ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

ON

CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION IN INDIA

ORGANISED BY:

JUSTICE (SIR) ASHUTOSH MOOKHERJEE CHAIR

WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

EVENT DETAILS:

VENUE: WBNUJS, KOLKATA

DATE: 5 DECEMBER 2026 (SATURDAY)

TIME: 10:00 A.M. ONWARDS

ABOUT NUJS

NUJS is considered one of the best amongst the elite national law schools in India built on the five-year law degree model proposed and implemented by the Bar Council of India. The university offers a five-year integrated B.A./BSc. LLB (Hons.) degree programme at the undergraduate level and a Master of Laws (LLM) programme at the postgraduate level. Admission to the former programme is through the Common Law Admission Test, a highly competitive, nationwide common entrance examination, held jointly by fourteen of the seventeen national law schools. NUJS also offers MPhil, PhD and diploma in business laws and other programs. It also offers a number of online courses that attract students from 17 countries across the world so far.

The Chief Justice of India is the Chancellor of NUJS and is also the Chairman of the General Council, the supreme policy-making body of the University. Prof. (Dr.) Nandimath Omprakash V. is the Vice Chancellor of the University.

ABOUT JUSTICE (SIR) ASUTOSH MOOKERJEE CHAIR FOR STUDIES IN BENGAL TRADITION, LAW AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION:

The purpose of setting up this chair is to promote the study of contemporary Indian law and also seek to address the latest trends in Indian Constitutional Studies. Justice (Sir) Asutosh Mookerjee was one of the most eminent scholars of law. His contribution to the development of the Indian legal system and the judiciary is immense. As one of the earliest Indian acting Chief Justices of the High Court of Calcutta [1920] he played a central role in the making of the modern Indian judiciary. This Chair will seek to deal with these issues of governance in the context of the national movement and its relationship with the colonial government in the pre-independence period.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIR INCLUDE:

- Conducting research, publication, lectures and seminars on various facets of Bengal Renaissance and its impact on law and justice.
- Studying the social dimensions of Bengal Laws pertaining to gender issues, poverty elimination, rights of farmers and workers and bringing out scholarly papers in the form of publications.
- Surveying the working of various institutions – governmental and social service institutions – in implementing social reform-related laws.

- Critically examining the working of Panchayati Raj Institution and Municipalities in the matter of formulation and implementation of social welfare policies.
- Studying the problems of farmers, agricultural labourers, factory and urban workers and researching on efficacy of labour welfare laws in improving their conditions.
- Researching on gender issues, trafficking of women and children.
- Researching and publishing on environmental protection measures, the problem of climate change and conservation of water resources.
- Working on the law relating to education, food, health and rural employment and scanning of the methods of implementing the centrally sponsored or state initiated/supported schemes and programs.

INTRODUCTION ON WORKSHOP:

Children are among the most valuable members of society and constitute the foundation of a nation's social, economic and democratic future. Childhood is a critical stage of human development that requires care, protection, equal opportunities and an environment conducive to physical, emotional, intellectual and social growth. Child rights are fundamental human rights that recognise every child as an individual entitled to dignity, equality, freedom, protection and participation. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989, provides a comprehensive international framework recognising children's rights to survival, development, protection and participation. In India, the Constitution provides significant safeguards for children through provisions relating to equality, education, protection against exploitation, health and welfare. Various legislative and policy initiatives have also been introduced to address child labour, trafficking, child marriage, sexual abuse, neglect and other forms of exploitation.

Despite these constitutional guarantees and legislative measures, children continue to face serious challenges. Poverty, social inequality, gender discrimination, child labour, trafficking, early marriage, sexual violence, inadequate access to education and healthcare, and emerging digital threats continue to affect the well-being of children. The effective protection of children therefore requires not only strong legal provisions but also their meaningful implementation through institutional accountability, community participation, preventive interventions and accessible justice mechanisms.

RATIONALE OF THE WORKSHOP:

The proposed workshop, organised by the Justice (Sir) Ashutosh Mookherjee Chair, WBNUJS, Kolkata, seeks to provide an academic and interdisciplinary platform for examining the contemporary challenges relating to child rights and child protection in India. The discussion aims to bring together legal experts, academicians, policymakers, child rights practitioners, social workers and representatives of civil society to critically examine the existing legal framework, institutional mechanisms and policy responses.

Particular attention will be given to the gap between legal safeguards and their implementation, the role of the judiciary and child protection institutions, emerging forms of exploitation and the need for a comprehensive child-centered approach.

KEY ISSUES:

- Persistent forms of child abuse, violence and exploitation.
- Child labour, trafficking and child marriage.
- Challenges in the implementation of child protection legislation.
- Children in need of care and protection.
- Children in conflict with law and juvenile justice.
- Online child safety, cyberbullying and digital exploitation.
- Institutional accountability and access to child-friendly justice.
- Role of families, educational institutions and communities.

CENTRAL CONCERN:

How can India move from a legal framework that recognises children's rights to an effective child protection system that ensures every child's safety, dignity and holistic development?

THEMATIC AREAS FOR DISCUSSION

MAJOR THEMES FOR DELIBERATION

PANEL DISCUSSION -I:

1. International and Constitutional framework on Child Rights

- International Legal Framework for Child Rights
- Constitutional Safeguards for Child Rights in India
- Implementation Gaps and Challenges in Child Rights

2. Child Labour, Trafficking and Child Marriage

- Socio-economic factors contributing to child vulnerability.
- Rescue, rehabilitation and social reintegration.
- Role of law enforcement agencies and civil society.
- Preventive strategies through education and community awareness.

3. Children in Need of Care and Protection

- Role and functioning of Child Welfare Committees.
- Institutional and non-institutional care.
- Foster care, sponsorship and adoption.
- Family-based care and rehabilitation.

4. Children in Conflict with Law

- Principles of juvenile justice.
- Role of Juvenile Justice Boards.
- Rehabilitation and social reintegration.
- Balancing accountability, child rights and restorative approaches.

PANEL DISCUSSION: II

5. Child Rights and Child Abuse, Violence and Sexual Exploitation

- Forms and dimensions of violence against children.
- Challenges in implementing the POCSO Act.

- Child-friendly investigation and judicial processes.
- Prevention, reporting, counselling and rehabilitation.

6. Digital Rights and Online Child Protection

- Cyberbullying and online sexual exploitation.
- Digital privacy and children's personal information.
- Online grooming and safety awareness.
- Responsibilities of parents, schools and technology platforms.

7. Institutional Accountability and Access to Justice

- Role of police, judiciary and legal services authorities.
- Role of NCPCR and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights.
- Institutional coordination and monitoring.
- Strengthening child-sensitive justice delivery.

8. Role of Education, Family and Community

- Schools as safe and inclusive environments.
- Gender equality and prevention of discrimination.
- Community-based child protection.
- Children's participation in decisions affecting their welfare.

PROPOSED PANEL COMPOSITION:

The discussion may include:

- Distinguished legal experts and academicians.
- Judicial officers and legal practitioners.
- Child rights activists and researchers.
- Representatives of child protection institutions.
- Social workers and NGO practitioners.
- Government officials and policymakers.
- Psychologists and representatives from the health sector

OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND EVENT INFORMATION:

The proposed panel discussion seeks to:

1. Promote awareness and understanding of constitutional, legal and international safeguards relating to child rights.
2. Examine the effectiveness and implementation of existing child protection laws and policies in India.
3. Identify emerging challenges relating to child abuse, exploitation, trafficking, child labour and digital safety.
4. Analyse the role of judicial institutions, law enforcement agencies, government departments and civil society.
5. Discuss the importance of child-friendly justice, rehabilitation and social reintegration.
6. Encourage interdisciplinary research and academic engagement in the field of child rights.
7. Promote institutional collaboration and policy-oriented recommendations for strengthening child protection mechanisms.
8. Advocate a rights-based, inclusive and child-centered approach to the protection and development of children.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

The discussion is expected to facilitate:

- Greater awareness of children's constitutional and legal rights.
- Identification of gaps in the implementation of child protection laws.
- Strengthening of institutional mechanisms and accountability.
- Improved understanding of preventive, protective, and rehabilitative approaches.
- Recommendations for enhancing child-sensitive justice delivery.
- Promotion of research, academic collaboration and policy dialogue.
- Greater recognition of children's participation and dignity.

Who may register for the Workshop:

- Academicians
- Professionals / Practitioners
- NGOs
- Students

NOTE: NO REGISTRATION FEES TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP.

REGISTRATION LINK BELOW: -

https://forms.gle/BiSkhkczgePcS4SD8

THE WAY FORWARD: TOWARDS A CHILD-FRIENDLY INDIA:

Child protection is not merely a legal obligation but a collective constitutional, institutional and social responsibility. A truly child-friendly society requires effective implementation of laws, accessible justice, safe educational environments, supportive families, responsive institutions and meaningful participation of children in decisions concerning their lives. Legal institutions, universities, government agencies, civil society organisations and communities must work together to ensure that every child is protected from abuse, neglect, discrimination and exploitation. The panel discussion seeks to contribute to this larger objective by fostering informed dialogue, critical reflection and constructive recommendations for advancing child rights and strengthening child protection in India.

Let us collectively work towards a safe, inclusive and just society where every child can grow with dignity, equality and opportunity.

EVERY CHILD HAS RIGHTS. EVERY CHILD DESERVES PROTECTION.

PROTECT CHILDHOOD. PROMOTE JUSTICE. EMPOWER EVERY CHILD.

CONTACT PERSON:

1. **Ms. SAMPA KARMAKAR SINGH,**

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RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Mobile number: 7003668330

TENTATIVE PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

S.NO.	PROGRAM	TIME
1.	REGISTRATION	10:00 A.M. -10:30 A.M.
2.	INAUGURAL SESSION	10:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
3.	VOTE OF THANKS	11:30-11:40 P.M.
4.	TEA BREAK	11:40 P.M. – 12:00 P.M.
5.	PANEL DISCUSSION -I	12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.
6.	LUNCH BREAK	1:30 P.M.-2:30 P.M.
7.	PANEL DISCUSSION -II	2:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
8.	VALEDICTORY SESSION (INCLUDING REPORTS BY RAPPORTEURS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS)	4:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.
9.	VOTE OF THANKS	4:30 P.M.-4:45 P.M.
10.	REFRESHMENTS	4:45 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.