

## **HPNLU CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH A THOUGHT- PROVOKING LECTURE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EQUALITY**

Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HPNLU) marked International Women's Day with an engaging and insightful lecture, focusing on the importance of women's rights and the ongoing fight for equality. The celebration honoured this year's theme: *"For All Women & Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment."*

The event began with an address by Professor Sachin, Director of the Centre for Human Rights and Disability Studies, who emphasized that women's rights are fundamental human rights. Quoting Upendra Bakshi, he suggested replacing "human" with "women" to highlight women's empowerment. He also discussed the intersection of gender and environmental issues, referencing the IUCN report on the impact of climate change on women.

Following this, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Priti Saxena delivered a powerful lecture on equality, focusing on India's multicultural society and the need for substantive equality. She highlighted the Fifth Sustainable Development Goal for gender equality and addressed the ongoing discrimination women face, urging proactive measures to tackle the social effects of gender-based discrimination.

Dr. Bindu Samuel Ronald then took the stage to present an in-depth lecture on the historical development of the women's movement within the corporate sector. She stressed the significance of creating inclusive workplaces for women and reinforced the idea that gender equality is a collective responsibility. Dr. Ronald highlighted the success stories of many women whose contributions have had a lasting impact on history.

The final speaker, Mrs. Dicky Dolma, shared her inspirational journey of overcoming obstacles. Growing up in a traditional village where women were restricted to their homes, Mrs. Dolma narrated her path to becoming a mountaineer. She encouraged women to embrace self-defence, discipline, and determination, emphasizing that women can achieve anything when they unlock their inner strength.

The event highlighted that while progress has been made, the journey toward achieving true gender parity is far from complete. From ensuring equal opportunities in education, employment, and leadership roles to advocating for the protection of women's rights, the event underscored the need for women to be empowered in every sector—whether in the workplace, at home, or in the public sphere. The discussions also pointed out that gender equality must be pursued with both legal frameworks and tangible, actionable solutions that address the societal and cultural barriers women face. The event

reminded us that empowering women across all sectors is key to fostering a more equitable, just, and inclusive society for all.

