

## THE JUSTICE INITIATIVE: A WORKSHOP OF CHILD RIGHTS LAWYERS

Past two decades have seen a rapid expansion and growth of laws concerning rights of Children in India. In addition to the enactment of special laws, conventional criminal laws i.e. IPC, Cr.P.C. and Evidence Act, have also been amended many times in this duration. On Witness Protection and Victim Compensation, new schemes have been rolled out. An impressive case law concerning children has also evolved through judicial pronouncements of various High Courts and Supreme Court of India. Litigation on child rights is now fast emerging as a specialised branch in legal practice. Representing children in trial courts or child rights lawyering in superior courts requires not only a shift in the perspective of lawyers but also a nuanced understanding on strategy to create child rights jurisprudence through litigation.

It was in this context that HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, few years ago took its first steps by setting up its own panel of child rights lawyers and initiated case specific as well as strategic litigation. Taking this effort to the next level, we initiated ***the Justice Initiative*** to engage with lawyers for (1) knowledge and skill enhancement of lawyers on child rights litigation in trial courts as well as in appellate and superior courts, (2) for nurturing an environment in India on litigation from a child rights oriented approach and (3) for building a cadre of lawyers who identify as “Child Rights Lawyers” across India and remain engaged with each other as a community of child rights lawyers.

Under the Justice Initiative, first National Workshop of Child Rights Lawyers was conducted in 2019 which was a residential three day course held in Upper Macleodganj, Dharamshala. In the continuation of this effort, this year due to the pandemic of COVID-19, second workshop of similar nature is being conducted online. Key features of this workshop are:

- Litigation oriented curriculum;
- Focus on cutting edge issues in child rights;
- Personalised group mentoring by nationally acclaimed experts,
- An impressive range of faculty (former Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts, eminent lawyers, activists and experts) and
- Certification on successful completion of course.

The Workshop has been designed to make optimal use of the expected attention span of participants in an online programme. The workshop will be conducted through a virtual platform Zoom, commencing on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021 spanning seven days, with three hour sessions each day. Due to the limitations of the online workshop formats, only 50 lawyers from across the country will be accommodated in the workshop. There is a nominal registration fee of Rs. 500 which only the shortlisted participants will have to pay after the submission of the registration process as per the timeline given below:

## How to Register

The participants will have to register using the google form link provided below:

<https://forms.gle/n79wSBzhVHMRXLgT8>

## Necessary Details:

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Call for Applications/ Registration Begins On             | 04.01.2021                    |
| Call for Applications Ends On                             | 15.01.2021                    |
| Announcement of Shortlisted Candidates                    | 16.01.2021                    |
| Registration Fee to be paid by the shortlisted candidates | 16.01.2021 to 20.01.2021      |
| Date of Workshop  | 25.01.2021 to 31.01.2021      |
| Timing of Workshop  | 03.00 PM to 06.00 PM Everyday |

## For further queries/clarification, please contact:

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