

# Announcement

## Centre for Women's Studies, AMU

### Seminar

on

### 'Women's Rights and Law in a Historical Perspective'

11-13 December 2010

The Centre invites scholars to participate in the seminar and present a paper on any topic related to the theme of the seminar.

#### The Theme Outline

One of our objectives is to examine the representation and incorporation of women's rights in different temporal and spatial contexts. Our hope is that this exercise would allow us to study the inter-relations between law and gender in a comparative framework, and, more importantly, the broad socio-cultural contexts that informs the legal discourse on women's rights and their place in the legal system. We understand that the rights-based discourse is quite modern, a product of liberal individualism, but in exploring women's 'rights' in the legal processes, we would welcome contributions that go back to the pre-modern period, as well. After all, women's issues were not a matter of concern for the modern social reformers in South Asia alone, but much before the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Mughal rulers, in particular Akbar, were seriously concerned with them. The position of women in the legal-sacral system has also been elaborated in several earlier texts, such as the *Dharmashastras*, *Arthashastra*, the *Lekhapaddati* documents, etc., and papers exploring the gender dimensions of these texts are particularly welcome. We would also welcome papers that reassess the discourse on women's rights in the post-enlightenment European thought, and the extent to which it was appropriated by the liberal feminists. As we know, liberal-feminist thinkers, such as Mary Wollstonecroft, pursued their struggle for gender equality, primarily through a rights-based language, believing that equal civil and political rights for women would remove their subordinate position in European society.

The proposed Seminar would cover the following broad themes:

1. Women under Custom and Religious Laws of the Past. (including surviving customs among primitive communities).
2. State-made law and women (with special reference to colonial law, but *not* excluding earlier state-made law)
3. Change in law after the Constitution (1950): especially, women's rights in Hindu Code, Muslim personal law, and other community laws.
4. Towards full equality. Limitations of present legal framework. Proposals for changes to be made in present law / laws.

This list is only suggestive, not all-inclusive. Ultimately, the object is to receive papers which after due processing and refereed selection, can be published.

*There will be no registration Charges, and the Centre would be happy to provide local hospitality. We would, subject to the availability of funds also be able to meet the travel expenses (AC-II / Taxi / Apex Air Fare) within India of the, invited scholars.*

## **The Dead Line:**

**For receipt of the title of the paper alongwith an abstract (app.150-300 words) 15 October, 2010.**

**For submission of full paper for pre-circulation 20 November, 2010.**

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(Professor Farhat Hasan )

  
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