

Short Term Course on “Women and Legal Rights” 28.01.2026 - 30.01.2026

The Department and Centre for Women’s Studies, Mother Teresa Women’s University, Kodaikanal, successfully organized a UGC Women’s Studies Sponsored Short Term Course on “Women and Legal Rights” from 28th January to 30th January 2026. The programme aimed to create awareness and provide in-depth knowledge about legal provisions, constitutional safeguards, and rights available to women in India. The Inaugural Function was held on 28th January 2026 at 10.00 a.m. The programme commenced with the Welcome Address delivered by



Dr. S. Meena Priyadharshini, Head & Director (i/c), Department and Centre for Women’s Studies, Mother Teresa Women’s University. In her address, she warmly welcomed the dignitaries, faculty members, participants, and students. She highlighted the importance of legal literacy among women and emphasized the role of Women’s Studies Centres in promoting

gender justice and empowerment. The Presidential Address was delivered by Dr. K. Kala, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Mother Teresa Women’s University, Kodaikanal. She stressed the significance of understanding legal rights as a powerful tool for women’s empowerment. She encouraged participants to utilize the course effectively and become ambassadors of legal awareness in society. The Inaugural Address was given by Dr. P. Jeyappriya, Registrar (i/c), Mother Teresa Women’s University. She spoke about the constitutional guarantees and various legislations enacted for the protection and welfare of women. She emphasized the need for bridging the gap between law and its implementation at the grassroots level. The Felicitations Address was delivered by Dr. M. Pushpa Rani, Professor & Director, Department of Computer Science, Mother Teresa Women’s University, Madurai Campus. She appreciated the initiative of the Department and highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing women’s issues. The Chief Guest, Adv. S. Selvagomathi, Joint Director, SOCO Trust and Managing Trustee of Justice Shivraj Patil Foundation, Madurai, delivered a thought-provoking special address. She elaborated on various women-related laws, legal remedies, and the importance of legal awareness in combating violence and discrimination against women. She

also shared practical insights and real-life case experiences, making the session highly informative and impactful. This course provided an intensive and comprehensive understanding of the legal frameworks safeguarding women in India. The sessions handled by Adv. S. Selvagomathi, Joint Director, SOCO Trust and Managing Trustee of Justice Shivraj Patil Foundation, Madurai, were highly insightful, practical, and deeply engaging. Over the three days, she elaborated extensively on constitutional guarantees, fundamental rights, and directive principles that form the foundation for gender justice in India. She explained in detail the major legislations enacted for women's protection, including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961; Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013; Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006; and relevant provisions under the Indian Penal Code. She carefully outlined the legal procedures involved in filing complaints, the role of police, protection officers, internal complaints committees, legal aid services, and family courts.

Dr. Selvagomathi further discussed property and inheritance rights under the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, maintenance rights under personal laws and Section 125 CrPC, cybercrimes against women, and emerging legal challenges in the digital era. She emphasized the importance of legal literacy, awareness of rights, and access to justice, particularly for rural and marginalized women. Through real-life case studies, practical examples, and interactive discussions, she demonstrated how law can serve as an instrument of empowerment when women are informed and confident in asserting their rights. She also addressed the gaps between legislation and implementation, encouraging participants to become proactive advocates for gender justice in their communities. Her sessions not only strengthened participants' legal knowledge but also inspired critical thinking, social responsibility, and a commitment to advancing women's rights in both academic and community spaces.

The programme concluded with the Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. P. Nandini, Assistant Professor, Department & Centre for Women's Studies. She expressed sincere gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Chief Guest, dignitaries, organizing committee members, faculty, and participants for their valuable presence and support in making the inaugural function a grand success. This short term course "Women and Legal Rights" session set a meaningful tone for the three-day course, fostering awareness, knowledge, and commitment toward strengthening women's legal rights and gender justice.