



RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB
(Established under Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006)
(Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC)

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**CCV RGNUL holds 1st International Victimology Colloquium on “Victim Empowerment through Legal and Social Initiatives”
(3-5 April 2022)**

The Centre for Criminology, Criminal Justice and Victimology (CCV), RGNUL, Punjab is organising 1st International Victimology Colloquium on **Victim Empowerment through Legal and Social Initiatives** from April 3-5, 2022. Prof. G.S. Bajpai, Vice-Chancellor, RGNUL, Punjab welcomed the guests during the inaugural session. Justice (Retd.) Gita Mittal, Prof. K. Chockalingam and Prof. (Dr.) Robert Peacock, President, World Society of Victimology deliberated on various facets of victim empowerment.

Prof. (Dr.) Bajpai remarked, “For long, victims of crime have been forgotten persons of criminal justice system.” He focused on scientific knowledge of victimology and various aspects of victim empowerment. Prof. (Dr.) Bajpai observed, “Victim empowerment is no longer a charity as it is about asserting status and rights. There is need to rephrase the language of criminal law. The advent of victimology replaces the terms like incarceration, retribution and death penalty with words like reparation, restitution, forgiveness and healing.” He further added that the rights of victim should be balanced.

Justice (Retd.) Gita Mittal highlighted the obsession of criminal justice system with the rights of accused and little regard for the rights of victims. She compared the conditions of victim to “conflicts of property stolen from rightful owner”. She emphasized on the inclusive, proactive and victim-centric approach in the judicial system. While concluding she remarked, “Justice is not absolute. Justice for one party is grave injustice for the other.” Prof. K. Chockalingam elaborated on the emerging trends in victimology. He quoted Martin Luther King, “Injustice anywhere is threat to justice everywhere”. Prof. (Dr.) Peacock emphasized the need to go beyond the framework of understanding and creating typologies of victim towards



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understanding the inequalities in access to justice. In view of the same, he highlighted the importance of comprehensive policy guidelines for victim justice.

Delegates from several countries attended the virtual inauguration of the event. Eminent experts from different nations, such as Prof. Sandra Walklate (UK), Prof. (Dr.) Janice O. Joseph (Vice-President, WSV), Prof. (Dr.) Xin Ren (California State University), Prof. Michael O'Connell (Secretary-General, WSV), Prof. Sarah A. Simons (Member at Large, WSV), Justice J.R. Midha (Former Judge, High Court of Delhi), Prof. (Dr.) Heru Susetyo (Indonesia), Mr. Yong Woo Lee (President and Founder, VSA), Mr. Levent Altan (Victim Support Europe), Dr. Jeeva Niriella (Sri Lanka) will address the participants on 4th and 5th April.

Three-day seminar on victim empowerment gets underway

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, APRIL 4

The Centre for Criminology, Criminal Justice and Victimology at Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL) started its first international victimology colloquium on victim empowerment through legal and social initiatives today. Justice (retired) Gita Mittal, Prof K Chockalingam and Prof Robert Peacock, president, World Society of Victimology, deliberated on various facets of victim empowerment on the first day of the three-day programme.

Gita Mittal highlighted the obsession of the criminal justice system with the rights of accused and the little regard for the rights of victims. She compared the conditions of victims to "conflicts of property stolen from the rightful owner" and emphasised on the need for more inclusion, pro-activeness and a victim-centric approach in the judicial system. She said, "Justice is not absolute. Justice for one party is grave injustice for the other." Prof Chockalingam elaborated on the emerging trends in victimology. Experts highlighted the need for com-

prehensive policy guidelines for victim justice.

University Vice-Chancellor Prof Bajpai said, "For long, victims of crime are forgotten persons of the criminal justice system" and added, "Victim empowerment is no longer a charity as it is about asserting status and rights. There is a need to rephrase the language of criminal law. The advent of victimology replaces the terms like incarceration, retribution and death penalty with words like reparation, restitution, forgiveness and healing." He further added that the rights of victims should be balanced.