



**"Strengthening Legal Aid and Education for Marginal Communities & Most at Risk of HIV/AIDS"**

Seminar organized by AP State Legal Services Authority with Technical Support from Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR)

Under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)

At Hyderabad on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2013

**Recommendations to National Legal Services Authority**

- There should be a legal protection against all forms of discrimination inflicted by both state and civil society on the marginal communities (sex Workers, transgender people, men having sex with men and injecting drug users) many of which is very akin to the offence of practicing untouchability and bordering on hate crimes.
- Delivery of all schemes of the legal services authority must be enhanced to ensure a wider coverage of marginalized communities.
- All existing schemes being implemented by Legal Services Authority such as legal literacy, legal aid clinic, para-legal volunteer training and Lok Adalats may be delivered as is being done like a package of services with the support of community based organizations.
- Civil rights under law such as the right to get a passport, ration card, make a will, inherit property and adopt children must be available to all regardless of change in gender /sex identities.
- The legal services authority must set up a cell or engage community Para Legal Volunteers (PLV) in all major police stations to provide instant assistance to marginalized communities and in order to ensure strict adherence to rules and procedures set out under law with reference to raids, arrests, detention, etc.
- Just as any other allegedly accused person, the sex worker or transgender person must be informed about the availability of free legal services when they are first produced before the court and referred to the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

Prevent harassment and police excesses in the name of enforcement of Laws such as Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956, The Andhra Pradesh (Telangana Area) Eunuchs Act, Bombay Police Act, Karnataka Police Act and follow the standard operating procedures in letter and spirit.