

Title: Strengthening Child Protection Mechanism

Date: Saturday, 30th June 2018

Venue: Conference Hall, Lloyd Law College

Speaker(s): Mr Emidio Angelo Pinho, Child Protection Coordinator, Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN)

India has the world's second largest child population. It has a strong legal framework, too, with special provisions in the Constitution favouring children. Child sexual abuse (CSA), a widespread phenomenon, goes unreported because of the shame and social stigma attached to it. Recognising that CSA is a major issue, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act was implemented in 2012. CSA cases often show that the abusers are known to the victim. Perpetrators use a method of grooming the victims to gain their trust. Parents and teachers can protect children from CSA in the several ways such as conversing and getting involved in their daily routine, teaching them about safety, teaching them to respect their bodies, and the differences between safe and unsafe touch.

Lloyd Law College conducted an extension of the lecture series on this topic due to the sensitivity of the issue in our country. This lecture will encourage the students to be considerate towards child abuse and to be empathetic to the children who have suffered from the child abuse. It will be useful to the students in a way so as to help and curb child abuse across the country, if they are made aware of the issue. This will ultimately enable the students to find solutions to this problem at a grass root level.

Emidio Pinho is currently working as a child protection coordinator in a NGO called as the Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) located in Goa. He has a Master's degree in law and has been working on the legal aspect to cases of children in need of care and protection since 2005. In recognition of the efforts in the field of child welfare, Adv. Pinho was a recipient of the National Award for Child Welfare 2014, from the Hon'ble President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.