



British  
High Commission  
New Delhi



## Training Workshop for Capacity Building Young Lawyers from Northeast India on Women Rights

*Venue: Guwahati (India)*  
*Date: 6 to 16 February, 2012*

PFI Foundation has organized several training workshops on women rights, gender and development over the years. The present workshop is being organized in collaboration with the **NEF Law College, Guwahati** and funded by **The British High Commission, New Delhi**.

Consisting of seven states, the north-eastern part of India is bounded by China in the north, Bangladesh in the south west, Bhutan in the North West and Burma in the east. Isolated from the rest of India, both geographically and economically, this region is tenuously linked to the rest of the country by a narrow corridor running 56 kilometers through the foothills of Bhutan and Sikkim to the state of West Bengal. As the region abruptly descends to the plains of the mainland, cultural, social and economic contrasts are strongly evident.

A report commissioned by the by The National Commission for Women, Government of India way back in 2004 indicated that violence against women, particularly domestic violence, is on the rise in the North-east. The high rate of domestic violence in Assam is also reflected in a study conducted by the Law Research Institute, Guwahati. The region, under the shadow of conflict, has witnessed a resurgence of patriarchal values and norms, which have brought with them new restrictions on the movement of women, the dress they wear and all these are compounded by the long social, economic and psychological trauma of armed conflict.

A key challenge facing the overall women rights scenario is availability of professionally trained and effective lawyers in local courts to assist the disadvantaged 'women' to create awareness, fight rights violation cases, or otherwise advance their interests. Such legal services, embracing both individual access to justice and public interest law transcending individual needs, contribute to the rule of law, good governance, human rights, empowerment of the poor, and poverty alleviation. The women rights lawyers need special training and set of professional tools for forging the future of legal services and legal systems across the Northeast region.

PFI Foundation is organizing this workshop to highlight some of the diverse approaches for engaging law students and young lawyers in public service, in order to provide useful examples and insights to various audiences concerned with justice, women rights, and development. The workshop more modestly hopes that this will open new options for young lawyers seeking to deliver effective services to women / victims of violations of women rights in the region.

### **Objectives of the Workshop:**

1. Develop successful regional level litigation strategies on women's human rights
2. Build the capacity of lawyers in NE Region to litigate women's human rights cases at the national, regional and local levels.
3. Provide continuous support and expertise for women's rights litigation efforts of lawyers in NE Region and seed new women's rights networks.
4. Strengthen the network of lawyers for women's human rights' strategic litigation in the region.

## Who Should Attend?

- If you are a young lawyer who has started practicing recently or studying Law
- Law school teachers and scholars across all law subject areas
- If you are interested in the issues that confront women in legal education
- Law school teachers and scholars who work on issues of sex and/or gender and who are interested in discussing the application of theory to specific contexts.
- Law College / Department / School faculty, scholars, and administrators who are interested in the role of affinity groups in professional development and institutional identity
- Law college students who are interested in examining the experiences of women in legal academia at the intersection of a variety of categories including race, sexuality, class, disability, and national origin, to name a few.

A wide range of viewpoints are welcomed and encouraged. You need not be a feminist scholar, a feminist, or a scholar in the area of gender and the law to attend. If you have an interest in the status and experiences of women in legal education, women rights and Indian legal contexts, this workshop is for you.

## Requirements and Expectations:

- Possess basic knowledge and understanding of Indian laws.
- Be proficient in leading small group discussions, and possess competent facilitation skills. Additional facilitation training will be given at the workshop.
- Participate in all training sessions leading up to the award of Certificate.
- Commit to study and become familiar with all reading materials given to you.
- Present yourself as a model of behavior as a professional lawyer.
- Commit to contact every member of your small network / discussion group that will be formed after the workshop.

## Certificate:

An attractive 'Certificate of Proficiency' will be awarded to the participants upon successful completion the workshop. Three *special Awards* will be given to outstanding trainees through a competition in the skills of oral comprehension, oral expression, reading and writing.

## Registration:

Register by sending letter or an email to the Programme Director with a copy of your students / Advocate's ID to:

Dr K M Baharul Islam  
Program Director,  
Workshop on Women Rights,  
NEF Law College,  
G S Road, Opp. Hub, Guwahati 7810005 India  
Tel: 098599-14100  
Email: [genderpfi@gmail.com](mailto:genderpfi@gmail.com)