

Trafficking in Persons

National Judicial Academy, Bhopal
December 16-17, 2023

Saturday, December 16, 2023

9:45 a.m. **Opening Remarks**

Hon'ble Justice Sujoy Paul, Director, National Judicial Academy, India

10:00 a.m. **Program Overview & Introductions**

Hon'ble Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, Delhi High Court

10:30 a.m. **Human Trafficking: An Overview**

The United Nations defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transport, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, by means of ... coercion ... for the purpose of exploitation.” This modern form of slavery is global in scope, putting millions of people at risk and posing complex challenges to national justice systems. We will review the many modalities used to traffic persons and discuss some of the social and economic factors that contribute to its persistence.

Hon. Justice Sanjeeb Panigrahi, Orissa High Court

11:15 a.m. **Cyber-enabled Trafficking: Social Context**

This session aims to inform judges about how the internet is used to facilitate human trafficking. We will address the misuse of social media as a tool for sexual exploitation and the importance of social context to judges' effective adjudication of these cases.

Hon'ble Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, Delhi High Court

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. **Cyber-enabled Trafficking: Electronic Evidence and Jurisdiction**

Cyberspace is regularly used to facilitate human trafficking, expanding its reach and menace. This session will focus on two important legal and procedural issues implicated by cyber-enabled trafficking: digital evidence and jurisdiction.

Hon'ble Justice H.S. Thangkhiew, Meghalaya High Court

3:00 p.m. **Break**

3:15 p.m.

Law, Procedure, Evidence

This session will focus on some of the key legal, procedural, and evidentiary issues that arise during human trafficking cases. We will discuss the interplay between penal provisions and procedural laws, the legislative structure for awarding victim compensation, and the evidentiary rules governing assessment of inconsistent testimony.

Mr. Manoj Prasad, Chairman, Commercial Tax Tribunal, Jharkhand

4:45 p.m.

Day Concludes

Sunday, December 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Victim Centric Courts

Victims of human trafficking, like other vulnerable victims, must be treated with empathy and sensitivity by trauma informed judges. This session will address how courts can identify trafficked victims, design court spaces to address victims' needs, conduct court proceedings in a sensitive and respectful manner, and craft appropriate rehabilitation options for trafficking victims.

Mrs. K.C. Barphungpa, District & Sessions Judge, Sikkim

11:30 a.m.

Break

11:45 a.m.

Case Management

Courts throughout the country experience a huge pendency of cases and lengthy cause lists. Human trafficking cases must be adjudicated in a timely manner. During this session, we will explore strategies judges can adopt to handle cases of human trafficking efficaciously and in time bound manner.

Ms. Sonia Gupta, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

1:15 p.m.

Lunch

2:15 p.m.

Interview with an Expert

We will close the workshop with a conversation: Hon'ble Justice Amanullah will speak with Dr. Veerendra Mishra, former Director of the National Institute of Social Defense, a central advisory body for India's Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Dr. Mishra is a social scientist with years of experience working on human trafficking issues, including advising the justice sector in India and abroad. Justice Amanullah and Dr. Mishra will address challenges faced by investigative officers in trafficking cases and discuss the important role judges play in providing a forum for trafficking victims. Time will be reserved for workshop participants to pose their own questions to Dr. Mishra.

Hon'ble Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Judge, Supreme Court of India

3:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

4:00 p.m.

Program Concludes