

The Gender Studies Cell, St. Stephen's College

Annual Report 2022-23

The Gender Studies Cell, St. Stephen's College could only begin its activities in the month of January, 2023, owing to the 6 month ban imposed on the cell in April 2022. We hosted the much anticipated orientation on January 10th, which was enthusiastically attended by around 15 to 20 first year junior members. This was followed by our first Let's Talk session of the academic year on January 18th on the topic, "*Fitting In: Communities, Cliques, and Hierarchies*". After almost a break of one month, because of the NAAC visit and the First Year examinations, we resumed our activities with another informal Let's Talk session on the topic, "*Gender in College Societies: Does your Gender determine your participation in college societies?*"

As the fest season approached, the Gender Studies Cell, collaborated with The History Society, and hosted a panel discussion as a part of The History Society's annual fest, Kaalchakra. The discussion was held on 23rd March on the topic, "*Women of St. Stephen's: Gendering University Spaces and Exploring Experiences.*" The panellists invited for the same were Vrinda Grover, Saba Dewan, Dr. Maya John and the discussion was moderated by Ms. Nandita Narain. On March 29th, the Cell, in collaboration with The Debating Society, as a part of their annual Satyam Jha Memorial Dialogues, organised a panel discussion on, "*Navigating Queer Identities in the Academia, Workplace, and Beyond.*" As our panellists, we had Vikramaditya Sahai and Dhruvo Jyoti, meanwhile the discussion was moderated by our council members, one each from the respective societies. Afterwards, the Cell organised yet another panel discussion on the theme of the *Male Gaze*, and the *Dalit and Muslim Women Bodies*. This was held on April 3rd and the speakers were Cynthia Stephen and Dr. Firdous Azmat Siddiqui.

Finally, at the close of the semester, The Gender Studies Cell got to host its annual fest, *Sarfarosh*, after a break of two years. It was a two-day fest, from 19th April to 20th April. For the first day, we opened the fest with an inaugural lecture by Prof. Sharmisthaa Atreja on the topic, "*Collectives with Respect to Creation and Disruption of Space.*" Followed by the lecture was a small walk based activity around the college campus, titled, "*Stephen's Heritage Walk: Walking Down The Memory Lane of Misogyny in College Campus,*" wherein, through a walk around the campus, students engaged in conversations surrounding the instances of sexism on the college campus. The second day of the fest commenced with a 5 member student panel discussion. Each speaker belonged to a different socio-political/cultural background, as the topic of the discussion was on "*Belongingness: Tales of Breaking Barriers*". It was a fruitful discussion on understanding how marginalities and myriad backgrounds influence and shape our experiences on campus. The next, and the last event for the day was in a collaboration with The Photographic Society, called, "*Where Are The Women?: Documenting Women In College Photographs.*" During this activity, a bunch of students went around the college, meticulously counting the number of men and women in each photograph they came across. The locations that

were covered were the Cafe, Staff Room Area, first-floor corridor and the second floor. The findings of the activity will soon be shared by the cell through its social media accounts.

Finally, the Cell held the last event of the academic year with an informal Let's Talk session on 29th April, on "*Stories of Resistance from Conflict Zones.*"