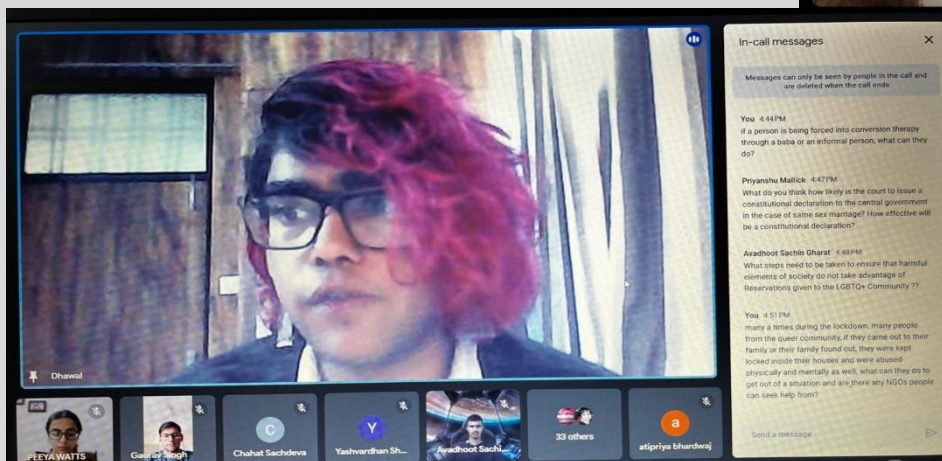


## PRIDE MONTH

Pride Month was celebrated in June 2023 by the GSC in collaboration with The ENACTUS Chapter of our college. Webinars and INSTA LIVE sessions were held where Queer activists and academics addressed student volunteers on issues ranging from forms of address, social acceptance and inclusivity of the queer community. The rights guaranteed to the Trans community in our legal system, the gap between policy, laws and their implementation were discussed and students were sensitized on legal, social ramifications. More than 50 students participated in all the sessions held.



The seminar on the Laws for the Protection of the Queer Community was held on 25th June 2023 via Google Meet and the speaker for this seminar was Dhawal M. They are a law student pursuing BA LLB from the National Law School of India University. They are the head of the Queer Alliance and have worked with Samana (center for Gender, Policy, and Law) and with CLPR (center for Law and Policy Research). The discussion began with an explanation of the NALSA case judgment, which is a very strong case when we talk about the LGBTQIA+ community, as this was the judgment that led to the recognition of transgender people as the 'third gender' by the Supreme Court of India. Individuals have the right to self-identify their gender as a male, female, or third gender, ensuring equal application of constitutional rights. This judgment is considered to be one of the most liberal justices in terms of the queer community. After this Dhawal talked about the NAZ judgement. In the landmark case of NAZ Foundation v. Govt. Of NCT of Delhi, the Delhi High Court declared that criminalizing consensual homosexual acts between adults violated fundamental rights protected by India's Constitution. This decision decriminalized such acts nationwide. The Supreme Court later reinstated the criminalization in Suresh Kumar Koushal vs. Naz Foundation but was eventually overturned by the Supreme Court's 5-judge bench in Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018), thereby decriminalizing homosexuality once again.

The last case which was discussed was the Navtej Singh Judgement. Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code classified consensual same-sex sexual activity as an "unnatural offense" and criminalized it, discriminating against a minority based on their sexual orientation, which is similar to prohibited grounds for sex-based discrimination. The Supreme Court did not elaborate on why Section 377 was not unconstitutional. In the Navtej Singh case, five individuals from the LGBTQ community challenged the same judgment. They petitioned for the removal of Section 377 IPC specifically concerning the criminalization of consensual same-sex activity. Here it was also concluded that the government should be advertising sexuality to normalize it, and not doing so would be violating the judgment. Another important case was discussed, The DK Basu case, thus case talks about police brutality and wrongful arrest. After this case the SC made guidelines for the prevention of such instances again, which were, that medical tests must be provided if asked for, a person next to kin must be informed, etc.

Dhawal shared with us what one can do if they are wrongfully arrested on the basis of their sexuality, so firstly The NALSA case guarantees protection in such cases, so fighting a legal battle is a must if bail is not given. Your friends =, the family should get an arrest memo and then file a case of Habeas Corpus, which is a legal remedy for protection against illegal imprisonment. And after this once a person is brought to court a medical test can be done. One more point that was also discussed, which somewhere summed up all cases was that Homosexuality cant be criminalized and those judgments can be passed. Still, real change will come when the government advertises and educates people on the topic of sexuality. Later in the discussion, the ground was kept open for questions and everyone participated, professors, students, and the moderators. Questions on conversion therapy, same-sex marriages, abuse against the queer community, and tools for spreading awareness to the community were asked. Throughout the conversation, every detail was beautifully covered. All the participants left the session as more aware individuals as all the information given is necessary for one to know. In conclusion, this was a successful session that helped us achieve our goal of sensitization.

## **GENDER CHAMPIONS**

Two Gender Champions were nominated and their names were uploaded on the Saksham Portal as mandated by the UGC regarding guidelines on gender champions at higher education institutes. The students nominated are:

Chahat Sachdeva (History/21/56)

Atipriya Bharadwaj (History/21/62)