



O.P. Jindal Global University
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JINDAL SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY OPEN LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, 7 December 2016, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
T2, Global Conference Room
O.P. Jindal Global University
Sonipat Narela Road, Sonipat- 131001, Haryana



Jindal School of Government
and Public Policy
India's First Public Policy School

“Recent Findings Pertinent to Prisons Reforms: CHRI's Reports on Prison Oversight Mechanisms”

The Prison Visiting System, mandated under the Prisons Act 1894, statutorily requires the constitution of a Board of Visitors to oversee prison conditions and treatment of prisoners. In its recent national report titled '*Looking into the Haze: A Study on Prison Monitoring in India*' CHRI has studied this mechanism and found that not even 1% of jails are monitored according to law.

The Undertrial Review Committee is a district level oversight body headed by a judicial officer and mandated to review and recommend release in cases of petty offence, long detentions, and in cases where statutory bail is ordained. CHRI's report titled '*Circle of Justice: First National Report on Undertrial Review Committees*' has examined the shortfalls in the formation and functioning of the undertrial review committees across the country.



Ms. Mrinal Sharma
Project Officer, Prison Reform Programme of CHRI

Mrinal Sharma is a Project Officer with the Prison Reform Programme of CHRI. She manages the Urgent Action Desk that works for timely repatriation of foreign prisoners and immediate release of asylum seekers. She received her B.A (Hons) in Philosophy and Bachelors in Law (LLB) from University of Delhi. She also holds Post Graduate Diplomas in Alternative Dispute Resolution from NALSAR University, Hyderabad and International Refugee Law, Humanitarian Law and Human Rights from Indian Society for International Law, Delhi.



Ms. Sugandha Shankar
Senior Programme Officer, Prison Reform Programme, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Sugandha Shankar is a Senior Programme Officer in the Prison Reform Programme at Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative. She has worked extensively on issues concerning pre-trial detention and legal aid over the last six years. She is a law graduate and holds a Diploma in Human Rights and Law. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from University of Delhi. She also contributes by experience gathered from International Human Rights Training Program (IH RTP) organised by Equitas - International Centre for Human Rights Education, Canada.

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an independent, non-partisan, international non-governmental organisation, mandated to ensure the practical realisation of human rights across the Commonwealth. CHRI was founded in 1987 by Commonwealth professional associations; it is headquartered in New Delhi, India since 1993, and has offices in Accra, Ghana and London, UK.

RSVP: Ms. Mani Mala, Assistant Manager, JSGP, mmala@jgu.edu.in, +91-8396907364



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