

International Women's Day 2014 with the funding support from US Consulate Training on Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013 on Sexual Harassment against Women and Girl Children' organized jointly with WIND Trust, RAWS 7.3.14

To commemorate Women's Day 2014 a one day workshop on 7.3.14 was organized by the Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli WIND Trust and Regional Association for Women's Studies sponsored by the US Consulate on 'Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013 on Sexual Harassment against Women and Girl Children' for Faculty and Students of University Departments at Department of Women's Studies. Prof.N.Manimekalai Director and Head, Department of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, elicited, why, Awareness on Law related to Sexual Harassment is needed among academicians and students. The students interact with their peers within and outside the campus who are the pillars of future India. Mr. Martin Senior Advocate and Human Rights Activist, Tiruchirappalli served as resource person. He enlightened the participants on how Justice Varma Committee, came forth with the Amendment Law by taking, the suggestion from Women's organizations all over India. He interacted with the participants with suitable examples the different sections of the following laws in terms of amendment made and new sections included by the committee.

Later the participants worked to identify the problem faced by women and Children in society, and prepare an Action Plan to prevent and eradicate gender based violence. The students performed a role play based on the inputs received on the criminal law amendments 2013 which clearly informed the messages as to what is stalking, voyeurism, how should the police should attend when a case is complained by women and possible penalty for not attending the case etc.

The workshop came to an end with Valedictory session, were Dr.Manimekalai discussed the Theme of Women's day for the year 2014, "INSPIRING CHANGE", and stated that change does not mean "role reversal", suggested women participants to use time in constructive activity. Mr.Sakthivel, Faculty, Department of Commerce, Bharathidasan University Constituent Colleges, Lalguid said that women should be bold enough to face challenges in all situations. Ms.Prema Department of Life Long Learning, Kirthika Department of Women's Studies, said that they were fortunate to participate in the workshop and gained knowledge on different acts to protect women, it helped them to become confident and informed. Kiruthika did end with a

question as to why the men continue to be the perpetrators despite several legislations and education.

Professor.E.Ram Ganesh,Registrar, Bharathidasan University, in his Presidential address asked women not to give up their culture and compromise on their character at any point of time in their life, as character of individual is more important than materialistic achievement, and be conscious of their body language and non verbal cues. Dr.Thavamani, Pro Vice Chancellor, Periyar Maniammai University, Thanjavur, President, Regional Association for Women's Studies in her Valedictory address said that women need to have very high goals for girls to sustain in a patriarchal society. D.Ezhil Bharathy, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Bharathidasan University Constituent College, presented the resolutions singed by all the participants. Dr.S.Suba,Assistant Professor, Department of Women's Studies , Bharathidasan University, proposed Vote of Thanks. In way the workshop served as an eye opener for the participants to understand the hard social realities.