Concept Note

NALSA National Photography & Art Showcase:

Justice for All: Through the Lens of Legal Aid

1. Background and Rationale

Access to justice is the cornerstone of a democratic society. Legal aid, as guaranteed under Article 39A of the Constitution of India, ensures that the marginalized and disadvantaged are not denied justice due to socio-economic barriers. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been at the forefront of providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society, thereby actualising the promise of "Justice for All."

While significant progress has been made, the human stories behind these efforts often remain untold. Art, whether through photography, painting, sketches, or videos (*maximum duration 1 minute*), has a unique power to capture and communicate these narratives beyond language and literacy. A National Photography & Art Showcase on *Justice for All: Through the Lens of Legal Aid* will create a visual archive of how legal services impact lives across India.

This initiative aims to combine art with social justice, engaging photographers, legal aid professionals, students, and the wider public in narrating the story of access to justice.

2. Objectives

- To use visual art as a medium to document and highlight the reach and impact of legal aid services across India.
- To provide a platform for artists, photographers, students, para-legal volunteers, legal aid fraternity, and community members to showcase their perspectives on justice.
- To sensitize the public on the role of legal services authorities in addressing everyday struggles of marginalized communities.
- To build a visual repository that can be used for advocacy, awareness, and training by NALSA and State Legal Services Authorities.
- To commemorate National Legal Services Day through an innovative, creative, and participatory format.

3. Theme: *Unifying Theme: "Justice for All: Through the Lens of Legal Aid" & Indicative Sub-Themes*

All entries for the Showcase must connect with the **Unifying Theme**: *"Justice for All: Through the Lens of Legal Aid."* To guide participants, the Showcase is divided into broad **Categories** with indicative **Sub-Themes** in English and Hindi. These sub-themes are indicative and meant to inspire creativity and provide direction. Artists are free to choose either the English or Hindi version of the sub-themes while preparing their entries.

Category A: Voices of Dignity

- *Women turning rights into lived realities through legal aid.*

  i. Her Right, Her Justice,
  ii. *उसका हक़, उसकी ताक़त*
  iii. *समानता से सम्मान*

- *Legal aid protecting innocence and shaping futures.*

  i. Children First,
  ii. Nourish to Flourish
  iii. *नन्हे कदम, बड़ा न्याय,*
  iv. *बचपन सुरक्षित, भविष्य सुनिश्चित*

- *Persons with disabilities accessing equality and respect.*

  i. Breaking Barriers,
  ii. बाधाओं से परे, अधिकार हमारे

- *Senior citizens finding protection and care through legal aid.*

  i. Ageing with Respect,
  ii. *बुज़ुर्गी का सहारा, कानून का किनारा*

- *Indigenous and tribal communities safeguarding land and culture.*

  i. Roots and Rights,
  ii. *जंगल, ज़मीन और न्याय*

- *Legal aid as a bridge between despair and hope.*

  i. Bridges, Not Walls,
  ii. न्याय से आशा तक, एक सफ़र

Category B: Justice Where Life Happens or Equal Rights for Ordinary Lives

- *Migrant workers rely on legal aid for wages, housing, and dignity.*

  i. Migrant Voices, Legal Choices,
  ii. *सफ़र और सहारा,*
  iii. *घर से दूर, हक़ है ज़रूर*

- *How documents open doors to survival and justice.*

  i. Identity is Justice,

ii. पहचान है अधिकार
iii. अधिकार से आधार

- *Workers, farmers, and laborers securing livelihoods through legal aid.*

i. **Dignity of Work,**
ii. मेहनत का मोल, न्याय का तोल,
iii. "मज़दूरी का मान, सम्मानित इंसान"

- *Victims of crime and families seeking healing and support.*

i. **Justice for Survivors,**
ii. न्याय के संग, नए सवेरे की ओर

- *Rural and urban struggles meet at the doorstep of justice.*

i. **Two India's, One Justice,**
ii. गाँव-शहर संग न्याय का सफ़र
iii. गाँव हो या शहर, न्याय एक सहचर

Category C: Pathways of Justice

- *Undertrials and prisoners finding dignity and reform through legal aid.*

i. **Justice Behind Bars,**
ii. सलाखों के भीतर उम्मीद

- *Legal aid in prisons ensuring dignity, reform, and second chances.*

i. **Chains to Change,**
ii. **Beyond Punishment, Towards Reform**
iii. बेड़ियों से बदलाव तक

- *Lok Adalats and mediation fostering dialogue, dignity, and shared solutions in the spirit of community justice.*

i. **Justice Around the Table,**
ii. संवाद से सुलह, न्याय संग,
iii. संवाद से समाधान

- *Lawyers, para-legal volunteers, and beneficiaries as the lifeblood of justice.*

i. **Faces of Legal Aid,**
ii. साथी, सहारा, न्याय का चेहरा
iii. **Courts Wherever You Are**

Category D: Horizons Ahead

- *E-Services and e-Lok Adalats expanding legal aid access everywhere.*

  i. **Digital Justice,**
  ii. **Legal Aid Anywhere, Anytime**
  iii. *स्क्रीन पर अदालत, क्लिक में सहारा*

- *Digital justice bringing the court closer to the citizen.*

  i. **Nyay@click,**
  ii. *न्याय का नया युग*
  iii. **Rights at Your Fingertips**
  iv. **Tech Connects, Justice Protects**

- *Communities protecting the environment, land, and survival through law.*

  i. **Right to Land, Right to Life,**
  ii. *धरती से जीवन, न्याय से भविष्य*

NOTE: Participants may interpret freely to capture both challenges and stories of empowerment. Participants can only submit paintings/photographs/sketches/videos. The videos must not exceed **1 minute in duration**, and should be submitted in an **editable format** (e.g., MP4/MOV). A **maximum of three entries, including the video entry, shall be permissible to be submitted by each participant to SLSA**. Entries sent directly to NALSA by participants will not be considered.

4. Categories of Participants:

i. ***Legal Aid & Justice Fraternity***: (Legal Services Authorities, Legal Aid Counsels, Para-Legal Volunteers, Judicial Officers, Court Staff, and associated institutions)

ii. ***Students & Youth Creators:*** (School students, university/college students, and individuals in the early stages of exploring photography or art)

iii. ***Community Lens:*** (Open category for the public, including entries captured through mobile photography to reflect everyday experiences of justice and rights)

5. Guidelines:

i. Only Original, unpublished photographs/paintings/sketches/videos(*maximum duration 1 minute*) shall be submitted. Each SLSA is to disseminate a call for entries at its level. Each entry must carry a mandatory caption along with a small, brief explanation of the context and the chosen sub-theme

ii. **A maximum of three (3) entries, including video entries, can be submitted by a participant to SLSA.** All file attachments should be named by the participant in the format: ***Lastname_Firstname_Category of Participant- (e.g., Sharma_Anita_Legal Aid Workforce)*** and must be sent to SLSA with the subject line: *"Submission to National Photography and Art Showcase."*

iii. The participant should submit their photograph, painting, and sketch entries in High-Resolution digital files (JPEG/PNG, minimum 300 dpi).

iv. Video entries (*maximum duration 1 minute*) must be submitted in **MP4 or MOV format**, minimum resolution **720p (HD)**, preferred **1080p (Full HD)**, with file size not exceeding **100 MB**. Clear audio (if included) is essential, and participants must ensure that no copyrighted material is used. Videos (*maximum duration 1 minute*) should be suitable for editing (editable format) and integration into NALSA's awareness resources.

v. Consent for images/persons featuring identifiable individuals must be taken by participants.

vi. All entries-photographs, paintings, sketches, or videos (*maximum duration 1 minute*) submitted for participation in the National Photography & Art Showcase will become the sole property of the National Legal Services Authority. NALSA shall have the right to use, reproduce, publish, or display the entries in any form for awareness, outreach, or archival purposes, without further permission or compensation to the contributor.

vii. **Selection Criteria for SLSAs**

While shortlisting entries, SLSAs shall apply the following criteria:

Total Marking Scheme – 30 Marks

Creativity (10 marks) – originality, innovation, and artistic expression in the photograph/painting/sketch/video(*maximum duration 1 minute*) .

Adherence to Guidelines (10 marks) – compliance with the entry requirements stated above.

Relevance to the Theme/Sub-theme (10 marks) – clarity in connecting the entry to the unifying theme and the chosen sub-theme.

viii. **Forwarding of Entries to NALSA**

a) Each SLSA shall conduct a basic screening of entries received at the State/UT level as per the prescribed guidelines.

b) From the entries received, each SLSA shall shortlist a **maximum of three (3) entries (including video entries), from each of the three categories of participants,** i.e., up to **nine shortlisted entries in total.**

c) All entries received at the State/UT level shall be compiled and uploaded by the SLSA without alteration to a **Google Drive folder**. Within this folder, two sub-folders shall be created:

- **All Entries Received,** and
- **Shortlisted Entries** (maximum 3 entries per category, i.e., from *Legal Aid & Justice Fraternity, Students & Youth, and Community Lens*, including video entries).

d) The link to this Google Drive folder shall be shared with NALSA by email at **ladcs-nalsa@gov.in** with the subject line: *"Submission to National Photography & Art Showcase – [Name of State/UT]"*. The Google Drive link must be enabled for viewing access by NALSA.

ix. The entries forwarded by SLSA to NALSA shall also be accompanied by details of the category of participant and a brief caption.

x. The SLSAs may be requested by NALSA to subsequently submit framed painting/photograph/sketch of the selected entries.

6. The Exhibition

Exhibition would entail:

- *Physical*: Display of selected photographs/Paintings/Sketches/Videos in a central venue during the National Conference.
  - Photography Prints: Maximum 16x24 inches or 24x18 inches
  - Paintings/Sketches: Maximum size 24x36 inches (to ensure portability and uniform display).
- *Digital Gallery*: Permanent section on NALSA's website.

7. Outcomes and Impact

- Creation of a visual archive on access to justice in India.
- Enhanced public awareness about free legal aid and its impact.
- Production of a Coffee Table Book / Calendar featuring the best entries.
- Potential integration of selected photographs and videos into awareness campaigns, training material, and public communication by NALSA.

8. Conclusion

The **National Photography & Art Showcase** will not only distinctively commemorate Legal Services Day but also create a long-lasting cultural resource that captures the journey of justice in India. By

weaving together law, art, and lived experience, this initiative by NALSA will reaffirm the collective commitment to *Justice for All*.

सत्यमेव जयते

राष्ट्रीय विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण
NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
(Constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987)

भरत पाराशर
BHARAT PARASHAR
(Delhi Higher Judicial Service)
सदस्य सचिव
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F.No. L/56/2025-NALSA/1874
Dated: 12th September, 2025

To

The Member Secretary
All State Legal Services Authorities.

Sub: National Photography & Art Showcase on the occasion of National Legal Services Day, 2025.

Sir/Madam,

In commemoration of National Legal Services Day, 2025, and marking three decades of NALSA's service in advancing access to justice, the National Legal Services Authority is organizing a National Photography & Art Showcase titled ***"Justice for All: Through the Lens of Legal Aid"***. The objective of this initiative is to highlight, through creative expression, the role of legal aid in advancing access to justice, and to sensitise society at large about the lived realities of those who benefit from legal services.

The Showcase is envisaged as a **nationwide campaign** encouraging participation to submit photographs/paintings/sketches/videos from legal aid professionals, members of the legal fraternity, students, para-legal volunteers, and the general public. It seeks to capture **everyday struggles, resilience, and stories of empowerment** enabled by legal aid, thereby building a compelling visual archive to further NALSA's outreach and awareness efforts. The selected photographs/paintings/sketches/videos (*maximum duration 1 minute*) will be displayed at the Exhibition, which is to be held during the National Conference on 8th and 9th of November 2025.

A **Concept Note, along with indicative sub-themes and detailed guidelines,** is enclosed for your reference. You are requested to:

i. Disseminate the call for entries widely through your State, District, and Taluka Legal Services Committees.
ii. Screen the entries received at the State/UT level as per the guidelines and selection criteria.
iii. Upload a complete record of all entries (including video entries) received into a Google Drive folder, clearly highlighting the three shortlisted entries from each category of participant
iv. Share the Google Drive link with NALSA by email at **ladcs-nalsa@gov.in**, with the subject line: *"Submission to National Photography & Art Showcase – [Name of State/UT]"*. ***The entries must be forwarded to NALSA on or before 15th October 2025.***

I look forward to your active support and coordination in ensuring broad participation and meaningful representation from across States/UTs.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

12/09/20

(Bharat Parashar)

Encl.: Concept Note and Guidelines for the National Photography & Art Showcase