

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Date : 27.09.2024

PRESS RELEASE

Supreme Court of India to organise a two-day National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on Protecting the Rights of Children Living with Disabilities on 28-29 September, 2024

The Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India is organizing the 9th National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on 'Protecting the Rights of Children Living with Disabilities (focus on CiCL and CNCP) and Intersectionality of Disabilities' on 28-29 September 2024. The National Consultation marks the culmination of several State Consultations that have taken place across the country. As part of its continued commitment towards advancing the rights of children, the Supreme Court has been conducting the National Stakeholder Consultations on an annual basis, convening all key stakeholders to deliberate on priority focus to advance the rights of every child in India.

The consultation, organised in association with UNICEF India, aims to deepen understanding and accelerate actions to build a more inclusive society for children with disabilities, especially with regard to those in need of care and protection and those in conflict with the law. The two-day deliberations will focus on improving linkages between services for early identification, health care, education, family-based care, protection, safety, and legal services towards inclusive societies and a skilled workforce.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud will deliver the inaugural address at the National Consultation. Smt. Annpurna Devi, Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development; Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee and Judge, Supreme Court of India; and Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF India Representative will also be addressing the inaugural session.

A Handbook concerning Persons with Disabilities is being released by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India to aid and sensitize the legal community and society at large towards use of inclusive terminology with regard to disabilities. The Handbook will also be released in Braille and as an Audiobook.

The two-day Consultation has scheduled four sessions. First session would focus on Global Instruments, National Legislations, Central and State Schemes and Services, followed by the Second Session on Family Based Alternative Care Services and Social Support for Children with Disabilities. The Third session seeks to emphasise upon the mental & physical health and education and the effective convergence and implementation. The last session would focus on ensuring convergence between the relevant legislations.

The consultation will conclude on Sunday, September 29, 2024, with closing reflections from the Hon'ble Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India; representative of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR); representatives of Government of India and UNICEF.

The Chairpersons of Juvenile Justice Committee/ POCSO Committee and other Hon'ble Judge Members of the Juvenile Justice Committee/POCSO Committee of High Courts will be participating in the two-day Consultation. The two- day Consultation would also be attended by representatives from Women & Child Development, Social Justice & Empowerment Department from every State and Union Territory; Disability Commissioner from State/ Union Territory; Member Secretaries from the State Legal Services Authority and ADGP officers dealing with Crimes related to Women and Children among other Stakeholders will be participating in the Consultation.
