRC and EOC team members and invited guests

Special recognition was extended to students who were engaged in internships at Mitr Clinic, Pune's pioneering transgender healthcare unit.

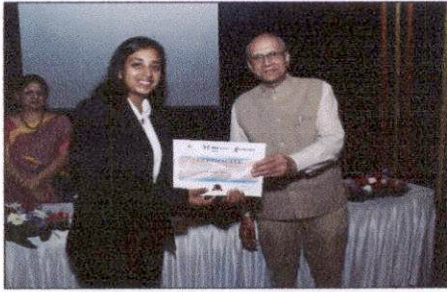


Janhvi Bhandarkar, B.A. LLB, 2nd Yr student



Bhavana Rajendran, B.A. LLB, 2nd Yr student





Pranjal Kakani, B.A. LLB, 4th Yr student



Piyush Shetti, B.A. LLB, 2nd Yr student



Saanvi Sai, B.A. LLB, 4th Yr student



Our student interns with Dr. Kanchan Pawar and other staff members of Mitr Clinic, The First Transgender Clinic in India



Students attending the orientation session with Counsellor at the Mitr Clinic, Pune



Social Media links for Equal Opportunity Cell

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/111273718104868/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/eocmmscl/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/equal-opportunity-cell-marathwada-mitra-mandal-s-shankarrao-chavan-law-college-pune>

Telegram: <https://t.me/eocmmscl>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/mmscl_eoc?s=11



Our Equal Opportunity Cell's events got media coverage:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/professionals-and-students-extend-their-hands-in-alliance/articleshow/91095708.cms>

<https://epaper.hindustantimes.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=11251466674&imageview=0>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/events/pune/pune-celebrates-love-as-pride-march-comes-back-after-2-years/articleshow/92056323.cms>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02hZsuDj4a9k5n26ZyQPqUz2rdGZNakFBFLpXLtd4EKTUu6kJZYXoz16aXLnKVTcKl&id=161818860541437&sfnsn=wiwspwa

https://www.instagram.com/p/CZ1z3rFPjMf/?utm_medium=copy_link


<https://punemirror.com/pune/others/shankarrao-chavan-law-college-s-national-coming-out-day-celebration-shines-spotlight-on-love-identity-and-equality/cid1697090058.htm>

<https://x.com/lawbarandbench/status/1710525956971266518?t=BdWusFWUJrwe9fDAETcNw&s=08>



Dr. Renu Naidu

**Assistant Professor
Chairperson Equal Opportunity Cell
MMSCLC, Pune**



Dr. Kranti Deshmukh

**Principal
MMSCLC, Pune**

