

Trafficking in Persons

West Bengal Judicial Academy, Calcutta
February 3-4, 2024

Saturday, February 3, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Hon'ble Justice Joymalya Bagchi, High Court at Calcutta

10:15 a.m.

Program Overview & Introductions

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

10:45 a.m.

Interview with an Expert

We will open the workshop with a conversation: Hon'ble Justice Amanullah will speak with Dr. Veerendra Mishra, Assistant Inspector General at the Women Safety Branch at the IPS. 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

11:15 a.m.

Break

11:45 a.m.

Interview with an Expert (Continued)

12:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.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

2:15 p.m.

Break

2:45 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

4:15 p.m.

Day Concludes

Sunday, February 4, 2024

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. Barhungpa, 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.

Decoding the Binary of Digital Evidence in Trafficking Cases

Our Digital footprints are our second identity. We are leaving them everywhere and all the time. And so do the criminals. This has become a boon for investigating agencies who have developed new techniques of investigation relying on the digital activities of those trafficking in persons. Unfortunately, till very recently, the courts have been hesitant to accept and rely on digital evidence primarily because of uncertainty around the rules of their admissibility and also because of the potential for manipulation. This topic "Decoding the binary of digital evidence" seeks to clear the mist on two most vital aspects of digital evidence: admissibility and reliability and discuss its relevance for human trafficking cases.

Mr. Ankur Gupta, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Muzaffarpur

3:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

4:00 p.m.

Program Concludes