



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Society Annual Report

Society: Women's Development Cell

Year: 2020 – 2021 (from 1.7.2020 to 30.6.2021)

Student Office Bearers:

Office:	President	Vice President	General Secretary	Treasurer
Name:	Aditi Bhardwaj	Harshita Singh	Rusha Chatterjee	Adeeba

Staff Advisors:

Dr. Abha Habib Dev, Physics Department (Convenor)

Dr. Sharda Sonkar, Chemistry Department

Dr. Mallika Pathak, Chemistry Department

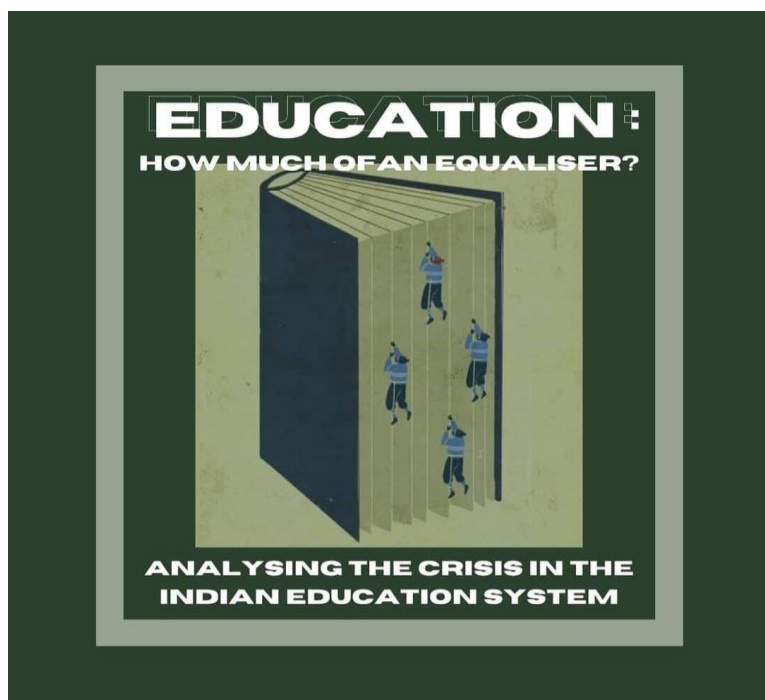
Dr. Chanda, Hindi Department



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Part A

Events/Seminars/conferences/workshops/Extension Activities organized



Series named Education: How much of an equaliser?

Women's Development Cell, Miranda House conducted a survey to analyse the accessibility of education during times of pandemic. They worked out a few reports to draw people's attention towards the unequal and exclusionary nature of the education that is imparted during this crisis. Reports released in this series were titled 'Erratic UGC Regulation- A Bane for Final Year Students', 'ECA- The Unconventional Exigency' and 'Teachers, Students and Virtual Learning'.

11 students contributed towards creation on these reports. Accounts reached via report 1: (English + Hindi) = $486+662=1148$; Accounts reached via report 2: (English + Hindi) = $575+466=1041$ and Accounts reached via report 3: (English + Hindi) = $507+508=1009$.



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Photography Exhibition on Gender and Pandemic

Women's Development Cell, Miranda House organized its first photography competition in August 2020 under the theme Gender and Pandemic. The competition saw a participation of more than 20 students and the best entry was announced on our instagram handle.



Webinar- Structural Imbalances in Accessibility of Online Education

The event themed on 'Structural imbalances in accessibility of online education' was held on 5th September, 2020. The session was open only for MH members. This event was organised so that teachers and students can come together and have an open discussion about the issues and discrepancies in the system of online education. Over 75 students and teachers joined the online session.

The panelists for the session were:

1. Lakshman Yadav, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi, Zakir Hussain College, DU
2. Shashi Bhushan, Student, JNU,
3. Rohin Kumar, Freelancer, Journalist and
4. Elizabeth Alexander, Ambedkar University, Delhi

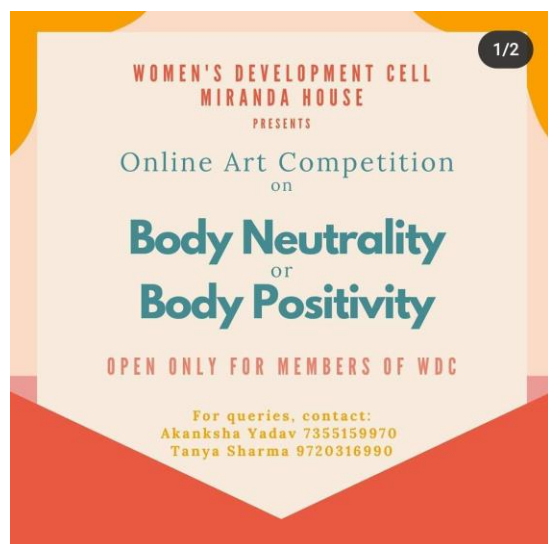


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Decoding Disablism: Reflections on the Process of 'Disabling'

This event was held on 10th October, 2020. The session was conducted with Dr. Someshwar Sati, Associate Professor, Department of English, Kirori Mal College. It was an online discussion on 'Decoding Disablism'. It was an eye-opening event which helped the audience to have a better insight into the systematic 'othering' of people with disabilities in academic institutions. Over 85 students from across colleges joined the online session.



Art Competition: Body Positivity/ Body Neutrality

The competition was held only for the members of WDC from 9 to 25th October, 2020. Thirty students of WDC, MH participated in the event. The competition required all the participants to depict the theme 'Body Neutrality / Body Positivity' through their art. Besides digital art, other artwork of any medium/style was also accepted. Certificates were provided to the top three entries.



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

3/10

The session started with the points for the discussions mainly as:

Lack of initiative from Savarna peers to discuss their privileges.

Classroom inequalities and exclusion which exists in classrooms due to barriers of communication or academic supremacy.

Necessity of representation of caste based marginalized identity in cultural societies operating at college level.

Idea of reservation, need of reservation and people's outlook towards it.

Joint Session on Understanding the Impact of Caste on Students in Educational Institutions

WDC along with Equal Opportunity Cell, MH held a session on 24th October, 2020 under the guidance of Tejaswini Tabhane, former President, EOC and the ex-research and study head of WDC. The session discussed how caste differences work in our day-to-day life. It discussed how privileges and oppression of caste differences goes hand in hand. The session urged to create a space that does not intimidate people and allows them to have caste discussions without any hesitation.

Over 160 students joined this popular online session.



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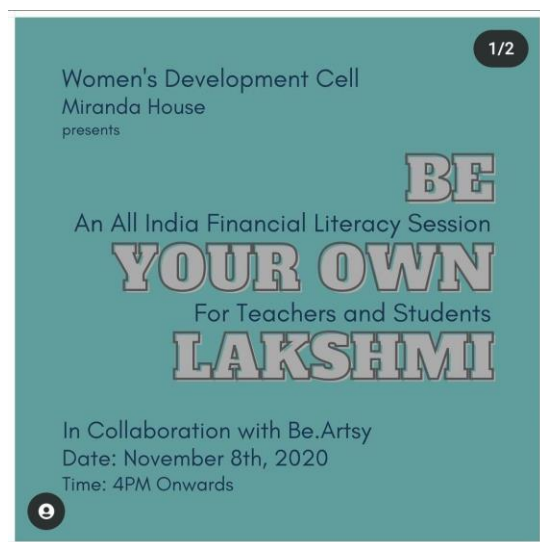


Series: 'Basics With WDC'

The Women's Development Cell, Miranda House started its own series with the name 'Basics with WDC', whereby it discussed a few sensitive issues which hold great importance and needed to be addressed to the upcoming generation so that they have a better understanding of the same. Through the academic year, four issues discussed were:

1. Let's talk about feminism,
2. Let's talk about body positivity & neutrality,
3. Let's talk about gender and
4. Let's talk about prison and criminality

Reports series released on Instagram. In October 2020, 1518 accounts were reached via the first report: Let's Talk about Feminism.



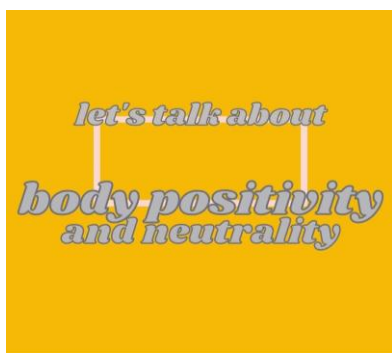
Be Your Own Lakshmi

On 8th November, 2020, WDC, Miranda House held a session for students and teachers in collaboration with Be.Artsy on Financial Literacy - 'Be your own Lakshmi'(BYOL). BYOL is a campaign under Be.Artsy which aims to help women demystify concepts and become financially literate. The session was conducted by Ms. Shikha Mittal who is the founder of Be.Artsy, a premier awareness enterprise. 130 participants joined online.



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Report on Savitri Bai Phule, Fatima Sheikh, Body Positivity and Neutrality



A write-up was released on the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule, one of the earliest warriors who worked to enkindle women empowerment in 19th century India. Similarly, a write-up was released commemorating the birth anniversary of Fatima Sheikh was released as a tribute to one of the first Indian Muslim women educators and feminists who stood bravely for the education of Dalits and women. The report on Body Positivity and Neutrality addresses issues concerning the body positivity movement, body positivity and disability, body neutrality, the present scenario and why debunking body notions is important.

11 WDC members worked on these reports. Accounts reached on Instagram: 3,059 (921+1019+ 1119).

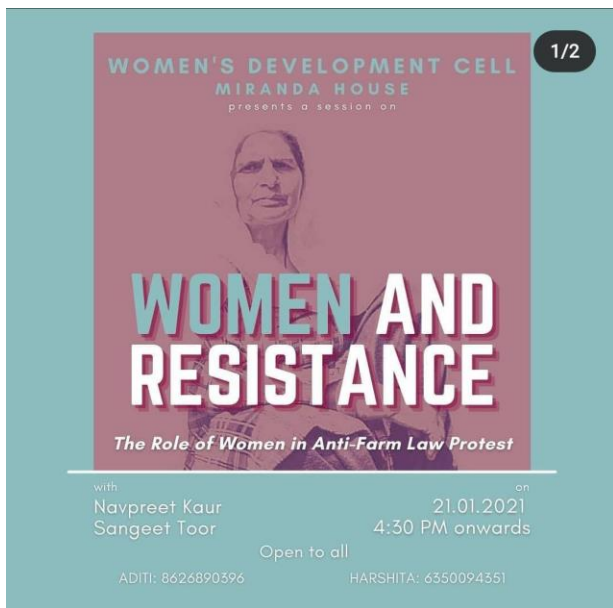


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Session on 'Why do we need feminism?'

Women's Development Cell, Miranda House organized a session with Muskan Dhar, the Research and Study Head for the session 2019-20, who is currently specialising in gender studies. The popular session was held on 17th January 2021 to get a better and deeper understanding of feminism and the need of feminism. The session saw a total 110 participants.



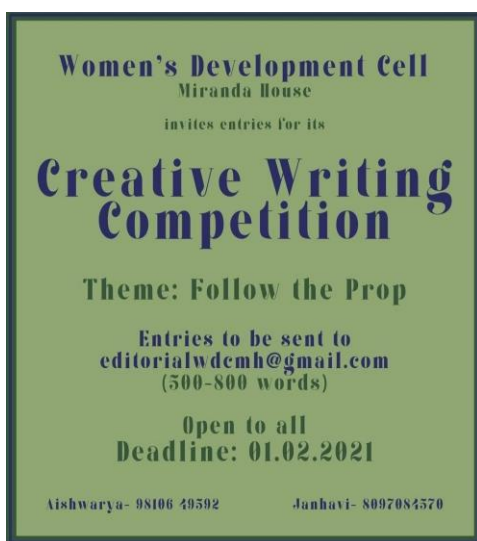
Women and Resistance: The Role of Women in Anti-Farm Law Protest

On 21st January, 2021, Women's Development Cell organised a session on Women and Resistance: The Role of Women in Anti-Farm Law Protest with Navpreet Kaur and Sangeet Toor. The session saw a total of 120 participants. In the session, we looked into the questions of women's land rights, autonomy, representation and gendered resistance.



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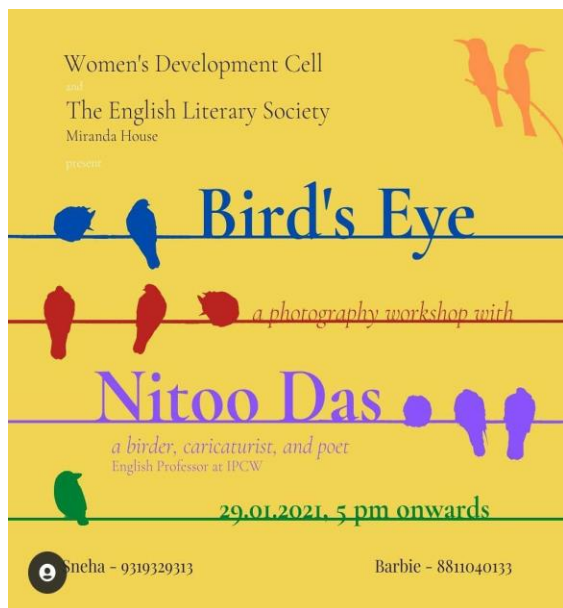
Creative Writing Competition on theme art as a Political Expression



Women's Development Cell, Miranda House organised a creative writing competition in January 2021 under the theme "Follow the Prop." The competition saw a participation of more than 20 students and the 3 best entries were selected. Entries that are in solidarity with women who continue to take leadership roles in dissent against the farm laws were invited. The idea was to take note of how monumental women's contributions have been as farmers in the farmers protest despite the fact that the mainstream reporting of the protest largely painted a against and sexist landscape of women farmers.



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



Bird's Eye: Photography Workshop

Photography Department of Women's Development Cell, in collaboration with The English Literary Society, Miranda House organised a workshop "Bird's Eye", on birding and bird photography, fractals, Photojournalism and PhotoPoetry with Dr. Nitoo Das on 29 January. Dr. Das is a caricaturist, bird photographer, an extensively published poet and currently teaches at IPCW, Delhi University. In the session, various experiences earned and possible explorations made in the field of photography as an emerging art form were discussed. The workshop saw a total of 135 participants.



Third issue of Basics with WDC: Let's talk about Gender

The Women's Development Cell, Miranda House started a series titled as 'Basics with WDC' in October 2020, whereby it discussed a few sensitive issues which hold great importance and needed to be addressed to the upcoming generation so that they have a better understanding of the same.

In February 2021, through the third issue of the series, themes concerning sex and gender, gender spectrum, gender privileges and gender variation were addressed.

Three WDC members contributed towards these reports. Accounts reached on Instagram: 1169



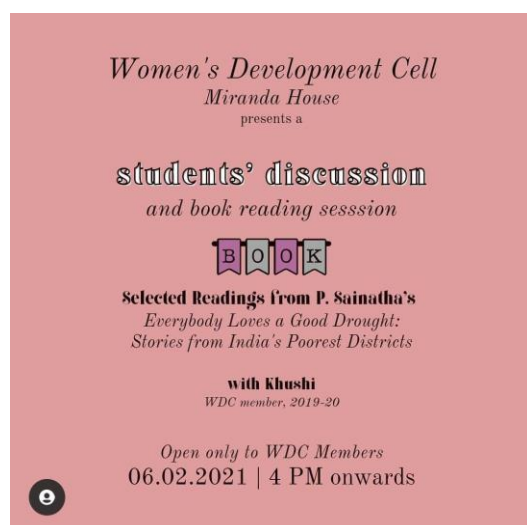
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Fourth Issue of Basics with WDC: Prison and Criminality

Under the series titled 'Basics with WDC', fourth issue - a report on Prison and Criminality was released in February 2021 wherein the topics of Prison Industrial Complex, the situation in India, Restorative v/s Retributive Justice, Prison Abolition and more were discussed to bring out the larger picture.

Three WDC members contributed towards drafting the report. Accounts reached on Instagram: 943.



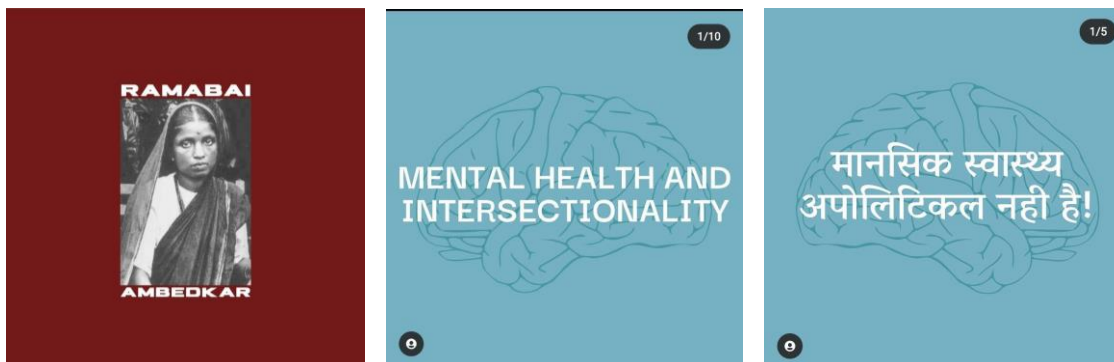
Students' Discussion and Book Reading Session

On 6th February, 2021, former member of Women's Development Cell, Khushi, held a student's discussion on selected readings from P. Sainatha's *Everybody loves a good drought and Stories from India's poorest districts*. The readings focus on debt, markets and rural India. The event was open only for members of WDC. 80 members of the WDC participated in the discussion session.



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Report on Ramabai Ambedkar, Mental Health and Intersectionality



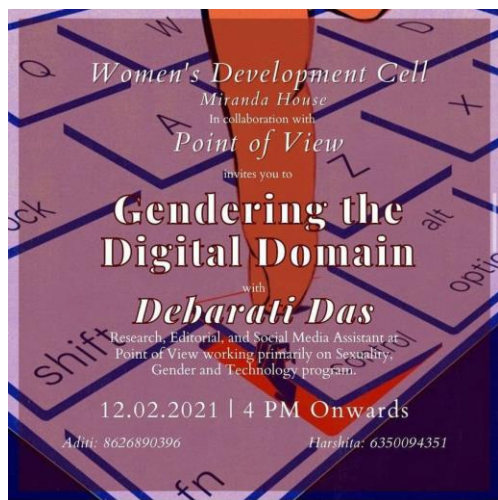
7th February marks the birth anniversary of Ramabai Ambedkar. Her role in inspiring social movement and the fight against caste exploitation and oppression must never be forgotten. To commemorate the birth anniversary of Ramabai Ambedkar, a write-up was released.

Everyone is a summation of various identities and though we might not be aware of everyone's personal history and traumatic experiences, we must be responsible individuals and stop making mental health a privileged conversation. Women's Development Cell, Miranda House released a set of reports with an aim to address rural India and dissociation of mental health, the narrative of queer individual, and how mental health activism systematically marginalises the marginalised and operates in a patriarchal society. The report also focused on decoding common misconceptions surrounding disorders. Report of mental health and intersectionality was released on 10th March 2021.

13 WDC members contributed in preparing these reports. Accounts reached through these Reports on Instagram: 2,234 (940+620+674).



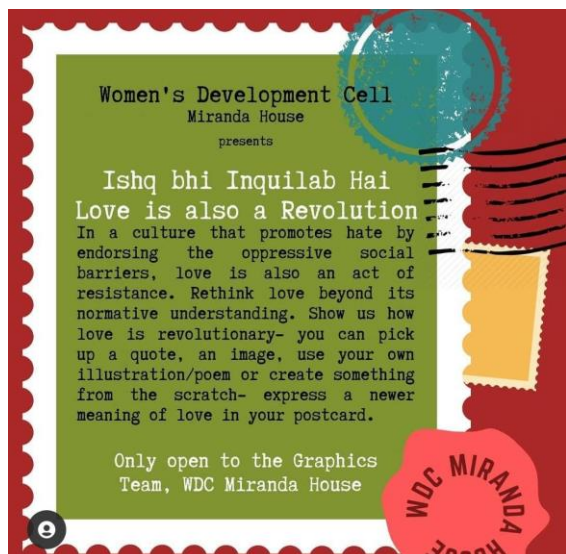
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Gendering The Digital Domain

To understand the role of patriarchy in the virtual world and how the digital domain influences one's identity with respect to gender and sexuality, the Women's Development Cell, Miranda House conducted a session on 'Gendering the Digital Domain'. The guest speaker for the same was Debarati Das, the Research, Editorial and Social Media Assistant at Point of View who works primarily in the Sexuality, Gender and Technology program.

The session was conducted on 12th February 2021 and saw a participation of over 70 students.

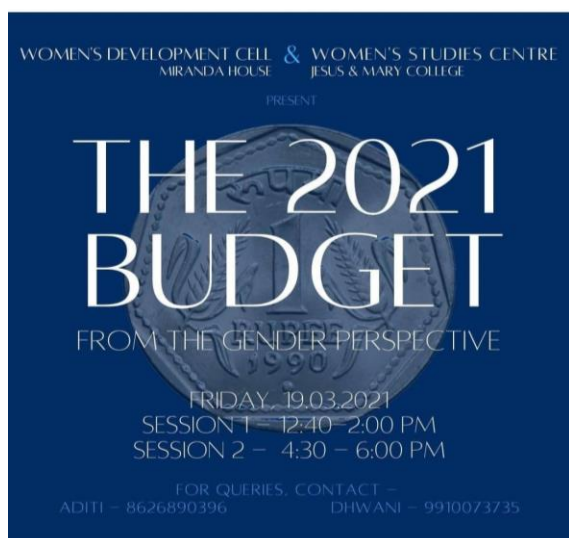


Group Exchange Activity for the Members of the Graphics Team

The Graphics Department of WDC organised a group-exchange activity in March 2021 that required the participants to rethink love beyond its normative understanding. The activity involved designing postcards by using quotes, poems, illustrations, or anything that depicts that expresses a newer meaning of love. The activity was open for only the graphics team of WDC. 15 members participated.



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



The 2021 Budget from Gender Perspective from Gender Perspective

On 19th March, 2021, WDC, Miranda House in collaboration with Women's Studies Centre, Jesus and Mary College organised a session on ***The 2021 Budget: From the Gender Perspective***. It was conducted in two sessions.

The speaker for the first session was Prof. Ritu Dewan and the second session was conducted by Prof. Shruti Ambust. We saw a total of 200 participants for this session.



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



ANNUAL FEST: GENDER MELA 2021

‘Gender Mela’ is an annual gathering of students which is organised by WDC, with celebratory and critical motivations. The ‘Mela’ is a coming together of diverse voices for critical discourse and shared learning. WDC organised an interactive session, Let's Talk About Sex (Education) with Namrah from Team Pratisandhi and Artika from Team Taarini. WDC also collaborated with Celluloid, The Film Society for screening of Savitri's Sisters at Azadi Kooch as part of the Gender Mela' 21. Nakul Sawhney, director of the documentary, joined for an interactive session post the screening. WDC Research and Study Department invited Nabeela Siddiqui, a research scholar at Christ (Deemed to be University) to conduct an in-house discussion on the topic Gender and Religion as a part of Gender Mela. A photography competition ‘Looking Through the Glass’ and a graphic design competition

‘Mislocations: Design a Parody’ were also conducted. ‘Aawaz Do!’, an inhouse students’ discussion was the final event for Gender Mela, 2021 where members gathered to celebrate hope and instil voices of resistance and dissent.

Over 300 members participated in various online sessions organised under Gender Mela.



Miranda House UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Part B

Participation in the conduct of elections of students' representative to ICC

Miranda House, University of Delhi

Notice

As per the UGC (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations 2015 and the resolution of the Staff Council, Miranda House of 14 December 2018, Elections for a Students' Representative on Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) will be held as per the following schedule:

Phase I Election/Nomination of a representative from each class of Ist, IInd and IIIrd year to the Gender Sensitising Committee (GSC) <i>Process to be conducted by the respective Department Society</i>	
Meeting of the Office Bearers of Department Societies and Staff Advisors and Office Bearers of WDC	3 pm, Wednesday, 17 February 2021
Last Date of submission of list of Elected/Nominated representatives (emailed to convenor.wdc@mirandahouse.ac.in)	5 pm, Wednesday, 24 February 2021
Phase II Election of a representative to ICC from amongst the Gender Sensitising Committee <i>To be conducted by Convenor, Women Development Cell (WDC)</i>	
Last Date of receipt of Nomination Papers	4 pm, Wednesday, 3 March 2021
Scrutiny of Nomination Papers	4 pm, Wednesday, 3 March 2021 Committee Room
Last date of withdrawal from the Elections	4 pm, Thursday, 4 March 2021
List of Candidates to be pasted on the College Website and notice boards	11 am, Friday, 5 March 2021
Polling	2 pm – 4 pm, Friday, 12 March 2021 (Polling through Google Form generated by the Convenor, WDC)
Declaration of Result	4:30 pm, Friday, 12 March 2021

Nomination Forms and Withdrawal Forms will be available on the College website. These should be emailed as per the schedule to convenor.wdc@mirandahouse.ac.in, with cc to abhadev.habib@mirandahouse.ac.in and [jyoti.prakash@mirandahouse.ac.in](mailto: jyoti.prakash@mirandahouse.ac.in).

Principal
(Returning Officer)

Convenor, WDC
(Presiding Officer)

Dated: 15.2.2021

One of the most important activities of WDC is its support in the conduction of the election of students' representative to the Internal Complaints Committee.

WDC reached out to students in classrooms and through social media handles including FB and Instagram to create awareness.

Online meeting was organised with Class Representatives along with Office Bearers, WDC on Wednesday, 17 February 2021 to create awareness about the election process.