

## **College Webinar on "Ensuring Access to Justice-Legal Aid in India"**

Venue: Sanidhya, St. Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangaluru

April 11, 2022 (4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m)

Platform: Zoom

The Department of Political Science and the Human Rights Cell at St. Aloysius College (Autonomous) Mangaluru organised a webinar titled, " Ensuring Access to Justice-Legal Aid in India". The talk was delivered by Advocate Clifton D'Rozario, the National Convenor of All India Advocates Association for Justice (AILAJ) and the co-founder of the Manthan Law.

Adv. D'Rozario walked the students through the constitutional provisions of India to familiarise students on the concept of free legal aid and the setting of such system under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Through this, the needy could avail pro bono or free lawyers from local to the national levels. He highlighted the ground realities in the form of poor state of access to justice given the caste, communal or rural identities of India. The distance, lack of legal services including the concern (for example the manner in which the courts may term a slum dweller as an 'encroacher') are some of the huge drawbacks of this system. As free legal aid is in a state of crisis, Adv. D'Rozario stressed the need for its proper implementation. This remains true given the over populated prisons that homes 70-80% of the undertrials. Amongst these undertrials, majority hail from poor economic backgrounds that includes the SC/STs and the religious minorities. Absence of legal literacy puts the undertrials in a vulnerable position to the extent of not knowing one's lawyer or the stage of the legal case and many a times lawyers fail to appear in courts. The hike in legal education fees makes this profession expensive and there are few takers to become pro bono lawyers.

Amongst all the issues and problems associated with the system of free legal aid, Adv. D'Rozario pointed out to the most important issue— i.e., non-acceptance of constitutional principles which acts as an hindrance to legal justice. The Q&A session was interspersed with questions both within the topic and issues that weigh on the moral conscience of the youth particularly like for example euthanasia.

The session was convened by Mrs. Maria Shaila D'Souza, Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, St Aloysius College (Autonomous) Mangaluru. The webinar was attended by 60 students from various disciplinary backgrounds.

--Report by Dr. Joyce Sabina Lobo



**ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**

**MANGALURU-575003**

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**WEBINAR ON**

**Ensuring Access to Justice -  
Legal Aid in India**



**Advocate Clifton  
D'Rozario**

**National Convenor, All India Advocates  
Association for Justice (AILAJ) and co-  
founder, Manthan Law**

**VENUE:  
SANIDHYA**

**APRIL 11, 2022  
4.30 PM**

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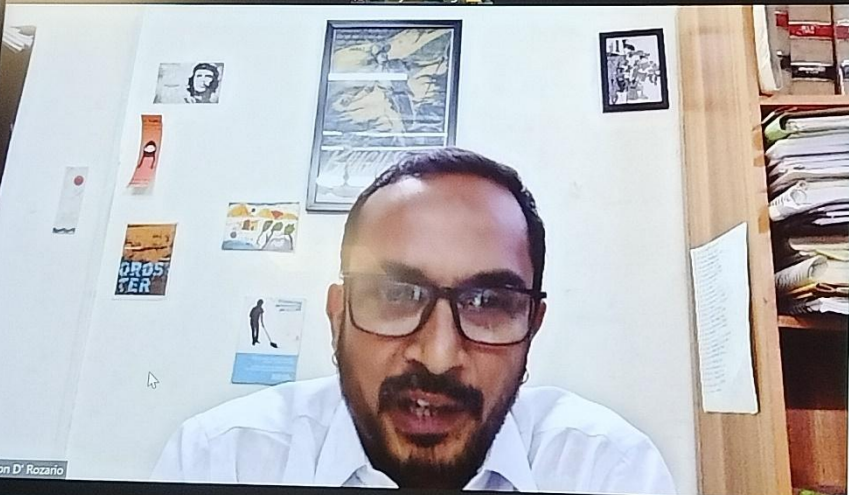


# ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) MANGALURU

Recent Meeting



St Aloysius College



Clifton D' Rozario

Code: G 4-Z C G X

Participants (2)

- St Aloysius College (Host, me)
- Clifton D' Rozario (Co-host)

Invite

Mute All



4:36 PM  
4/11/2022