
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN

LEGAL AID SOCIETY, NUJS & DISHA

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) entered on 8th February, 2022
establishes the guidelines for collaboration between:

**Legal Aid Society, The West Bengal National University of Juridical
Sciences**

&

The Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action (DISHA)



Smt. Smita Sen
21.03.23
Registrar (Academy)
The West Bengal National
University of Juridical Sciences
Kolkata - 700105

1. INTRODUCTION

The Legal Aid Society (hereinafter referred to as LAS) of The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (hereinafter referred to as NUJS) is committed to providing access to free legal aid and instilling legal awareness in people pan-India. Since its inception, the LAS has undertaken specialised projects and collaborative pro-bono initiatives to assist the disadvantaged and the underprivileged who are the victims of the institutionalised inequality and systemic corruption. The unfailing commitment of the LAS to support the marginalised sections by empowering them to seek legal remedy, evinces an attempt to dismantle the pervasiveness of the deep-seated inequality and discrimination in the society.

The Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action (DISHA) (hereinafter referred to as DISHA) is a voluntary, non-profit organization that espouses numerous causes ranging from environmental health to human rights. Established on 12.09.1995 through its registration under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act 1961, DISHA has grown exponentially ever since across multiple domains. The organization has undertaken various initiatives such as conducting research, framing policies, generating awareness, imparting training, issuing publication, in order to support waste management programmes, combat industrial and coastal pollution and work toward achieving a greener and cleaner environment. Concomitantly, the society champions the causes of human rights and freedoms to ensure a life of dignity and purpose for individuals irrespective of their social, economic and political identities. Through the dedicated service of the organization, DISHA aims to uphold the aspirations of its founders to build a safer, healthier and brighter future.

Owing to their proclivity for supporting the marginalised groups, the collaboration between the NUJS LAS and DISHA would offer them the quintessential opportunity to work toward their shared goals.

2. PURPOSE

The collaboration between the NUJS LAS and DISHA is in furtherance of achieving their common objectives of providing assistance to the underprivileged. The MoU seeks to enhance the cooperation and commitment of the parties involved in an endeavour to effectively coordinate, cooperate and collaborate in specialised projects undertaken by the NUJS LAS and DISHA – such as organising Legal Aid Camps, conducting legal awareness workshops,

and providing pro-bono legal consultation to the stakeholders in the remote villages of the Sundarbans. The joint venture of the NUJS LAS and DISHA demonstrates their shared vision of remedying the injustices meted out to the disadvantaged groups by legally and morally assisting them. Their collaborative activities have been further elaborated in Article 3 of this MoU – ‘Points of Agreement’.

3. POINTS OF AGREEMENT

The NUJS LAS and DISHA hereby agree to work in unison on various activities, including but not limited to:

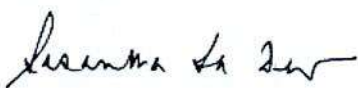
- i. In pursuance of its objectives under the CLINIC and OUTREACH verticals, the NUJS LAS shall comprehensively collaborate with DISHA or any allied grassroots organisations, such as the Dakshin Banga Matsyajibi Forum or Sundarbans Byagra Bidhaba Samiti among others, to organise and set up legal aid and literacy workshops. Such workshops would deal with the particular legal complications faced by the targeted stakeholder community.
- ii. In pursuance of its objectives under the Legal Aid Clinic, the NUJS LAS shall work closely with DISHA in organising Legal Aid Camp across villages in the Sundarbans or surrounding regions. A camp traditionally has three phases – a NukkadNatak on a relevant socio-legal issue, a public discussion to clarify enquiries relating to the NukkadNatak and private sessions with individuals to respond to their legal queries. However, the exact form of the camp will be decided on each occasion in accordance with stated objectives and field requirements.
- iii. In pursuance of its objectives under the Research team, the NUJS LAS shall work with DISHA to produce ground level and analytical research on agreed upon issues, such as, *inter alia*, problems pertaining to current Boat Certificate Licensing system, compensation claims of tiger widows and non-implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 in the forest land and waters of the Sundarbans.
- iv. The NUJS LAS, by way of its workshops, camps or with the help of DISHA, may extend pro-bono legal consultation on subject matters of law relevant to stakeholders from the Sundarbans which include the natural resource dependent people like fishers, honey collectors and widows and families of those killed by tiger/crocodile attacks.

- v. The NUJS LAS and DISHA may jointly produce and distribute legal awareness booklets, pamphlets or flyers in order to publicise their work and improve accessibility to the forest dependent people like fishers, honey collectors and also the families of the victims of tigers and crocodiles of Sundarbans during their ground level ventures with DISHA.
- vi. Both the organisations may collaborate for workshops, conferences and the like on either the NUJS Campus or in any suitable location that has been agreed upon by them.
- vii. Any other terms of collaboration or modification to existing terms may be decided upon through mutual agreement between office bearers of both organisations.

4. DURATION

Once signed by authorized officials of both groups, this MoU will get into motion and will remain in effect till September 1, 2022, when it may be revised/operationalised by the next elected office bearers of the NUJS LAS and DISHA. Mutual consent of both parties shall be necessary in the event of any change in the text of the MoU and its operationalisation.

SIGNATURE:



The Society for Direct Initiative
for Social and Health Action

27.03.23
Smt. Sikha Sen
Registrar (Academy)
The West Bengal National
University of Juridical Sciences
Kolkata - 700106

NUJS, Legal Aid Society

ORGANISATION: The Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action
(DISHA)

TITLE: The Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action (DISHA) and
the Legal Aid Society, The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences.

DATE: 08.02.2022