

## **Women's Development Cell (WDC) 2019-20**

In the academic year 2019-20, WDC organised several events including panel discussions, movie screenings and informal discussions in which we attempted to explore the intersections of gender with various other social identities, including ethnicity, sexuality, etc. The WDC initiated the academic year with their first event on “Feminist Art on new age media” by Isha Yadav. It was centred around the speaker’s research on Feminist Art by South Asian Women on Instagram. The talk attempted to address several issues like arranged marriage and caste and religious atrocities that South Asian women face. On September 12th, an enriching panel discussion on “Transgender Persons’ Protection of Rights Bill” was organized which spurred a discussion on how the bill affects the members of the community differently.

In September, a panel discussion was organized on ‘Women in Media’. The discussion focused on inclusivity of women from marginalized sections of society in the newsrooms and addressed issues like gender-based violence. In October, an interactive session on “Navigating Mental Health” was organized in order to address the issue of mental health in college spaces. The speaker Ms. Vaishali Rathore discussed the importance of coping mechanisms as well as positive thoughts and talked about the signs that indicate depression. The next month WDC organized a Guest Lecture in collaboration with Reach on “Intersections of Gender, Disability and Sexuality” by Dr. Anita Ghai. The aim of the lecture was to focus on the discourse on disability and understand it in terms of the larger women’s movement.

WDC also organized a panel discussion on “Gender and Citizenship” on 20th February 2020. The session helped students in understanding the complex concept of citizenship and discussed how the feminist movements and the queer community shape the nature of citizenship.

As a part of informal sessions like “Let’s Talk” the members shared their personal experiences and views on different themes including gender-based violence, polygamy and polyamory, intersections of gender, class, caste, religion, disability and sexuality. WDC also conducted an open mic session and several movie screenings this academic year which included, “In a heartbeat, A Boy”, a short-animated film about a closeted boy. WDC also started an initiative this year of a reading group, wherein members meet periodically and discuss certain selected books, essays, poems, etc.

### **List of speakers**

S.No	Name	Designation
1	Isha Yadav	a writer and a mental health activist, pursuing PhD in Women and Gender Studies in Ambedkar University.
2	Ray	a trans woman and a law student from Delhi University.

3	Taksh	A trans woman, a fashion blogger and model, and an advocate for trans welfare and mental health.
4	Kaushal Bourothu	a queer activist, masters in sociology, from Jawaharlal Nehru University.
5	Sai Bourothu	Criminologist, founding member of TISS Queer Collective
6	Deepti Mary Minj	Post graduate in Development and labour studies from JNU, an Adivasi woman from Ranchi, content creator at Adivasi Lives matter (a campaign of Youth ki Awaz).
7	Rituparna Chatterjee	an independent journalist and a feminist with over 15 years of experience covering women's rights. She's been the deputy chief editor of Huffington Post. She is the Indian correspondent for international press freedom watchdog Reporters Without Borders and writes for various publications on press freedom and gender rights.
8	Nishita Jha	A global women's rights reporter at BuzzFeed News. Since 2013 she has been a New India Foundation fellow.
9	Asmita Ghosh	A content creator and campaign manager at the digital platform 'Feminism In India.' She works to increase the representation of women and the marginalized on digital platforms, and creates campaigns that educate the youth about issues of gender justice.
10	Dr Vaishali Rathore	An LSR alumna, a licensed psychotherapist and CBT counselor, positive psychologist, neuroplasticity enthusiast, Clinical Hypnotherapist and Life Skills Coach.

11	Dr. Anita Ghai	A disability rights activist in the areas of sexuality, education, health and gender. Associate professor in Department of Psychology in JMC, DU.
12	Ditilekha	They are currently working in Sangat, a Feminist Network and have been involved with the Queer, Feminist and Student movements for the past 9 years in Mumbai. Ditilekha is also doing their PhD on the topic Queer Citizenship and Nationalism from Tata Institute of Social Sciences.