

**WEBINAR ON “A STRIDE TOWARDS EQUALITY: DISCUSSING THE LEGALITY AND  
LIMITS OF ABORTION LAWS IN INDIA”**



**DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER :**

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**MS. AISHWARYA BHATI**

Additional Solicitor General of India,

Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court of India

**DATE AND TIME:**

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**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Saturday**

**Time: 11:00 A.M. to 12.00 P.M.**

**MODE:**

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**VIRTUAL (CISCO WEBEX)**

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

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Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, holding the position of Additional Solicitor General of India from the year of 2020 has the distinction of being the youngest woman lawyer & the only one from Rajasthan, to be conferred the designation of a Senior Advocate from Supreme Court of India in March 2019 and has represented the Union Government in a variety of cases, ranging from the constitutional validity of the Agnipath scheme to abortion rights. As a senior advocate, she played a key role in the case that led the Supreme Court to hold that Short Service Commissioned (SSC) women officers in the Indian Army were entitled to permanent commission.

In August 2022, she assisted the Supreme Court in a case where a 25-year-old unmarried woman sought to terminate her 24-week pregnancy, which was not allowed under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. In September 2022, the Supreme Court widened the scope of the rules to allow unmarried women to terminate pregnancy.

Ms. Bhati noted that the amendments to India's Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 were path breaking. *"The constitutional courts have ironed out small issues with the act and the rules in a seamless manner"*, she said.

She was Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court of India for 13 years prior to designation as a Senior Advocate. Being former Additional Advocate General for U.P. in Supreme Court from 2017 to 2020, she was the Counsel for the High Court of Delhi in Supreme Court. She was volunteer at Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC), Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society (MIG) from the beginning of professional journey. She is also one of the youngest Additional Solicitor General of India, since June 2020 and the fourth woman in the country to occupy this coveted position.

Ms. Bhati has passionately fought for rights for women children and people with disabilities, sustainable environmental laws and also been a crusader advocate for anti-tobacco litigation.

## **ABOUT GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY**

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Gujarat National Law University is a statutory University established by the Government of Gujarat under the Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003. The University is recognized by the Bar Council

of India and the University Grants Commission. The University functions as a nodal agency to uplift the legal education in the State of Gujarat. The University offers teaching, research and training programmes in law and inter-disciplinary fields such as Arts, Commerce, Science and Technology, Business Administration and Social Work at undergraduate and post-graduate levels. It is the only National Law University that is offering integrated undergraduate law degrees in five areas- B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), B.S.W. LL.B. (Hons.), B.Com. LL.B. (Hons.), B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), and B.Sc. LL.B. (Hons.); full-time LL.M., PhD in law and other disciplines as recommended by the UGC as well as diploma/certificate courses in various areas.

### **ABOUT GCRCJS:**

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Recognizing that a comprehensive appreciation of the technicalities, complexities and patterns of criminal law are indispensable for realizing the goals of the law, the University established the Centre for Research in Criminal Justice Sciences. (GCRCJS) It is a Centre dedicated to carry out research in the niche area of Criminal Law. The Centre provides a platform for a holistic research environment and aims to further knowledge and academic discussions about the multifaceted dimensions of criminal science.

### **ABOUT THE EVENT:**

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The expert speaker will focus on the topic "**A stride towards equality: Discussing the legality and limits of Abortion Laws in India**", which aims to provide a platform for a productive and insightful discussion about the abortion laws in the country and how the contemporary society views them. This event aims to shed light on the legal framework surrounding abortion in India, its impact on women's reproductive rights, and the ongoing debate on striking the balance between the rights of the pregnant individual and the unborn child.

Abortion has been a topic of intense discussion and controversy, particularly in the context of women's rights and bodily autonomy. The speaker will explore the challenges faced by women in navigating the complexities of Abortion Laws and to engage in an informed and respectful dialogue on the complexities and challenges of abortion laws in India.

The event will feature the speaker who will share their expertise and perspectives on various aspects of abortion laws, including the legal framework, constitutional rights, medical ethics, and the societal implications. The event also aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by marginalized communities, where access to safe and legal abortion services may be limited or non-existent. It seeks to encourage meaningful conversations and brainstorm potential solutions to ensure equitable access to reproductive healthcare for all. The speaker will explore the current legal landscape in India, discussing the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971 and recent developments in the interpretation and application of abortion laws.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

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The Webinar is open for Students, Lawyers, Research Scholars, Teachers, Judges, Professionals and Academicians or for anyone who is interested in the topic of the Webinar.

*Please Note:* There is no registration fee. Further, no certificate shall be issued for attending the webinar.

#### **HOW TO REGISTER:**

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The webinar will be conducted on Cisco WebEx, details of which will be shared with the participants in due course of time.

To register for the Webinar, click the link below:

[<https://forms.gle/3otg4uYxbvyPNv6y9>]

*Please Note:* The last date to register is August 3, 2023 (Thursday), before 7 pm.

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

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For any queries, kindly write at: [gcrcls@gnlu.ac.in](mailto:gcrcls@gnlu.ac.in)

Or contact: Mr. Shubh Naik (Student Secretary), +91 9824330830 / Ms. Simran Srivastava (Student Co-Convenor), + 91 9807851552.