



NLUA



Centre for Child Rights National Law University, Assam

NEWSLETTER

Vol I Issue 1 (March 2015 - March 2016)

The National Law University, Assam was established by the Government of Assam to rejuvenate the scenario of legal education in the northeastern area of India as it remained far from the potential of possible proliferation of excellence in the realm of legal education.

In furtherance of the research objectives of NLU, Assam, the Centre for Child Rights has been established as a Specialised Centre of Excellence for promotion of advanced learning, teaching and research in the field of child rights.

Further, NLU, Assam has joined hands with UNICEF, Office for Assam, to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of children in general and in the state of Assam in particular. In furtherance of the same, CCR and UNICEF, Office for Assam, seek to create awareness among the masses and support the Government in the implementation of the aims and objectives as specified in various national and international legal instruments with a special focus on children, and provisions as outlined in the Constitution of India and various legislations that are in force.

The Centre for Child Rights proudly present to you our first newsletter to apprise the readers of the activities undertaken up by the Centre in collaboration with UNICEF, Office for Assam, towards the promotion and protection of rights of children.



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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR



Children are considered to be the supreme asset of any country and a valuable gift of God to humanity. They are innocent, vulnerable and dependent and just like a sapling needs care, protection and proper nurturing with conducive environment to develop into a tree, a child too needs the same to grow up into a responsible human being. Children in Assam are faced with several hardships. There is a high prevalence of under nutrition,

acute malnutrition as well as anaemia among children. In terms of education, Assam faces several problems including poor school infrastructure, low levels of enrolment and lack of teachers. Also, there is high incidence of crimes against children including homicide, trafficking, rape and various other sexual offences. A huge chunk of children constitutes those living on the streets who suffer from vices like begging, substance abuse, may be in conflict with law as well as victims of various crimes. Having said that, amongst the most vulnerable groups are children living or working in the tea plantations who experience significantly poorer living conditions than children in general in that they have limited access to health and education facilities and marrying relatively at young age.

In pursuance of the goal to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of children in the state of Assam and other parts of North East India, National Law University, Assam and UNICEF, Office for Assam, have joined hands. In furtherance of the same, National Law University, Assam has established the Centre for Child Rights, a specialised Centre to address issues relating to children. I wish the team of Centre for Child Rights the very best in its noble endeavour to promote and protect the rights of children and hope that they shall successfully address all the issues affecting the children of Assam.

Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar



MESSAGE

On behalf of UNICEF, I would like to take the opportunity of sharing our heartiest congratulations to the National Law University (NLU), Assam for the establishment of Centre for Child Rights (CCR) as a centre for excellence in the University.

UNICEF has entered into a MoU with NLU Assam for the period June 2015 to December 2017 to realise the shared objective of :

1. Creation of a centre for excellence on child rights: to conduct doctrinal and empirical research with regard to children's right;
2. From Preaching to Praxis: to ensure protection of the rights of children, with a focus on social justice and equity; and
3. Capacity development of stakeholders and duty bearers engaged with the implementation of the child rights.

The establishment of CCR has led to a quantum leap in outputs in regard to ensuring the rights of children in the state and region, and this newsletter by NLU Assam demonstrates all the efforts and learning that the first 9 months of the Centre of Child Rights in NLU Assam has witnessed.

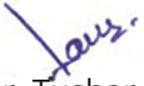
It would be poignant to reiterate here that the Centre of Child Rights could facilitate and anchor a range of activities with regard to child rights and child protection because of the timely and spontaneous support rendered to CCR by various departments of Government of Assam, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and most importantly, Hon'ble Gauhati High Court.

I sincerely hope that with the establishment and thriving of Centre of Child Rights (CCR) in NLU Assam, the situation of children in Assam and North Eastern region will change for the better.

Wishing all colleagues in NLU Assam the very best in their incessant efforts to ensure better world for children.

Thank You

Best Regards


Dr. Tushar Rane
Chief of Field Office
UNICEF Assam

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD, CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS

Children are the ones who are very vital for deciding how the world is going to be after some years. So if one can do some good in the life of a child then there can be change, at least a slightest change, in the world to come. And if most of us think on the same lines, then we can hope of more changes and a little better future for our children. However, as of now this is a dream as millions of our children are not fully protected. Many of them are suffering violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, exclusion and/or discrimination every day. Such violations limit their chances of surviving, growing, developing and pursuing their dreams. This also results in 'children being bane and not the boon' for our future. Hence, it is sine qua non for all nation states to ensure their children and provide them proper protection. It is the duty of the state to confirm that even the last child in the queue must be given the right to survive, to be safe, to belong, to be heard, to receive adequate care and to grow up in a protective environment.



UNICEF, Office for Assam, and NLU, Assam have joined hands to promote, protect and fulfill the rights of children in the State of Assam and other parts of North East India. Further, to create awareness among the masses and support the State in the implementation of the aims and objectives as specified in various national and international legal instruments with special focus on children; provisions as outlined in the Constitution of India and various legislations which are in force.

In the recent past, Centre for Child Rights together with UNICEF, ASCPCR and Government of Assam have organized several capacity building programmes, consultation and conferences on child related laws and their fulfilment. The main objective of this maiden issue of 'Newsletter', is to bring to the kind attention of our readers, brief details of the activities organized by us up to March, 2016.

Centre for Child Rights is deeply thankful to His Lordship, Hon'ble Shri Justice N. Chaudhury, Judge, Gauhati High Court; Hon'ble Shri Justice A. C. Upadhyay, former Judge, Gauhati High Court and Director Judicial Academy, Assam; Smt. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights; Shri Vinod Kumar Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam; Shri Khagen Sharma, former Director General of Police, Assam and Shri Mukesh Sahay, Director General of Police, Assam and Shri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, IPS, ADGP (Railway), Assam Police; Shri Mukesh Agarwal, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Guwahati; Dr. Tushar Rane, Head, UNICEF, Office for Assam; Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF, Office for Assam, for their kind support for working of the Centre for Child Rights. I also wish to convey my heartfelt thanks to Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, NLU, Assam for his trust in me and his full-fledged support to the Centre; Dr. Himanshu



Pandey, Associate Professor of Law and Registrar, NLU, Assam and his entire team from Administration for providing uninterrupted administrative support. My special thanks to Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Ms. Preeti Priyam Sharma, Mr. Himangshu Ranjan Nath, Ms. Monmi Gohain, faculty colleagues, Ms. Jimani Goswami, Mr. Mukut Deka, supporting staff together with 'Student Volunteers of CCR' for their hard work and ensuring success to the programmes organized by the CCR. Last but not the least I wish to thank you - my esteemed readers for reading our newsletter and helping us in achieving our mission. Kindly convey your comments/guidance so that we can be more sensitive and effective in our future endeavours !

Jai Hind!!!



Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari

PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED BY THE CENTRE

INAUGURATION OF CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF CHILDREN: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES”

DATE: MARCH 14, 2015

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM

The Centre for Child Rights was inaugurated on March 14, 2015 and to mark the event a National Conference on “Protection of Rights of Children: Issues and Challenges” was organized by the National Law University, Assam in partnership with UNICEF, Office for Assam.

The inaugural session was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Assam; Dr. Benarji Chakka, Associate Professor of Law and Registrar, National Law University, Assam; and Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Office for Assam. A total of 29 papers were presented in four parallel sessions.



DISCUSSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) BILL, 2014

DATE: MAY 16, 2015

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM



Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam organized a discussion on “Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2014” wherein faculty members and students participated and voiced their opinion on whether children between the age of 16 and 18 who are alleged to have committed heinous offences should be treated as adults or not.

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SIGNING OF MoU BETWEEN NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM AND UNICEF, OFFICE FOR ASSAM

DATE: JUNE 24, 2015

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between National Law University, Assam and UNICEF, Office for Assam to promote, protect and fulfill the rights of children in the state of Assam and other parts of North East India. In furtherance of the same, they seek to create awareness among the masses and support the State in the implementation of the aims and objectives as specified in various international human rights instruments with a particular focus on children, and provisions as outlined in the Constitution of India and various legislations that are in force.



DISCUSSION ON “DR. A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM – HIS LOVE FOR CHILDREN”

DATE: AUGUST 1, 2015

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM



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Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam organized a discussion on “Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam – His love for children” on August 1, 2015 to honour the memory of the departed soul of the erstwhile President of India. The students as well as the faculty members of the University attended the discussion and shared their thoughts on the sad demise of Dr. Kalam.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF POLICE OFFICERS ON “CHILD RELATED LAWS”

DATE: AUGUST 21 - 22, 2015

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM

Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam in collaboration with UNICEF, Office for Assam conducted the first Capacity Building of Police Officers on “Child Related Laws” on August 21-22, 2015 at the National Law University, Assam.

This capacity building programme was the first of three similar programmes conducted for police officers. It was attended by 68 police officers from various districts of Assam.

The objective of this capacity building programme was to ensure that police officers are skilled in using relevant and case specific clauses under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000; Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012; Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 to ensure effective and speedy justice to children. The inaugural session was graced by Mr. Khagen Sarma, Director General of Police, Assam



as the Chief Guest and Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights as the Special Guest of Honour. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice

Chancellor, National Law University, Assam and Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Office for Assam were also present at the inaugural session.



Mr. Mukesh Sahay, Additional Director General of Police (CID) Assam as Chief Guest and Mr. Mukesh Agarwal, Commissioner of Police, Guwahati as Special Guest of Honour graced the valedictory session.

STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION ON “THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2012”

DATE: SEPTEMBER 4 - 5, 2015

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM

Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam in collaboration with Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASPCR) and supported by UNICEF, Office for Assam conducted the State Level Consultation on “The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012” on September 4-5, 2015 at the National Law University, Assam.

The Consultation was attended by 67 participants including 23 police officers, 21 Chairpersons and Members of Child Welfare Committee, 5 Superintendents of Civil Hospitals and 12 District Child Protection Officers from the Department of Social Welfare, inter alia.



The objective of this Consultation was to bring together various stakeholders responsible for the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 to enhance their skills as well as to deliberate upon the bottlenecks faced by them in the fulfillment of their functions as

mandated under the Act in order to come up with concrete recommendations to ensure the smooth implementation of the Act.

The inaugural session was graced by Hon'ble Shri Justice Nishitendu Chaudhury, Judge, Gauhati High Court as the Chief Guest and Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights as the Guest of Honour. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor and Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Specialist and Officer in Charge, UNICEF, Office for Assam were also present at the inaugural session. Noted academicians, Prof. (Dr.) Ved Kumari, Professor of Law, University of Delhi and Prof. (Dr.) Nishtha Jaiswal, Professor of Law, University of Punjab and Member, Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights were among the resource persons in the Consultation.

Mr. Mukesh Sahay, Director General (Home Guard), Assam Police and Ms. Kavyashree Mahanta, Deputy Secretary, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Assam and Director, Health Services were the reviewers for the presentations made by the participants subsequent to their group work.



The valedictory session was graced by Mr. V.K. Pipersenia, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam as the Chief Guest. Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law, Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam presented the recommendations for the effective implementation of "The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012" in Assam at the end of the deliberations in the Consultation.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF POLICE OFFICERS ON “CHILD RELATED LAWS”

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18 - 19, 2015

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM



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Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam in collaboration with UNICEF, Office for Assam conducted the second Capacity Building of Police Officers on “Child Related Laws” on September 18-19, 2015 at the National Law University, Assam. The programme was attended by 37 police officers from various districts of Assam.

The objective of this capacity building programme was to ensure that police officers are skilled in using relevant and case specific clauses under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000; Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012; Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 to ensure effective and speedy justice to children. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Assam and Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights graced the inaugural session. Mr. Mukesh Sahay, Director General (Home Guard), Assam Police as Chief Guest and Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Office for Assam graced the valedictory session



CAPACITY BUILDING OF POLICE OFFICERS ON “CHILD RELATED LAWS”

DATE: SEPTEMBER 26 - 27, 2015

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM



Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam in collaboration with UNICEF, Office for Assam conducted the third Capacity Building of Police Officers on “Child Related Laws” on September 26 - 27, 2015 at the National Law University, Assam. The programme was attended by 23 police officers from various districts of Assam.

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The objective of this capacity building programme was to

ensure that police officers are skilled in using relevant and case specific clauses under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000; Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012; Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 to ensure effective and speedy justice to children.



The inaugural session was graced by Mr. Pradeep Kumar, ADGP (Training) Assam Police as the Chief Guest and Mr. N.M.A.S.F. Haque, Joint Commissioner of Police, Guwahati as the Special Guest of Honour. Dr. Himanshu Pandey, Registrar, National Law University, Assam was also present at the inaugural session. The valedictory session was graced by Mr. Mukesh Sahay, Director General (Home Guard), Assam Police as the Chief Guest.

NATIONAL LEVEL CONFERENCE ON “PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS IN TEA PLANTATIONS OF INDIA, WITH A PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANTATIONS LABOUR ACT, 1951”

DATE: NOVEMBER 14 - 15, 2015

VENUE: ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE, GUWAHATI

Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam in collaboration with Department of Labour and Employment, Government of Assam and supported by UNICEF, Office for Assam and Ethical Tea Partnership organized the National level Conference on “Protection of Child Rights in Tea Plantations of India, with a particular reference to the implementation of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951” on November 14 - 15, 2015 at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati.

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A total of 150 participants from across the country attended the conference including representatives from Labour Departments of Assam, Tripura and West Bengal; tea certification companies, tea buyers, tea management associations, labour unions and several departments of Government of Assam, viz. social welfare, health and education.



The inaugural session was graced by Mrs. Ajanta Neog, Hon'ble Minister, Planning Development, Judicial, Legislative, Law and Public Works (Roads, Buildings, National Highway), Government of Assam as the Chief Guest. Prof. (Dr.) Mool Chand Sharma Former Member, Law Commission of India, New Delhi was Special Guest of Honour and delivered the Key Note address. Ms. Henriette Ahrens, Deputy Representative-Programmes, UNICEF India Country Office; Mr. Debasish Choudhury, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India and Ms. Laya Madduri, IAS, OSD to Chief Minister of Assam, Government of Assam also addressed the delegates as Special Guests of Honour. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Assam started the inaugural session with a welcome address followed by opening remarks delivered by Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Assam.

Mr. V.K. Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary to Government of Assam graced as the valedictory session as Chief Guest.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF POLICE OFFICERS (GRP) ON “CHILD RELATED LAWS”

DATE: DECEMBER 10 - 11, 2015

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM

Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam in collaboration with UNICEF, Office for Assam conducted the Capacity Building of Police Officers (GRP) on “Child Related Laws” on December 10-11, 2015 at the National Law University, Assam. A total of 37 Government Railway Police Officers attended the programme from various districts of Assam.

The objective of this capacity building programme was to ensure that police officers are skilled in using relevant and case specific clauses under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000; Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012; Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 to ensure effective and speedy justice to children.

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The inaugural session was graced by Mr. Mukesh Sahay, Director General of Police, Assam Police as the Chief Guest and Mr. Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, ADGP (Railways), Assam Police as the Special Guest of Honour. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Assam was also present at the inaugural session.

Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights graced the valedictory session as the Chief Guest. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Assam; Mr. Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, ADGP (Railways), Assam Police; and Dr. N. Rajamarthandan, SSP, CID also graced the occasion.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF POLICE OFFICERS (GRP) ON “CHILD RELATED LAWS”

DATE: DECEMBER 16 - 17, 2015

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM

Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam in collaboration with UNICEF, Office for Assam conducted the Capacity Building of Police Officers (GRP) on “Child Related Laws” on December 16-17, 2015 at the National Law University, Assam. A total of 38 Government Railway Police Officers attended the programme from various districts of Assam.

The objective of this capacity building programme was to ensure that police officers are skilled in using relevant and case specific clauses under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000; Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012; Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 to ensure effective and speedy justice to children.

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The inaugural session was graced by Mr. Mukesh Sahay, Director General of Police, Assam Police as the Chief Guest and Mr. Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, ADGP (Railways), Assam Police as the Special Guest of Honour. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Assam was also present at the inaugural session.

Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights graced the valedictory session as the Chief Guest. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Assam; Mr. Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, ADGP (Railways), Assam Police; and Dr. N. Rajamarthandan, SSP, CID also graced the occasion.

STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON “JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015”

DATE: FEBRUARY 19 - 20, 2016

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM

Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam in association with Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR) and UNICEF, Office for Assam conducted the State Level Workshop on “Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015” on February 19 - 20, 2016 at the National Law University, Assam. A total of 65 participants including Juvenile Justice Board members, Child Welfare Committee Chairpersons, District Child Protection Officers, State Child Protection Society members from various districts of Assam attended the Workshop.



The inaugural session was graced by Hon’ble Shri Justice A.C. Upadhyay, former Judge Gauhati High Court and the Director, Judicial Academy, Assam as the Chief Guest and Prof. (Dr.) Ved Kumari, Professor of Law, University of Delhi as the Guest of Honour. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Assam and Dr. Himanshu Pandey, Registrar, National Law University, Assam were also present at the inaugural session.



Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights graced the valedictory session as the Chief Guest. Dr. Himanshu Pandey, Registrar, National Law University, Assam also graced the occasion.



PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES BY CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS TEAM MEMBERS

ORIENTATION WORKSHOP ON “CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION PRIORITY & CONVERGENCE PROGRAMMING IN ASSAM”

DATE: SEPTEMBER 6 - 8, 2015

Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law, Head, Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam; Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law, Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam; and Ms. Monmi Gohain, Research Assistant, Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam attended the Orientation Workshop on “Child Protection and Education Priority & Convergence Programming in Assam” organized by UNICEF, Office for Assam, held at Hotel Radisson Blu on September 6 - 8, 2015.

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The workshop aimed at fostering mutual exchange of knowledge among the various stakeholders engaged in working for realization of child rights at the grass root level and to come up with a roadmap to achieve the said goal.

REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON “STRENGTHENING RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN UNDER THE JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2000”

DATE: SEPTEMBER 12 - 13, 2015

VENUE: HIGH COURT SESQUICENTENNIAL HALL, KOLKATA

Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law, Head, Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam participated in the mentioned regional consultation which was organized by Supreme Court Committee and High Court Committee on Juvenile Justice; organized by Calcutta High Court, Department of Child Development, Women Development & Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal and supported by UNICEF with technical support from Centre for Child and the Law (CCL), National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru and The WB National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS) Kolkata.



**“TRAINING OF PANEL LAWYERS FOR ADVANCING
LAWYERING SKILLS : A PROGRAMME” BY NAGALAND
STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 22 - 23, 2015

VENUE: ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING INSTITUTE, KOHIMA, NAGALAND

Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law, Head, Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam was invited as a resource person in the said training to take sessions on “Women and Law, Child Rights vis-à-vis Role of Stakeholders and Juvenile Justice System” organized by Nagaland State Legal Service Authority, held at Administrative Training Institute, Kohima on September 22 - 23, 2015.

**CONSULTATION ON CHILD RIGHTS, MEDIA ETHICS AND
PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN THE MEDIA**

DATE: OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 1, 2015

VENUE: BORGOS RESORT, KAZIRANGA

Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law & Head, Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam was invited to take session as resource person on “Instruments and Standards for Protection of Child Rights”, organized by Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and UNICEF, Office for Assam.

Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law, National Law University, Assam was invited as a resource person to take session on “Legal Provisions for Representation of Children and Adolescents in Media”.

**REGIONAL ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE OF SCPCR’s TO
STRENGTHEN SCPCR’s OF NORTH EAST AND SIKKIM &
CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD RIGHTS DAY**

DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2015

VENUE: GUWAHATI

Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law & Head, Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam participated and addressed the delegates as the Guest of Honour at the Inaugural Session. This Conference was organized by Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASPCR) in association with National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and UNICEF, Office for Assam, on November 20, 2015.



STATE LEVEL MONITORING COMMITTEE ON “STATE CONVERGENT PLAN OF ACTION ON CHILD LABOUR IN ASSAM”

DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2015

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL OF CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Assam and Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law & Head, Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam participated in the deliberations as special invitees.

SEMINAR ON “COMBATING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOUR BY EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS, VULNERABILITY AND AGENDA SETTING”

DATE: JANUARY 8, 2016

VENUE: ASSAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law & Head, Centre for Child Rights chaired a session and Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law, National Law University, Assam was invited as resource person to take a session on “Laws relating to Child Labour in India” organized by Assam Police and held at Assam Police Headquarters.

ONE-DAY DISTRICT LEVEL TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS ON “CHILD RELATED LAWS”

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2016

VENUE: NRLM CONFERENCE HALL, TINSUKIA

Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law, National Law University, Assam was invited as resource person to take sessions on “Child Related Laws” viz. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015; Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012; and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, organized by Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Tinsukia, held at NRLM Conference Hall, Tinsukia.



■ STATE LEVEL CONCLAVE ON IMPACT OF DISASTER ON PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN ASSAM

DATE: FEBRUARY 26 - 27, 2016

VENUE: PHANIDHAR DUTTA SEMINAR HALL, GAUHATI UNIVERSITY

The programme was organized by Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in collaboration with Gauhati University and Assam State Disaster Management Authority with support from UNICEF, Office for Assam.

Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, NLU, Assam participated as a Guest of Honour. Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law & Head, Centre for Child Rights chaired the first Technical Session on “Situation and vulnerabilities of children and their communities in the context of disasters in Assam” and Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law participated as a delegate.

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■ 2ND BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IMPROVING STANDARDS OF CARE FOR ALTERNATIVE CHILD AND YOUTH CARE: SYSTEMS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES

DATE: MARCH 18 - 19, 2016

VENUE: AMITY UNIVERSITY, NOIDA

Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law & Head, Centre for Child Rights participated as a Panelist in the programme.



VISITS AT THE CENTRE

UNICEF AUDIT TEAM

DATE: AUGUST 3, 2015

An audit team comprising of UNICEF officials from Delhi and Assam visited the Centre for Child Rights.

JAYAPRAKASH INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL CHANGE (JPISC) TEAM

DATE: JULY 22, 2015

Prof. Joydev Mazumdar, Director, JPISC, Ms. Natasha and Mr. Mahesh Menon, Assistant Professor of Law, WB NUJS, Kolkata visited the Centre for Child Rights.

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OFFICIALS FROM UNICEF, REGIONAL OFFICE OF SOUTH ASIA AND UNICEF, INDIA COUNTRY OFFICE

DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2016

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM

Mr. Phillippe Cori, Deputy Regional Representative, UNICEF, Regional Office for South Asia and Ms. Foroogh Foyouzat, Chief of Field Services, UNICEF India Country Office visited National Law University, Assam and interacted with the administration, faculty members and students of the University. They were accompanied by Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Office for Assam and Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF, Office for Assam.

OFFICIALS FROM UNICEF, BANGLADESH

DATE: MARCH 3, 2016

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM

Dr. Kazi Dil Afroza Islam, Chief of Field Office, Sylhet, UNICEF Bangladesh and Md. Kafil Uddin, Chief of Field Office, Khulna, UNICEF Bangladesh visited National Law University, Assam and interacted with the administration, faculty members and students of the University. They were accompanied by Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Office for Assam and Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF, Office for Assam.

CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS TEAM AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS

VISIT TO CENTRE FOR CHILD AND THE LAW, NLSIU, BENGALURU

DATE: JULY 16, 2015

Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Assam and Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law, Head, Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam visited Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru to discuss about possible collaboration and the signing of MoU in pursuance of the same.

COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, BANGALORE

DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2015

VENUE: NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, BANGALORE

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between National Law University, Assam and National Law School of India University, Bangalore on October 16, 2015 to strengthen CCR activities.





UN CRC: THE MOST RATIFIED CONVENTION IN HUMAN HISTORY

Gitanjali Ghosh

Assistant Professor of Law

Centre for Child Rights

National Law University, Assam

In the history of the human civilization, several efforts have been made internationally to provide rights and protections to children. The League of Nations had adopted the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1924. After World War II, the United Nations established the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund in 1946. It was shortened to United Nations Children's Fund in 1953, popularly known as UNICEF. This was followed by the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly wherein children's need for protection was recognized. The first UN document specially focused on child rights was the Declaration on the Rights of the Child, but it was more in the nature of a moral code of conduct for governments than being binding in nature.

It was on November 20, 1989 that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted on November 20, 1989. This was for the first time that children were accorded the position of rights holders in an international treaty and it marked the transition from addressing the needs of children through charity towards advocacy to bring about systemic change for the realisation of their rights. The Convention required it to be ratified by 20 countries to enter into force and accordingly, after being ratified by 20 countries it entered into force on September 7, 1990.

The Convention is a universally agreed set of non-negotiable standards and obligations, providing protection to and support for the rights of children. It is structured to encompass within its framework, both civil and political as well as socio-economic and cultural rights. A notable feature of the Convention is that there are general principles underlying the specific rights and protections provided to children under the Convention viz. the Best Interest Principle (Article 3), Right to participation (Article 12), Non-discrimination (Article 2), and Right to life, survival and development (Article 6).

The Convention is accompanied by three Optional Protocols viz. First Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; Second Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and Third Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure. The third optional protocol authorizes individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention as well as the first two Optional Protocols.

After the celebration of its 26th anniversary in November last year, it has 196 signatory parties to it and awaits to be ratified by just one State viz. the United States of America. Until 2015, South Sudan and Somalia had also not become parties to the Convention but South Sudan acceded to it on January 23, 2015 and Somalia recently ratified it on October 1, 2015. US had signed the Convention in 1995, but never ratified it. The Convention, thus, stands as one of the most ratified human rights treaties in the history of this world. The sheer magnitude of ratifications of the Convention evidences its worth and significance towards the realization of the rights of our most prized assets, our children.



CHILD PROTECTION - A COMMON RESPONSIBILITY OF MANKIND

■ **Monmi Gohain**

Research Assistant, Centre for Child Rights
National Law University, Assam

"If we have to reach the real peace in the world, if we are to carry real war against war, we have to begin with children, and if they grow up in their natural innocence, we won't have to struggle".

- Mahatma Gandhi

Children are any nations assets essential for their prosperity. In the present stage of human civilization, technology and development have achieved great heights. But not much has been done to increase the health and welfare of the children. They are still in the grip of various problems that prevents them from growing with full potentiality. This adds to the fact that the children are the most vulnerable group in the society and they require proper care and protection. So, along with the government, community involvement in carrying out the protection of children is very important, notwithstanding the fact that adequate protection services and structures exists and are operating effectively. The attitude and the involvement of the community lie at the heart of the child protection and its implementation.

Nineteen per cent of world's children live in India. India is home to more than one billion people, of which 43 crores are children, defined as persons under 18 years of age. ¹It is estimated that about 40 per cent of children are in difficult circumstances or vulnerable which include children without family support, children forced into labor, abused / trafficked children, children on the streets, vulnerable children, children affected by substance abuse, by armed conflict/civil unrest/natural calamity etc. The current development of our country brings up an opportune moment for making significant changes related to child protection keeping in mind the increasing child rights violations within the country. Some of the changes might be effective poverty alleviation schemes in relation to the economic development, strengthening community based programs on child welfare, giving adequate opportunities to various stakeholders within the society to bring about effective implementations of child protection schemes etc.

Many a time, the role of the community in increasing child welfare is being ignored. The stakeholders within the community need to be supported because of the fact that as a whole, they have the best power and capacity to fight against various problems faced by the children. So the capacity building of various stakeholders related with child protection needs to be mentioned at this juncture. This is very important because till today we can see that there is very little effort and commitment towards protecting children at the community level. In this regard the educational institutions like the school, colleges and universities can be the torchbearers in this direction by providing appropriate guidance and effective support. One of the steps in this direction is that the roles and responsibilities of different actors need to be envisioned. This will in turn highlight the importance of stakeholders, increase awareness among the common people and bring about a transition in welfare-based approach of child protection.

¹Report Of The Steering Committee On Women's Agency And Child Rights For The Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017), Planning Commission, Government Of India

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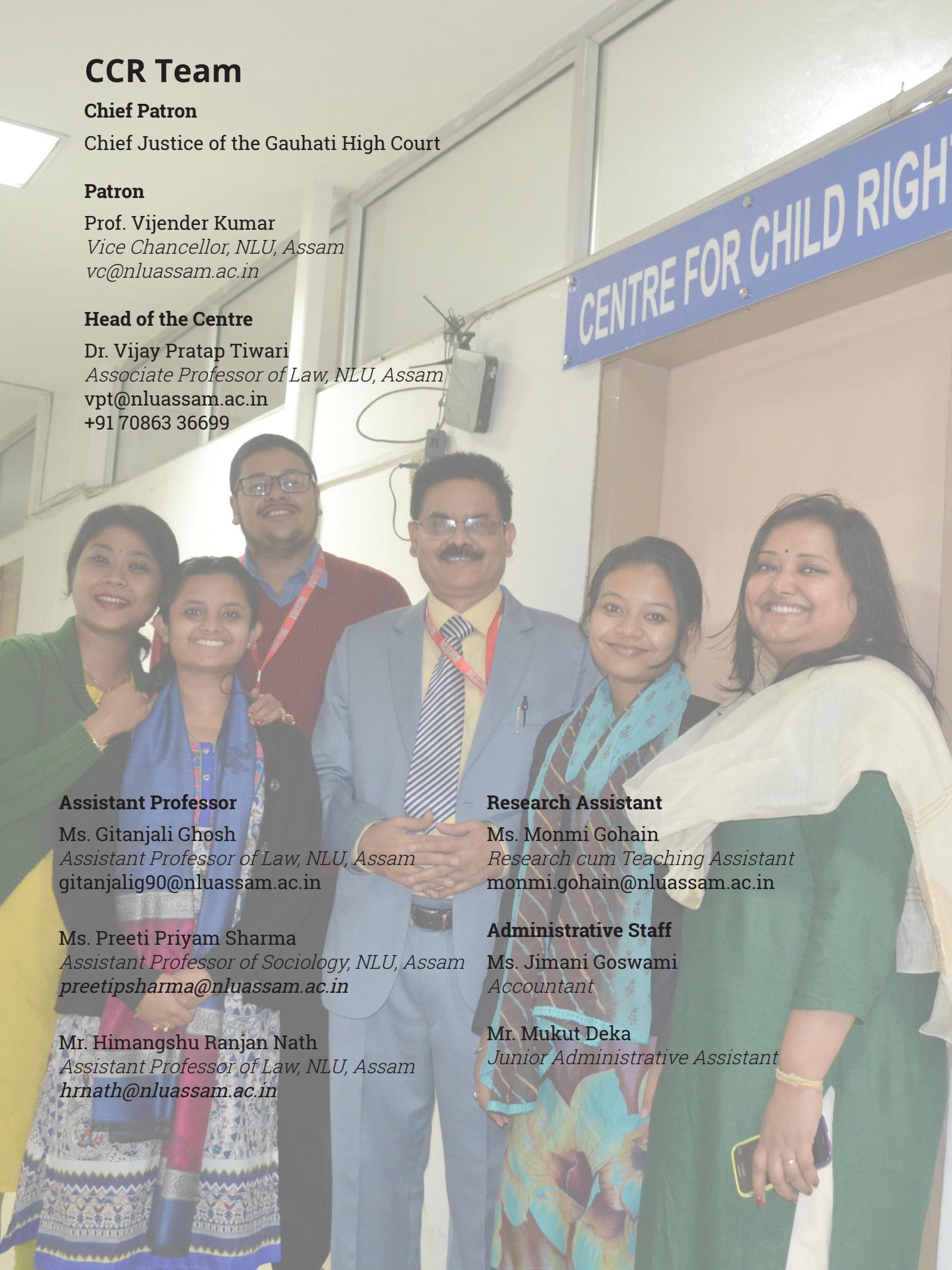
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