

A National Seminar on

RELIGION, LAW, AND CIVIL SOCIETY - INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATIONS

The interface between religion, law and civil society is increasingly coming under critical scrutiny today. Issues related to personal identity, sexuality, gender, family life and reproduction, if / when being brought to judicial arbitration, are facing up to highly controversial debates due to the involvement of religious factors. For example, the use of advanced reproductive technologies has much to do with the religious beliefs and practices of the users, and they can ensue endless litigations between marriage partners; or, acknowledging a different gender than the one a community is used to becomes a delicate issue due to religious beliefs and sentiments; or, the rights of females with regard to entry into sacred spaces have become subjects of weighty judicial pronouncements and political controversies. All these examples go to show that the interface between religion, the modern law or judiciary, and the civic life is becoming a matter of grave concern for the humanity today.

Against this background, the proposed seminar on *Religion, Law and Civil Society – Critical Explorations* intends to situate the theme in the Indian context and explore it from interdisciplinary perspective. Legal studies, religious studies, sociology of religion, cultural studies, feminism, post-colonial studies and the like can shed much light upon the many aspects of the interface. Some of the probable topics that could dwell upon the interface are:

- Morality and Law- impact on Civil Society
- Public Interest Litigations and impact on society
- Voice of Civil Society and Justice
- The role of Civil Society for better tomorrow
- Civil society and impact of Judicial Activism and Constraint
- Role of NGO'S in a Civil Society –Voice for Justice
- The influence of Civil Society in shaping culture
- Women and civil society in India
- Contemporary Challenges faced by the Civil Society
- Religion and Civil society
- Civil Society as a conduit between the population and the political organisation
- Civil society in the postcolonial period
- Impact of Secularism on the Civil Society
- Civil Society and Human Rights
- Law and the differently abled of the society
- Surrogacy laws and religion
- Reproductive policies and litigations
- Uniform civil code and personal laws
- The changes needed to enhance the effectiveness of the Civil Society

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- Law and Civil society with regard to religious policing
- Impact of Globalisation on Law, religion and Civil Society
- Law, Religion, and Environmental Issues
- Civil Society and Good Governance
- Indian Democracy and Civil Society

Scholars and researchers in relevant fields are invited to submit an abstract of not less than 250 words before 30 September 2019 to the following email IDs: alices567@hotmail.com; xtianstudies@gmail.com Decisions on the abstracts will be communicated by the organizing committee by 07 October 2019. Seminar dates are 17 & 18 October 2019; Venue: Social Science Seminar Hall, University of Madras.

No Registration fee

Paper presenters will be given meals and participation certificate.