

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
REPORT FOR WEBINAR ON GENDER, LAW AND SOCIETY
ORGANIZED BY
WOMEN AND GENDER DEVELOPMENT CELL
IN COLLABORATION WITH
IQAC

The Women and Gender Development Cell of St. Xavier's University in collaboration with IQAC organized a webinar on "Gender, Law and Society" on Wednesday, 25th November, 2020, 5 p.m. onwards. The programme was held on Google Meet and moderated by Prof. Medha Bhadra Chowdhury, Professor-in-Charge, Women and Gender Development Cell. The webinar was attended by students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Studies and Xavier Law School and broadcast live on Facebook and Youtube. The invited speakers for the webinar were Prof. Niladri Chatterjee, Head of the English department, Kalyani University and Dr. Trina Banerjee, Assistant Professor, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. The programme commenced with a welcome address by our Hon. Vice Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj, who mentioned the relevance of conducting such inter-disciplinary discussions and encouraged the efforts of the WGDC. He recalled the progressive ideals of the university patron, St. Francis Xavier, who worked tirelessly for the emancipation of women during his mission in India. Prof. Niladri Chatterjee addressed the decriminalization of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code and the legal conundrums that the PIL caused. He spoke about the intervention of law in controlling human bodies and regulating sexuality. He also discussed the role of patriarchy in uniformly oppressing both male and female subjects. Dr. Trina Banerjee outlined the history of struggle for women's rights in India and the difficulties of creating equal citizen subjects. She elaborated on the function of women in modes of social reproduction and the anxieties of capitalism in the context of women's autonomy in the social and domestic sphere. Their talk was followed by a short question-answer session, where students and faculty members were given the opportunity to interact with the speakers. The programme ended with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Tanushree Biswas, Coordinator of IQAC.