

## Activities of Gender Center

**2018-2019**

### **Certificate Program on Gender Sensitization**

The first batch of gender center members underwent an intensive workshop with an aim to develop understanding of gender roles, stereotypes, expectations and issues that impact individuals and society at large. It also aimed to provide student trainers with a range of gender exercises for better understanding and also use them when needed for future training. Topics such as Understanding Gender, Gender, Caste and Class, Representation of Gender, Gender and Violence, Gender and Sexuality and Gender and Law were included for the workshop.

On successful completion of the workshop students received their certificates from the Principal, Dr.Sr.Rosy Joseph during the inaugural ceremony of the Gender Center in August 2018. The event was attended by the faculty and students of the Department of Sociology.



## Workshop at SBIOA School

The students from the Gender Center conducted a one day workshop gender sensitization activity based workshop for the students for SBIOA Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Thirumangalam, Chennai on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. The workshop was attended by the students from the age group of 13-17. Around two hundred students participated and benefitted from the program. The topics covered under the workshop module included gender awareness, basics of sex education, awareness about body shaming and mental health awareness. The members of the Gender Center also performed a street play on gender sensitization for the students.



**2019-2020**

**Workshop on Gender And Sexuality**

Date: July 17th, 2019

The first event was a workshop on “Gender And Sexuality” in collaboration with Nirangal and Saathi (Non-Governmental Organizations). The workshop oriented students on the basics of gender and sexuality, a theater performance was given by Transgender Activist Ms. Revathi on the trials and tribulations she faced being a transgender and this was followed by a panel discussion.



## #UnTagYourself

Date: August 6th, 2019

The second event was “#UnTagYourself” at Stella Maris College with the collaboration of ProACT Behavioral Services which aimed at providing a safe space to discuss various types of tags that are labeled by the society be it physical, mental or sexual that impacted their personality. This program helped the students in realizing that they were not alone, by promoting self- acceptance and self-love.



## Self-defence workshop

Date: September 25th, 2019

The third event was a workshop on “Self Defence” which was done in our college premises with karate master Mr. Davis and Ms. Sharitha to help women feel strong and to protect themselves from any harm. This workshop was organised to make them feel confident about themselves and to make sure that they did not feel threatened but to also understand that violence is not always the answer to everything!



## **Redefining Masculinity: Traditional vs. Modernity**

Date: December 17th, 2019

The fourth event was the Gender Centers first Inter Collegiate **Panel Discussion on the topic “Redefining Masculinity: Traditional vs. Modernity”**. The moderator for the session was Ms. Sunandha Raghunathan, a director, actor and writer. The colleges that participated were from D.G. Vaishnav College, Women’s Christian College, Dr. Ambedkar Law University, School of Excellence in Law, the New College and Stella Maris. Over 60 students including men (17) and women (43) to discuss on the topic. Through this event every participant was eager to take part by sharing their views without inhibitions and initiating a conversation about masculinity in the 21st century. This healthy discussion has been the first step for many more to come!

This was one of the best events conducted due to the fact it was a discussion and led by Ms. Sunandha, Director, Actor and Writer, who said it was an eye opener not only for women but for men as well. Everyone openly involved themselves on the several questions asked which did lead to a positive, insightful and thoughtful outcome on the discussion itself.



## **Women's day celebration**

Date: March 8th, 2020

The fifth event was the Woman's Day Program Celebration jointly organized with the Women Studies Centre. The theme of the event was "Overcoming Barriers united with Gender Equality". Two sessions were conducted for the morning and afternoon shift on the Ninth of March 2020 with The Great Indian Women's Festival (TGIWF). This event was in the OAT for all college students to attend.

The morning session had two speakers, Ms. Smita Sadasivan a woman at the age of 19 who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis which is a progressive disease involving damage to nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord which leads to impairment of speech, muscular incoordination, blurred vision and fatigue. Ms. Smitha has emerged as a prominent disability rights activist and was awarded in 2019 the Javed Abidi Public Policy award for her work with the election commission.

Ms. Remya is the first woman firefighter of South India. She completed her B.Tech Civil Engineering and M.Tech Structural Engineering and worked as an assistant professor for two years.

The afternoon session had Ms. Meera Raghunathan she spoke about being a mother to an autistic son who is now a chef!

The outcome of this event was significant even with TGIWF. The event was interactive, social and led to a progressive and common strength for all of us. It was the last event conducted before the pandemic.



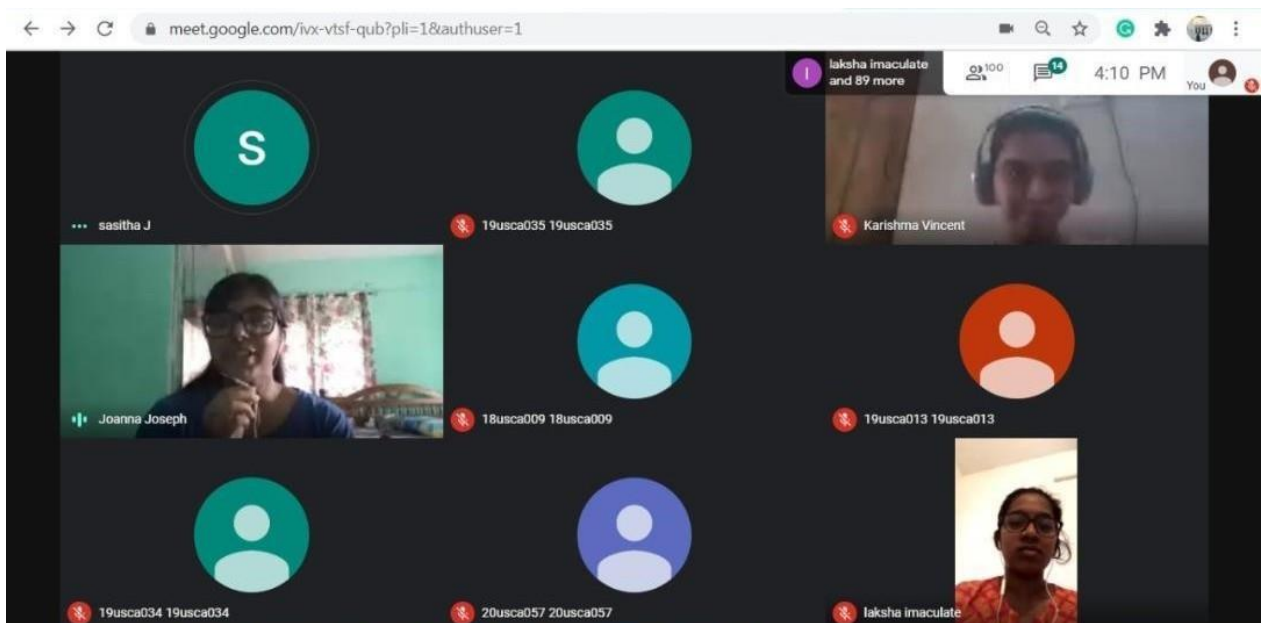
## 2020-2021

Virtual sessions

### Back to Basics Workshop

Date: August 21st, 2020

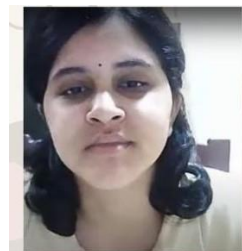
A short introductory workshop on the basics of gender, sex and sexuality was conducted for the members of the Gender Center. The resource person for the event was Ms. Karishma Vincent, ex - office bearer of the Gender Center.



### Sensitization program

Date: September 26th, 2020

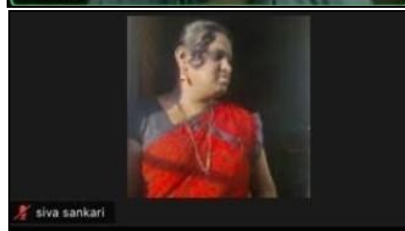
A fun, informal interactive ice breaking session for members of the Gender Center. The motive of this session was to promote inclusiveness, clear doubts and queries on the purpose and functioning of the center.



## **Problems faced by gender minorities in educational settings and workplaces**

Date: October 26th, 2020

This panel discussion on “Problems faced by gender minorities in educational settings and workplaces” was conducted in collaboration with Nirangal and SAATHII. The event was graced by four eminent panelists; Mr.Sivakumar, Ms. Sankari, Mr. Sridhar and Dr.L.Ramakrishnan. The panelists covered the following topics during the course of the discussion - introductory concepts of gender and sexuality, education systems and the challenges faced by minorities, problems faced by gender minorities in acquiring work and tokenism in the so-called ‘inclusive’ workspaces and the legal and political aspects of gender minorities in the Indian context.



## **Lights! Camera! Discussion!**

Date: January 19th and 20th, 2021

The event was held over a period of two days- 19th and 20th of January, 2021. The screening of Paava Kathaigal, an anthological series on Netflix, took place on the 19th from 6 - 8pm followed by a discussion.

The movie screening was followed by a discussion on the topic ‘Representation of women and gender minorities in the Media’. The speaker for the event was Mr. Baradwaj Rangan, an acclaimed film critic.





## **“Your Honour”**

### **Legal series I**

Date: March 6th, 2021

The webinar titled Trans-persons Rights and Laws in India marked the first session in the legal series ‘Your Honour’. The speaker for the event was Advocate Mrs. Adhilakshmi Logomurthy. She shared her personal experience with the transgender community and the current rights and laws they are entitled to in India.

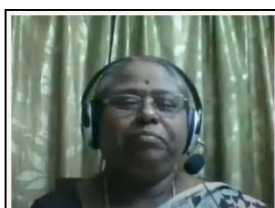


## **“Your Honour”**

### **Legal series II**

Date: March 13th, 2021

The second installment in the legal series, Your Honour was the webinar, titled “A Critical Analysis of Women Centric Laws in India”. The speaker, Advocate Mrs. Kavitha Balakrishnan focused on the women centric laws present in India, their implications and fallacies.



## **International Women's Day Celebration**

Date: March 8th, 2021

This event hosted five speakers who addressed the college students - Dr. Priscilla Asirvatham, Kalaimamani Thirunangai Sudha, Ms. Sabitha, Project Manager, Thozhi organisation, Ms. Mridhula and Ms. Sakshi, students of Loyola college. The speakers shed light on various topics such as the challenges faced by members of the trans gender community, the transition process that trans women undergo and the challenges that come with it, the achievements of members from the trans gender community, how many are fighting discrimination in society and helping members of the transgender community integrate with the mainstream society. The event was held offline in the Open Air Theatre (OAT).



## **Intercollegiate panel discussion**

Date: March 27th, 2021

An intercollegiate panel discussion was held on “Perception and Acceptance of queer literature in India”. The moderator for the day was Mr. Chandra Moulee, founder of Queer Chennai Chronicles. Four student panelists presented their views on topics such as “Queer theme in Sangam Period”, “Media representation of queer people”. was “Reasons for society grappling to accept queer literature” and “The importance of fanfiction in queer representation”. The session was very informative and interesting.



### Release of First GC Newsletter

The SMC Gender Center released the first ever edition of **BEYOU**, the annual newsletter on April 26th, 2021. The first copy was released by Dr. Sr. Rosy Joseph, Principal, Stella Maris College. The newsletter was released on the official instagram page of the Gender Center. The newsletter contained the reports of all the events held during the academic year and works of art and poetry of the students of the Gender Center.

