

# Action Plan 2021-22

## Hansraj College

### Women Development Cell

In its efforts to make Hansraj College a strong kernel for gender sensitization, we are planning to undertake the following activities:

1. Spread Awareness through Webinars/Seminars: To empower female students and faculty, we conduct weekly webinars on mental health, feminism, menstrual and reproductive health, nutritional requirements, safety, etc. So far, in the session 2021-22, we have conducted webinars aimed at gender sensitization, information dissemination regarding women's health and skill-building through social media. We aim to continue such endeavours in offline mode too.
2. Spread Awareness through Campaigns: Following in the footsteps of WDC's Red Dot campaign which focused on the de-stigmatization of menstruation, we plan to launch a social media campaign centered around sexual violence and harassment in this session.
3. Conduct Group & Panel Discussions: Since its inception, WDC has been at the forefront of initiating discussions on women rights, LGBTQ+ rights and mental health. We aim to conduct regular group discussions on social issues relevant to women.
4. Organise Educational and Skill Enhancement Workshops: There is a disproportionately low percentage of women in the labour market and higher executive jobs. They also tend to suffer when it comes to financial independence and awareness of their rights. To counter this, we intend to conduct workshops on:

- a. **Financial literacy**- to inform about property rights, bank account opening, investing in stocks, mutual funds etc
  - b. **Entrepreneurship and opening a small business**- to inform about government schemes meant for start-ups, grants and loans for women, NGOs that support women entrepreneurs.
  - c. **Queer inclusive sex education**- to inform about different sexual orientations, consent, contraceptives, STDs etc.
  - d. **Legal literacy**- to inform about laws that safeguard the rights of women like POSH, Equal Remuneration Act, Medical Termination of Pregnancy etc.
5. Initiate a Capacity Building & Personality Development Program: Following the recommendations of the National Commission of Women (NCW), we aim to roll out a program to teach common logic, aptitude and critical thinking to women. This program will be launched with the help of the teaching faculty of the college and will aid them in appearing for entrance exams and entering the job market.
  6. Provide Self Defence Training: When the college reopens we intend to conduct introductory self-defense classes for female students.
  7. Release an Annual Newsletter: For the purpose of awareness on feminism, women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, mental health etc. we plan to make a newsletter for session 2021-22. The entries for the same have already been invited.
  8. Form a Study Circle for Feminist Literature: To facilitate the benefits of peer to peer education, we plan to form a study circle focused on feminist, queer and Dalit literature. This study circle will be open to members, faculty and all students of Delhi University. Through this endeavour, we also aim to increase access to books and feminist readings for women.

9. Feminist Documentary/ Movie Screening: Throughout the session 2021-22, we aim to screen informative movies and documentaries to sensitize students on gender issues.
10. Acquire Empirical Perspective through Surveys: For the session 2021-22 we have planned to conduct surveys and publish the data on the following topics:
- a. **Women's Mental Health**: this survey focuses on collecting data about mental problems during the pandemic.
  - b. **Body image issues and dysphoria**: this survey focuses on analyzing how consumerism affects the way we view our bodies.
  - c. **Period poverty**: When the college reopens, we plan to collaborate with NSS to go to slum areas to collect data on poor women's access to menstrual hygiene products like pads, tampons etc.
11. Organise Competitions for Awareness: Through our annual fest *Noor* and otherwise, we plan to further our gender sensitization efforts by organising competitions like article writing, poster making and slogan writing. The themes of the same will be centered around feminism, gender issues and mental health.

## Gender Equity Cell

1. Quarterly magazine: A bi-monthly magazine featuring write-ups and art from students within and outside of Hansraj College, emphasising on pieces about gender and sexuality, reviews, news highlights, opinions, and a special column for up and coming queer artists, among other articles.

2. Speaker sessions: To spread awareness amongst the general college student population, we aim to conduct speaker sessions or seminars inviting experts on gender and sexuality studies. Along with general gender sensitization, we plan to focus on giving a limelight to sexual minorities.

- Mental Health Forum, inviting a mental health specialist who can give an informative talk, as well as answer questions from the attendees.
- Session on menstrual health with an expert, along with a Q/A session
- Inviting scholars to have a panel discussion on exploring intersectionality while dealing with social issues

3. In-house Discussions: A theme-based discussion on any topic related to gender and sexuality to be organized monthly, to improve team communication and encourage dialogue.

4. Gender Sensitization Sessions: Sessions fully devoted to sensitizing the general public on sexual health and hygiene, understanding and breaking stereotypes through interactive seminars.

5. Annual play : We plan on collaborating with theatre groups dealing with social issues, like during our annual fest, “Log Kya Kahenge”, particularly involving those which are faced by people who don't fit into the heteronormative view of the society and face discrimination on that account.

6. Podcasts consisting of monthly discussions on books, films, TV and such involving the community: We plan on hosting podcasts on different social media platforms consisting of interviews with people who engage in social upliftment of sexual minorities. We plan to invite scholars and professors who have specialized in issues pertaining the same and even members from our own Cell to critically discuss popular culture and how it has an impact on people coming from different sexual and gendered backgrounds.

7. Orientation Briefing: Once freshers are admitted into our cell, we will conduct an orientation session, with a brief on gender and sexuality as a spectrum of expressions. This shall be done by the current members of the Cell or by invited experts in the field.

8. Organizing Fundraisers: We plan to collaborate with Non-Profit Organizations and Human Rights NGOs to conduct competitions and open-mic sessions aimed at spreading awareness and raising funds for a social cause. So far in the session 2021-2022, we conducted two fundraising events, an open mic in collaboration with Project Clap, as well as a fundraising photography competition for the NGO “Nigahe”.

9. Movie screenings: Sessions where we screen films (short films and documentaries revolving around the themes of gender and sexuality and taboo subjects), followed by constructive moderated discussions along with an informative translation of the themes and narratives presented in those films.

10. Conducting ‘Queernama’, an online exhibition showcasing creative art (write-ups, photographs, paintings, etc.) on LGBTQIA+ themes. All submitted artworks will be displayed on social media handles. We have successfully conducted this in the past year with overflowing responses and received positive feedback from peers.

11. Online Campaigns: Informative posts to spread awareness on commemorative days, information about legal rights, news, and themed week long campaigns. For instance, so far in the session 2021-2022 we’ve conducted online awareness campaigns for Asexual Week, Transgender Awareness Week, International Men’s Day, and a week long campaign titled “Know Your Rights”.

12. Annual Fest: Conducting our annual fest, “Log Kya Kahenge” (online or offline), celebrating queer identities and recognizing their struggles. We provide a safe space for all individuals and provide them a platform to freely express themselves.

