



SOMAIYA
VIDYAVIHAR

S K Somaiya College of Arts, Science & Commerce



A Two-Day Hybrid International Conference on

20 Years of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005

6th and 7th March 2026

Organised by
Department of Sociology
S K Somaiya College of Arts, Science and Commerce
Affiliated to the University of Mumbai

In collaboration with
Majlis
Legal Centre for Women and Children
Mumbai

About the Institution

S K Somaiya College of Arts, Science and Commerce (SKSASC) is an established name in the field of education known for its academic excellence. The college is affiliated to the University of Mumbai and recognised by the Government of Maharashtra. Since its inception, it has strived to impart quality education and facilitate a culture of multifaceted learning to its young scholars. The institution endeavours to provide and promote a stimulating environment for teaching, learning and research.

About Majlis Legal Centre

Majlis is a legal centre for women and children. A team of women lawyers, social workers, counsellors, academicians and activists working to protect and promote women and children's rights. Majlis' Rahat offers legal, social and mental health support to women and children victims of sexual and domestic violence. Majlis' Flavia Agnes Centre for Learning is a multi-disciplinary hub for advancing knowledge, promoting research and fostering discourse on the intersection of gender, law and society.

About the Conference

Domestic violence affects individuals across gender, age, and socio-economic backgrounds, with women and children disproportionately impacted. It takes multiple forms—physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse, rooted in deeply ingrained patriarchal norms that normalise and justify violence against women. Globally, the cost of violence against women was estimated at \$1.5 trillion in 2016, roughly 2% of the world's GDP. In India, domestic violence is estimated to reduce economic output from \$479 million to \$880 million annually. According to NFHS-5 (2019–2021), nearly 29% of women aged 15–49 have experienced physical or sexual violence, underscoring a major public health and human rights challenge. The long-term impacts on survivors are severe, including trauma, low self-esteem, suicidal behaviour, self-destructive actions, and addictions. Children exposed to violence face heightened risks of anxiety, hostility, poor self-esteem, and long-term mental health issues.

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was enacted to provide civil remedies and strengthen protection systems. However, two decades later, its implementation remains inconsistent across states. Survivors continue to face significant barriers such as institutional bias, lengthy legal processes, inadequate resources, poor inter-agency coordination, and widespread underreporting driven by stigma and lack of awareness.

S K Somaiya College of Arts, Science, and Commerce in collaboration with Majlis, Legal Centre for Women and Children, are organising a two day international conference to focus on the contentious legacy of the Act. How survivors of domestic abuse experience, manage, and negotiate their legal rights, services, as well as institutional and cultural norms. The conference will feature a keynote address by a luminary from the field, panel discussions by experts and paper presentations centred around the conference themes.

We are inviting original paper submissions from authors based on the themes, sub-themes of the conference. Papers will be assessed by a blind peer review committee, and qualifying papers will be invited to make presentations at the conference. Selected papers will be considered for publication in future.



Conference Objectives



Conference Themes

PWDVA: Two Decades of Legal Evolution

- Judicial interpretation of key provisions (protection, residence, maintenance, custody and compensation orders)
- Implementation across states: comparative legal analysis
- Interface of PWDVA with 498A IPC, CrPC, and family laws
- Role and accountability of Protection Officers and Service Providers
- Case law trends: progressive and regressive judgments

Women's Lived Experiences: Navigating Law, Institutions, and Social Norms

- Barriers to reporting: stigma, retaliation, economic dependence
- Survivor agency: strategies women use to negotiate safety and justice
- Impact of domestic violence on children: trauma, schooling, behavioural issues
- Marginalised women's experience: caste discrimination, minority communities, migrants, tribals, informal workers, Sex workers and women with disabilities
- Voices from the margins: LGBTQ+ survivors and non-normative family structures

Domestic Violence as a Public Health and Economic Issue

- Mental health consequences: PTSD, depression, suicidal ideation
- Physical health impacts and gaps in medical documentation
- Economic cost of domestic violence: household and macro-economic perspectives
- Health-sector response: protocols, forensic documentation, training gaps
- Substance abuse, addiction and cyclical violence

Institutions, Systems, and Service Delivery: Gaps and Innovations

- Effectiveness of support services: helplines, shelters, OSCs, legal aid
- Police response: institutional bias, sensitisation, and accountability
- Judicial delays and court infrastructure: impact on case outcomes
- Government schemes and funding mechanisms: evaluation of utilisation
- Technology-enabled interventions: e-filing, digital safety tools, AI/ML for risk assessment

Prevention, Education, and Behavioural Change

- Patriarchy, masculinity, and social norms driving violence
- School and university-based prevention programmes
- Community mobilisation: role of ASHAs, Panchayats, NGOs, men's groups
- Media representation of domestic violence: news, cinema, OTT, social media
- Early intervention frameworks: identifying risk, safety planning, bystander training

Pathways to Reform: Policy, Legislative, and Research Recommendations

- What the PWDVA needs next: amendments
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems
- International comparison: lessons from global laws
- Evidence-based policymaking: bridging gaps between research and practice
- Designing survivor-centred justice: restorative, therapeutic, and community models

Chief Guest



Adv Flavia Agnes

A pioneer of the women's movement, Flavia has worked consistently on issues of gender & law. She played an important role in bringing women's rights to the forefront within the legal system and in contextualizing issues of gender and identity. A prolific writer, she has provided incisive analysis of social trends and legal reforms including domestic violence, minority law reforms, secularism and human rights.

Panelists



Adv Audrey Dmello

Director, Majlis - Legal Centre for Women and Children, Mumbai



Mrs Shobha Shelar

District officer, Women & Child Development Department, Mumbai



Adv Ujjwala Kadrekar

Human Rights Activist; Ex Consultant, UNFPA Former Officer, Maharashtra State Commission for Women



Dr Sonali Kusum

Assistant Professor, School of Law, Rights and Constitutional Governance, TISS Ex Research Associate, Centre for Child & Law, UNICEF



Dr Suchitra Dalvie

India's first 'Conscious Uncoupling' coach; Co-founder, Asia Safe Abortion Partnership Author, *Roadmap to Managing Divorce*

Esteemed Resource Persons



Dr Nayreen Daruwalla

Director, SNEHA (Society for Nutrition, Education & Health Action)



Adv Manisha Tulpule

Women's rights lawyer; Ex Legal Advisor, BMC Former Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Raigad



Dr Trupti Panchal

Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, TISS Project Director, Special Cell for Women & Children and RCI-VAW



Adv Amar Jesani

Founder, Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES) Co founder & Trustee, Anusandhan Trust Founding Director, CEHAT



Dr Vibhuti Patel

Expert Committee Member, Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, UNHRC Author, *Women's Challenges of the New Millenium* Former Professor, Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, TISS Former Professor, HOD, Economics, SNDT Women's University

Patrons

Shri Samir Somaiya

President Somaiya Vidyavihar

Lt Gen H S Kahlon

Secretary Somaiya Vidyavihar

Advisory Committee

Audrey Dmello

Director Majlis - Legal Centre for Women and Children, Mumbai

Mallika Verma

Programme Director Majlis - Legal Centre for Women and Children, Mumbai

Tanvi Mane

Project Coordinator Majlis - Legal Centre for Women and Children, Mumbai

Organising Committee

Conference Chair

Dr Purushottam Wadje
Principal
S K Somaiya College of Arts,
Science and Commerce

Conference Co-Chair

Dr Charlotte Maria Braganza
Vice Principal
S K Somaiya College of Arts,
Science and Commerce

Convener

Susannah Malkan
Head, Department of
Sociology
S K Somaiya College of
Arts, Science and Commerce

Co-Convener

Sara Bardhan
Faculty, Department of
Sociology
S K Somaiya College of
Arts, Science and Commerce

Contact Details

E-mail: sociology.sksasc@somaiya.edu

Susannah Malkan: 87670277 55 | **Sara Bardhan:** 73959365 33

Important Dates

15th February, 2026

Last date for submission of abstract (maximum 300 words)

20th February, 2026

Acceptance notification

25th February, 2026

Last date for online registration

25th February, 2026

Last date for submission of full-length paper (5000 words, including abstract)

6th and 7th March, 2026

Conference

Venue: Somaiya Vidyavihar, Vidyavihar (E), Mumbai, India

Guidelines

- Full papers should consist of the author's and/or co-author's full name, contact number and affiliation.
- A maximum of three authors are allowed for one paper.
- In case of joint publication all authors will have to register separately. Co-authors, along with the principal author must pay registration fees.
- Payments must be made online via the registration link.
- The full research paper must be sent in soft copy form to **sociology.sksasc@somaiya.edu**
- The papers can be based on the theme / sub-themes as well as any other topic related to the title/theme of the conference.
- Only the use of English language is permitted for the paper submissions and presentations.
- Authors must use Times New Roman 12 and 1.5 line spacing with one inch margin on all sides.
- References must follow the APA 7th edition.
- Qualifying papers will be checked for plagiarism. For any instance of plagiarism, the onus will solely be on the author/s.
- Only original, and unpublished works that are not under consideration elsewhere will be accepted.
- Only research papers selected by a blind peer review committee will be published in a book with ISBN.
- Participants must fund their own travel and accommodation. The conference organising committee will help participants identify venues for affordable accommodation.
- Non presenters are requested to make their own arrangements for breakfast, lunch and tea.

Conference registration fee

Students	₹1000
Research Scholars	₹1500
Academicians/ Professionals	₹2000
International Participants	₹5000
Non presenter	₹500

Scan to register



S K Somaiya Degree College of Arts, Science and Commerce
4th Floor, Vinay Mandir Building, Somaiya Vidyavihar, Vidyavihar (E),
Mumbai 400 077.

<https://sksasc.somaiya.edu.in/sksasc>

sociology.sksasc@somaiya.edu

