

### Call for Papers

Well researched and documented papers will be allowed for presentation in the National Seminar. Abstract with key words and full paper containing full details about the author shall be sent to the Director of the seminar to the mail address [cedaw20@gmail.com](mailto:cedaw20@gmail.com) by **15<sup>th</sup> July, 2014**. The full paper not exceeding ten pages shall be in MS Word, Times New Roman with 12 font size, space between lines (1.5). Selected papers will be published in an edited book with ISBN. The registration fee may be paid through Demand Draft in favour of “**Director of the Seminar**”, payable at Chennai and sent to the director of the seminar to the address given below on or before **25<sup>th</sup> July, 2014**.

### Registration Fee

Faculty Members, Delegates and Advocates: **Rs. 300/-**

Students / Research Scholars : **Rs.150/-**

Last date for sending Abstract along with Full Paper : **15<sup>th</sup> July, 2014**

Last date for paying the Registration Fee : **25<sup>th</sup> July, 2014**

Accommodation will be provided to the delegates based on request on or before: **25<sup>th</sup> July, 2014**

### Director of the Seminar

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### REGISTRATION FORM

Name of the Delegate :  
Occupation and Designation :  
Mobile :  
E-mail :  
Title of the Paper :  
Details of Payment :  
D.D No :  
Date :  
Branch Name :  
Address for Correspondence :  
Date :

Signature



**THE TAMIL NADU**  
**Dr.AMBEDKAR LAW UNIVERSITY**  
**CHENNAI - 600 028**



**Organizes**  
**UGC Sponsored**

**Two Day National Seminar**

**on**

**“Two Decades of CEDAW: Challenges  
and Responses – National and  
International Perspectives”**

**on**

**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2014**



**VENUE**

Auditorium,  
P.G. and R.D. Block,  
The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University,  
Chennai - 600 028

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, (TNDALU) Chennai was established in the year 1997 by the Tamil Nadu Act No. 43 of 1997. His Excellency Shri. K.R. Narayanan, the then President of India inaugurated it on September 9, 1997. The Law University is the first of its kind in the country and in Asia offering Legal education both on its campus and through the affiliated law colleges – seven government and one private law college at present in the State of Tamil Nadu. It is located in the heart of the city of Chennai. Within its campus at Poompozhil, the School of Excellence in Law (SOEL), the soul of the University is offering B.A.B.L (Hons), B.Com, B.L.(Hons), B.L.(Hons), and 8 M.L Degree Courses and the Research wing is offering Ph.D in Law and in inter-disciplinary studies. The Department of Distance Education is offering various P.G Diplomas and Certificate Courses. All these departments are functioning together seamlessly and are striving to offer quality legal education under the able stewardship and guidance of our Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr.P.Vanangamudi.

## THEME OF THE SEMINAR

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in short *CEDAW*, is referred to as '*Women's Bill of Rights*'. It is one of the core International Human Rights instruments aiming at freeing women throughout the world from all forms of discrimination. CEDAW was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 19, 1979 and it came into force on September 3, 1981. Till date 186 countries have signed CEDAW, which is equal to 90% of UN membership. With its Preamble and 30 Articles, it is exclusively devoted to gender equality. CEDAW is the first instrument to define “Discrimination” of women comprehensively to mean any exclusion or restriction on the basis of sex. This sweeping nature of definition includes every kind of discrimination based on sex that exists.

India ratified CEDAW on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1993 and it came into force on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1993 with two declaratory statements on Articles 5(a) and 16 and one reservation to Article 29. The declarations have not been lifted even after two decades which are the core principles of the Convention and this is an area which is the breeding ground for most of the gender discriminatory customs to continue. Optional Protocol to CEDAW was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 6<sup>th</sup> of October 1999. (A/RES/54/4) It entered into force on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2000. Till 2013, 80 countries have become signatories and 104 are parties.

The Optional Protocol has 21 Articles. The preamble is the introductory part of the Protocol which sets out the object and purpose of the Protocol. It refers to the principles of equality and non-discrimination as embodied in the UN Charter, the UDHR and other international human rights instruments. It reaffirms the determination of State parties which adopt the protocol to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of Human and Fundamental rights by women and to take effective action

to prevent violations of these rights and freedoms. It is the legal mechanism to work towards prohibiting gender discrimination in the signatory States and is placed on an equal footing with ICCPR and such other conventions.

The primary objective of the seminar is to get suggestions from the experts and to send concrete proposals to the National Commission for Women and the Government of India to withdraw the declarations made to Art 5 (a) and 16 of CEDAW and to work out the efficacy of India signing the Optional Protocol.. Moreover, these declarations are also not in consonance with the State's own obligations towards its citizens under the Constitution of India.

The seminar will focus on the laws in existence, the international instruments, policies of the Government and more importantly challenges and obstacles peculiar to each State in implementing them. The seminar will be a platform to reflect and offer suggestions to overcome the hurdles in the path of gender equality. The commitment to CEDAW if practiced will definitely advance the cause of women empowerment as envisaged by it. Scholarly discussions on the developments made since signing CEDAW at the legislative, executive and judicial level of governance and also more importantly the existing gaps despite CEDAW are to be discussed. Academic experts in legal and social sciences, professionals from judicial, executive and legislative branches of governance, NGO's and other stakeholders are invited to participate. Profoundly understanding the importance of CEDAW and other related principles for women empowerment and social development, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai proposes to organize a Two Day National Seminar on “Two Decades of CEDAW: Challenges and Responses – National and International Perspectives”. Papers are invited from the following sub-themes:

## SUB THEMES OF THE SEMINAR

- CEDAW and India
- International instruments and women empowerment.
- Sociological perspectives on gender discrimination.
- Customary practices and traditions discriminating women-existing laws - lack of enforcement.
- Gender discrimination in different Sectors - Agriculture, Industries, Fine Arts etc.,
- Gender violence-National and International perspectives under Criminal Justice System.
- Legislative enactments and executive policies for ensuring socio, economic, cultural and political rights for women.
- Committees and Commissions on women empowerment.
- Judiciary and gender justice.
- Role of media & Social Networking sites.
- NGO's role and people's participation.