



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Society Annual Report

Society: Women's Development Cell

Year: 2017- 2018 (from 1.7.2017 to 30.6.2018)

WDC Office Bearers:

Office:	President	Vice President	General Secretary	Treasurer
Name:	Aishwarya Unnikrishnan	Supriya Verma	Saumya Pancholi	Noor Bhatnagar

WDC Staff Advisors:

Dr. Bijaylaxmi Nanda, Political Science Department (Convenor)

Ms. Deepika Tandon, English Department

Dr. Sharda Sonkar, Chemistry Department

Dr. Mallika Pathak, Chemistry Department

Dr. Abha Habib Dev, Physics Department

Dr. Shweta, Philosophy Department

Dr. Chanda Sagar, Hindi Department



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Events/Seminars/conferences/workshops/Extension Activities organized

Film Festival

On 25th August, 2017, Women's Development Cell, Miranda House in association with KASHISH Arts Foundation and Queer India support organized a film screening of seven short films. Apart from films from the KASHISH forward program, the event also screened the documentary film **PURPLE SKIES** by **Sridhar Rangayan**, followed by a discussion with the director.

The session was open to all and was held in the seminar Hall of Miranda house and over 80 students attended the screening.



#BustingBodyImageMyths

Women's Development Cell, Miranda House organised an event that was titled as #bustingbodyimagemyths and aimed at breaking the convention of what defines a "perfect body". On 6th September, WDC, Miranda House celebrated body diversity by embracing differences in size, age, ethnicity, gender and other human attributes.

A photo booth was also organised near Nescafe lawns and over 70 students became a part of this event.





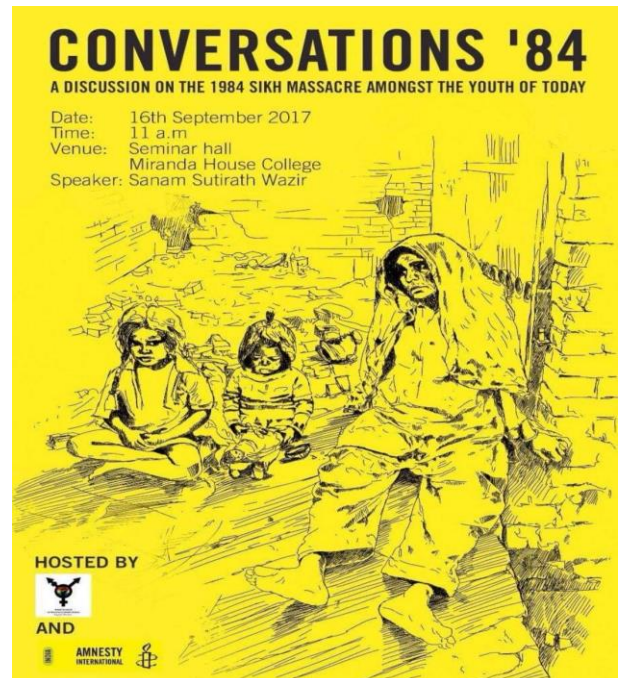
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Discussion on Sikh Massacre

Women's development cell, Miranda house in collaboration with Amnesty international organised a talk on 16th September 2017 on the Sikh Massacre of 1984. The session started with the screening of a ten-minute documentary by Amnesty International, *Insaaf 84*, which was followed by an enthralling discussion. The discussion was held in the seminar hall, and around 120 students participated.

Read More at:

https://womensdevelopmentcellmh.wordpress.com/2017/09/18/event-report-on-conversations-84-a-discussion-on-the-1984-sikh-massacre-amongst-t/?fbclid=IwAR2_IrhNYutjXTyi8RLb5IepxRWCKB3CtOjqdIP3cmwGzRr6veMgFza4TvI





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International Day of Girl Child Quiz

On 10th October 2017, Women's Development Cell, Miranda House organised Quiz Bowl in collaboration with Jigyasa, the Quiz Society of Miranda House. The event was held on the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child and aimed at celebrating the power of girls by engaging in discussions through quizzes.

The event was powered by The High Commission of Canada and was held in the lecture theatre where around 120 students joined.





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Bus tour launch of 'Driving with Selvi'

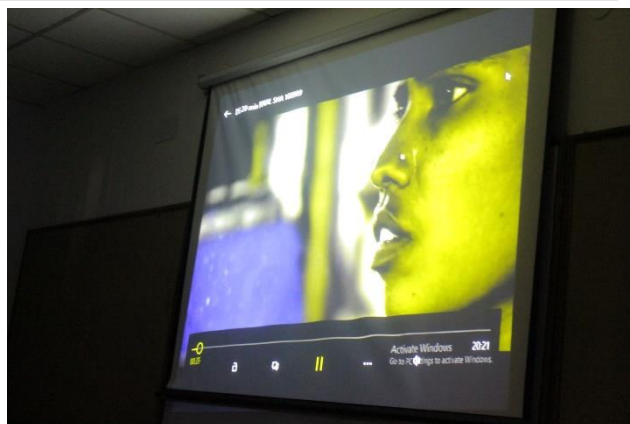
The Women's Development Cell, in collaboration with the High Commission of Canada kick-started the 'Driving with Selvi Bus Tour' at Miranda House on 11th October 2017 on the occasion of International Girl Child Day. The event started with the screening of the much-acclaimed documentary 'Driving with Selvi' by Elisa Paloschi, based on the life of Selvi, the first woman taxi driver of South India. Both Paloschi and Selvi were present for the event.

A panel was then invited to give a talk and hold a discussion. The panel comprised of Mr Nadir Patel, the High Commissioner of Canada, Ms Deboleena Dutta, the High Commissioner for the day, Ms Soyoung Park, the Deputy High Commissioner of Canada, Selvi (with Jayashri), and Elisa. They talked about Canada's perspective on International Girl Child Day.

Over 70 students participated in the event.

Read More at:

<https://womensdevelopmentcellmh.wordpress.com/category/event-report/>



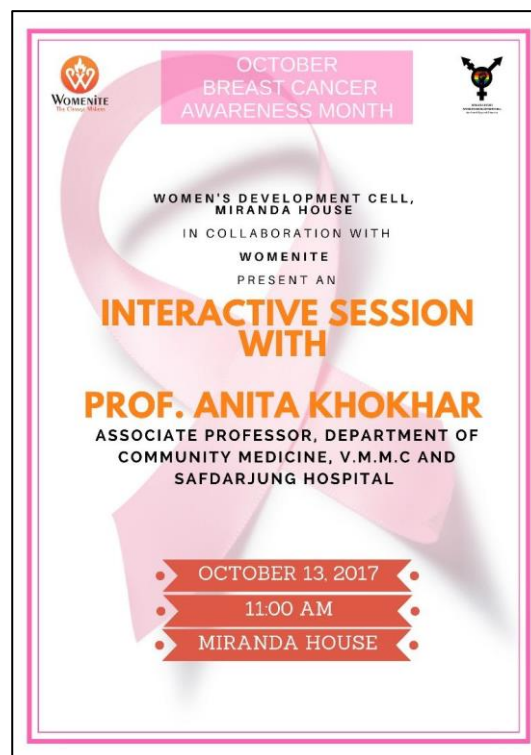


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Breast Cancer Awareness Month

WDC in collaboration with Womenite observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month and held an interactive session on 13th October 2017 with Professor Anita Khokhar, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Safdarjung Hospital.

The event was held in the New Seminar Room. Over 60 students and teachers participated in this extremely informative awareness session.



Film Festival: Gender, Masculinity and Relationships

Men against violence & abuse (MAVA) in collaboration with Women's Development Cell, Miranda House & Kirori Mal College had an exciting film festival where feature, and short films along with documentaries were screened. The films were placed around gender, masculinity, and relationships and the event took place on 30-31 October 2017. Gender and sexuality rights activist Aapurv Jain was among the key panellists.

The 2-day film Festival was held in the seminar hall, and over 120 students participated in the film festival.



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Letters to Patriarchy was organised by the Women's Development Cell in collaboration with One Billion Rising on 15.2.2018.

The event was held in Seminar Room and around 60 students joined to share their everyday encounters with patriarchy and its many forms that prevail.



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Gender Equality Mela 2018: 4th and 5th April 2018

The Gender Equality Mela of Miranda House 2018 was celebrated on 4th and 5th April 2018. Over 200 students participated in various sessions held under the two-days event.

Sessions held on 4 April 2018

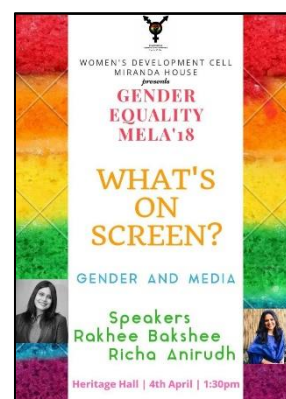
Session 1: Interactive Session, *Women in Movements*, by Kamla Bhasin and Suneeta Dhar. Renowned feminists and social workers Kamla Bhasin and Suneeta Dhar discussed various meanings and strands of the larger women's movement. On their insistence, the students engaged in a highly stimulating session on their everyday stories of resistance.



Session 2: Dr Bijaylakshmi Nanda, Associate Professor of the Department of Political Science at Miranda House, Divya Vaishnava, a social worker and founder of BUD Foundation, and Preeti Choudhury, author and lecturer, talked about various ways in which the culture of accountability can be remoulded in the context of sexual harassment and the issue of consent. It was followed by a round of Q&A with the audience that led to heated debates between the panelists and the students.

Session 3: *What's on Screen? Gender and Media* by Rakhee Bakshee and Richa Aniruddh

Rakhee Bakshee and Richa Aniruddh, journalists by profession, talked about the stigma and prevalent biases against female journalists. They concluded, after a vigorous Q&A session, that although there have been changes in the media now, women who are going to pursue this career still have a long journey to endure.

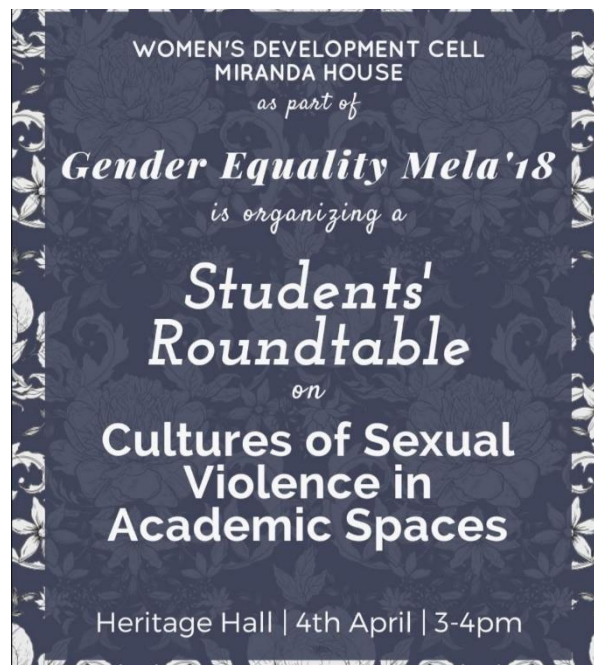




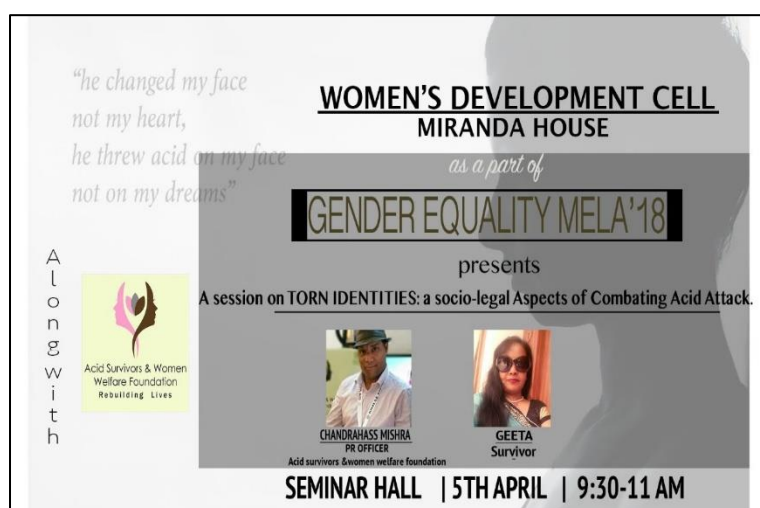
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Session 4: Roundtable Discussion on Institutionalised Sexual Violence in the University Spaces

Representatives of Internal Complaints Committee from various colleges such as Kirori Mal College, Hindu College, St. Stephen's, Ramjas, Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College, and Miranda House participated in the discussion. The session was moderated by Titiksha Vashisth, a Masters student from JNU and a Miranda House alumnus. The students discussed the structural problems regarding the functioning of the ICC such as an unhelpful administration while recognising that there is a need for the larger issue which is battling patriarchy and talking about sexual harassment.



Sessions held on 5 April 2018



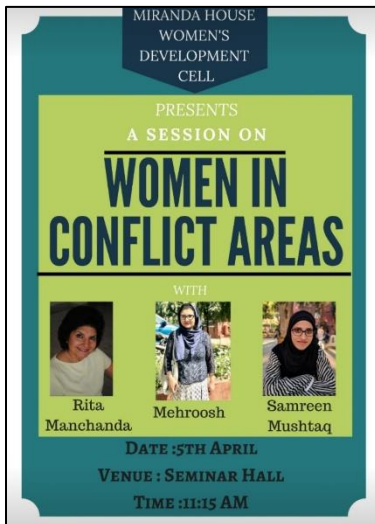
Session 1: Stories of Acid Attack Survivors

The event was held in collaboration with Acid Survivors Foundation India (ASFI). Chandrabhas Mishra and Ms. Geeta, acid attack survivors, shared their stories of survival and dealing with the stigma that came with the horrific incidents that occurred with them. Mr. Mishra of ASFI shared difficulties that survivors face in getting treatment,

overcoming their mental and physical trauma and seeking support from the government.



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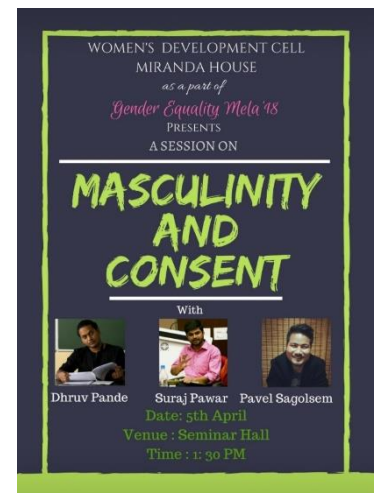


Session 2: Women in Conflict Areas

Panellists included Rita Manchanda, a well-known journalist and research scholar, Mehroosh, a student of psychology of law at Jamia Milia Islamia and Samreen Mushtaq, a doctoral candidate at the Department of Political Science at Jamia Milia Islamia. Speakers talked about the various shades of problems and identities that women grapple with in conflict-ridden areas with special reference to the Kashmir dispute.

Session 3: Masculinity and Consent

The panel consisted of Suraj Pawar, social activist and program coordinator of Azad Foundation, Pavel Sagolsen, research scholar and program associate at Centre for Health and Social Justice and Dhruv Pandey, Assistant Professor at the Women's Studies and Development Centre, University of Delhi. The discussion brought forth various facets of the gender roles attributed to men and how consent plays a role in our everyday lives.



Session 4: Challenges faced by the LGBTQIA+ community

Speakers included Aroh Akunth, a Dalit and queer activist and member of the Queer Collective at Ambedkar University, Ritambhara Mehta, the co-founder of Nazariya and Rudrani Chhetri, a well-known transgender activist from Delhi. Kabir Trivedi, the founder. The session was moderated by the President of the Miranda House Queer Collective. The discussion veered towards the queer and Dalit politics in India especially the issues of identity, harassment, and marginalisation these communities face.



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Film Screening: That Day after Everyday

The two-day festival ended with a screening of Anurag Kashyap's *That Day after Everyday*, an award-winning film on the problems faced by women every day in public spaces.

Details from: https://dubeat.com/2018/04/miranda-house-organised-gender-equality-mela18/?fbclid=IwAR3Y3aQ2KMCM7ErbTljIxWU_e2-AbXSef6jiAsTofPf2XYloXEuaFtf-FK0

