



Ref.No.WDC/237 of 2014

Date: 11th November, 2014

To,

The Director/ Principal/ Head of College/ Institution

Respected Madam/ Sir,

University Women Development Cell is organizing one day seminar on 21st November, 2014 on **"Culture, Community and Sexuality"** at Phirozshah Mehta Bhavan, Civics and Politics Department, Vidyanagari Campus, University of Mumbai.

One of the mandates of the UWDC is to prevent sexual harassment in University and College campuses and create an environment where women employees and students are able to participate in the process of learning and teaching, in an environment that respects them and creates possibility of growth. The UWDC believes that one of the ways to do this is to have many more conversations on issues of gender and sexuality, so that there is greater understanding amongst us all of the various ways in which these are constructed and maintained in society. For the past decade and more, hence, the UWDC has been organizing seminars and workshops for our University and College teachers and students on these topics.

Sexuality is gendered and constructed for all people through the use of culture, and in the name of community. These connections have been well established



and there are various ways in which these discussions have happened from time to time. Changing notions of culture and community, and the dynamic character of both of these, compel us to revisit these debates from time to time.

In present times we think that these discussions are even more relevant since for the last two years there has been much protest and public visibility on issues of sexual violence and harassment. While this has resulted in various measures taken by the State and society to ensure "safety" of women, these need to be tested and validated to see if they work towards the primary goal of maintaining women's autonomy over their lives and choices. Many incidents of the recent past have shown us the nexus that communities weave using arguments of culture and tradition to restrict sexual choices of especially young women and men – all in the name of safety and protection.

We have hence organized this year's seminar on "Culture, Community, and Sexuality". The seminar will have lectures by academics and activists from Mumbai and other parts of the country and a spoken word performance.

Hence we request you to Please bring to the notice of your staff particularly to the members of the College Women Development Cell and put this circular on your notice board. We also request you to please send at least two representatives from your institution to attend this programme.

With Regards,

Dr. Kranti Jejurkar

Chairperson, UWDC

**Details of the Programme:****Title: 'Culture, Community and Sexuality'****Venue: Phirozshah Mehta Bhavan, Civics and Politics Department, University of Mumbai.****Time: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm****Registration Fees: 50rs. (Each)****The Schedule of the Programme:**

9:30 to 10:00 am	Registration
10:00 to 11:00 am	Key note address "Culture, Community and Sexuality: The Present Scenario" Prof Nivedita Menon Centre for Comparative Political Thought and Political Theory, JNU, Delhi
11:00 to 1:15	Panel Discussion "Intersections and Impositions of Caste, Religion and Law" Sanjay Pawar Writer, Activist Mumbai Hasina Khan Feminist Activist



	<p>Forum Against Oppression of Women, Mumbai</p> <p>Veena Gowda</p> <p>Women's Rights Activist and Lawyer</p> <p>Mumbai</p>
1:15 to 2:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 to 4:00	<p>Spoken Word Performance and Discussion</p> <p>"Main yeh bhi hoon"</p> <p>Zehen Collective</p> <p>Mumbai</p>
4:00 to 5:00	<p>Valedictory Speech</p> <p>"Rejecting Honour for Dignity: Way Ahead?"</p> <p>Prof Pushpa Bhawe</p> <p>Feminist Activist, Thinker and Teacher</p> <p>Mumbai</p>

Note: Each participant will get the certificate of the participation.