

Summary of the First Meeting of the National Task Force held online on 29.03.2025 at 2 pm. Members present included Core Task force as well as ex officio members from the departments of Education, Social Justice, Legal Affairs, Women and Child Development under the Chairpersonship of Justice Ravinder Bhat and with Convenorship of Smt Rina Sonowal, Joint Secretary, Dept of Higher Education.

1. The Chairperson welcomed all the participants and provided an overview to the tasks ahead to collect data, meet with stakeholders from all walks of life, and the need to work in groups to realise the aims of the TF. Each member introduced themselves and also provided inputs on the issues to be tackled – collecting data from diverse stakeholders, exploring secondary sources such as NCRB, learning from earlier reports and so on. It was emphasised that this Task Force would wish to provide new perspectives as well. Everyone expressed their desire to provide support.

2. It was decided to form sub-groups to take the work forward for questionnaire and data analysis, look into relevant secondary literature, conduct field visits in different regions and sensitise different sections of the public, among other planned activities. The modalities of these would have to be worked out and relevant ministries would provide support to the Core Team.

Members Present:

S.No	Member
1.	Justice S. Ravindra Bhat , Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Chairperson
2.	Dr. Alok Sarin , Consultant Psychiatrist, Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science & Research, New Delhi, Member
3.	Prof. Mary E. John (Retired) , Former Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, Member
4.	Mr. Arman Ali , Executive Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, Member
5.	Prof. Rajendar Kachroo , Founder, Aman Satya Kachroo Trust, Member
6.	Dr. Aqsa Shaikh , Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, New Delhi, Member
7.	Dr. Seema Mehrotra , Professor of Clinical Psychology, NIMHANS, Member
8.	Prof. Virginius Xaxa , Visiting Professor, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, Member
9.	Dr. Nidhi S. Sabharwal , Associate Professor, Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education, National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, Member
10.	Ms. Aparna Bhat , Senior Advocate (as amicus curiae), Member

11.	Sh. Vineet Joshi, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Ex-officio Member and Member Secretary
12.	Sh. Amit Yadav, Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, Ex-officio Member
13.	Sh. Anil Malik , Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Ex-officio Member
14.	Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, Ex-officio Member
15.	Ms. Rina Sonowal Kouli, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Convener of the Task Force