



# **LEGAL AID SOCIETY CAMPUS LAW CENTRE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**



## **Activity Report on Awareness Session on Acid Attack**

### **PATRON -IN-CHIEF**

**Prof. (Dr.) Alka Chawla**  
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### **FACULTY CONVENOR**

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Campus Law Centre  
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### **FACULTY MEMBERS**

1. Ms. Sneh Yadav
2. Dr. Atma Yadav
3. Mr. Vijoy V. Panicker
4. Mr. Ezekial Jarain
5. Mr. Vikas Kumar

### **STUDENT CO-CONVENORS**

1. Saurabh Kumar Pandey
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# LEGAL AID SOCIETY CAMPUS LAW CENTRE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



Under the aegis of  
Central District Legal Services Authority  
is organizing a Legal Awareness Programme

Under the project "SPARSH"

on

## "LAWS RELATING TO ACID ATTACK"

on

10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY , 2023  
FRIDAY

Venue : Seminar Hall, CLC

From : 02:00 PM to 03:00 PM



Patron-in-Chief : Prof. (Dr.) Alka Chawla



Faculty Convener : Dr. Anita Yadav

Acid attack is a heinous offence against humanity. The Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre (CLC) under the aegis of Central District Legal Services Authority organized a **Legal awareness Session on the laws relating to acid attack** on February 10 2023 from 2PM to 3 PM in Seminar Hall, CLC. This was part of **Project SPARSH** organized by CDLSA under the aegis of NALSA and DSLSA.







The speaker of the session was Advocate Gurpreet Kaur. After a welcome note by Akshita (Student Co-Convenor), Ms Gurpreet took the floor of the House. The Session started with the plight of the victims. The damage caused by acid attack is everlasting. The original face never comes back. It not only leaves a physical scar but also a life lone mental trauma. Recognizing this menace, Justice Verma Committee in its Report made suggestions to include such offences under IPC. Accordingly, the 2013 Amendment inserted Sections 326A and 326 B in IPC, 1860. "Acid" includes any substance which has acidic or corrosive character or burning nature, that is capable of causing bodily injury leading to scars or disfigurement or temporary or permanent disability. S. 326A provides minimum 10 years of imprisonment and fine. It is explicitly made clear that the fine shall be reasonable enough to meet the medical expenses of the treatment of the victim.

The speaker drew attention of the students about the life after acid attack. Over 100 plastic surgeries are required. Each surgery not only incurs pecuniary cost but also is a constant reminder to the unfortunate and inhumane incident.

The speaker also emphasized that most victims of acid attack are female, with the reasons ranging from personal grudges, jealousy, revenge, refusal and the like. However, the underlying reason running across these symptomatic reasons is patriarchy- How can a girl say no? Hence laws against acid attack also serve the noble goal of women empowerment. However, law in absence of its effective implementation and social empathy is sub-optimal.

Hence in **Laxmi vs Union of India & Ors. (2015)**, the Hon'ble Supreme Court laid down certain guidelines including:

- Penal consequences for refusal by police to register the FIR.
- Likewise, 1 year imprisonment for doctor – whether govt, aided or unaided, if they refuse treatment.
- Prohibition on public sale of acid, and license requirement for purchaser.

DSLISA has included compensation for acid attack victims under Victim Compensation Scheme.

- Part 1 of the scheme provides compensation for partial deformity in the range of Rs 3 lakh to 7 lakhs. However additional compensation can also be claimed under Part 2 of the scheme.
- In case of permanent deformity, the minimum compensation increases to Rs 5 lakh.
- In case of disfigurement, the minimum compensation shoots to Rs 7 lakh
- Generally, the compensation is provided by DSLISA on application by the victim. However, DSLISA can also suo motu take cognizance and disburse the payment.

The speaker brought home the point that we, as fellow citizens, share the responsibility. Small steps can mitigate damage and even make a difference between life and death. Ms. Gurpreet told about a few crucial do's and don'ts like:

- Call police and ambulance immediately.



- Take to the nearest hospital be it private or public.
- Pour any liquid available on the spot but avoid eyes.
- Clothes shall be torn off immediately as soon as acid is poured.
- Report sale of acid to the nearest SDM.

However, the speaker emphasized that the golden maxim of “Putting your oxygen mask on first”. Hence, the person who is helping must save his hands and use scissors to cut clothes.

The speaker also pointed out that although Section 326A, 326B of IPC are gender neutral, the rules framed by states presume that only women are victims of acid attack.

However, NCRB Report point towards increasing cases of male victims of acid attack. The House was then opened for a brief Question-Answer Session, after which Faculty Convenor of Legal Aid Society, Dr. Anita Yadav gave a vote of thanks and thereafter the curtains came down.

### **Nukkad Natak by Navmanch**

The fruitful and informative session was followed by a Nukkad Natak by **Navmanch** to spread awareness about acid Attack. The theoretical knowledge gained by students was underscored by the beautiful performance.

