



LEGAL CELL

For Human Rights



Annual Report
2017-2018

Striving for Justice

"The time has now come when the court must become the court for the poor and the struggling masses of this country. They must be sensitized to the need of doing justice to the large masses of people to whom justice has been denied by a heartless society for generations."

(AIR 1982 SC 1473)

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President Writes...

It is with immense joy that I present to you the annual activity report of LCHR for 2017-18. The past year has been dotted with new initiatives and programmes that creatively engage with and address the concerns of various sections of society in Northeast India that are at the margins.

Apart from the on-going initiatives, during 2017-18, LCHR has paid attention to the rights of Children who comprise more than one third of the total population in any State of India. For instance, they are a significant section of the population in Assam: they number 1, 27, 68,623 or constitute 40.92 per cent of Assam's 0-18 years' population. One of the initiatives of LCHR specifically addresses the concerns of children in tea gardens of Assam.

In presenting this report for your perusal, I deeply appreciate the stubborn determination of the LCHR team for their wholehearted commitment to the vision and mission that inspired its beginning. I wish the Director and staff members all the best in their endeavour to render meaningful service to the people.



Dr. Melvil Pereira
President, LCHR

Director Writes...

As the motto announces "Striving for Justice", LCHR has actively involved in building the legal capacity of the target groups through legal aid, awareness programmes, workshops, seminars and conventions. Remaining true to its vision, LCHR has endeavored to network with like-minded groups and organisations in making a positive change in the lives of the beneficiaries of its various programmes.

It is with immense pleasure I present to you the Annual report 2017-2018. The report presents the commitment of LCHR to the cause of the poor and needy in the society in different shades and colours. All this has been possible with the support and collaboration of various partners and well wishers. I express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the partners for their support in the past year. I also sincerely thank Kohima Jesuit Region represented by the Regional Superior, Dr. Melvil Periera SJ for the support and encouragement. At this juncture I also salute the dedication of committed staff of LCHR in realising the dream. I remain grateful to your commitment to the cause of the poor.



Owen Chourappa, *Advocate*
Director, LCHR

About LCHR

- Established on February 15, 2007 with the motto 'Striving for Justice'.
- Specialised in the field of legal matters.
- It comprises of a group of legal practitioners and social workers who pledge to advocate the cause of the poor.

Aim

LCHR aims at empowering the weak, poor and the needy people to claim their inalienable rights and human dignity which have been impaired by inhuman and unfavorable circumstances.

Mission of LCHR

The mission of LCHR is to empower the weak, the poor, the needy and the powerless, accompanying them to claim their inalienable rights and human dignity, which have been impaired by inhuman social structure and unfavorable circumstances.

Vision of LCHR

LCHR visualises itself as a people's initiative for the protection and promotion of inalienable human, socio-cultural and civil rights to restore human dignity, equality, justice, peace, liberty, harmony and brotherhood among people. With a preferential option and affirmative action, it strives to create a humane and just society.

Objectives

To protect, promote and defend human rights and civil liberties especially of the poor, weak and vulnerable sections of the society to enforce dignity and freedom of individuals as guaranteed

by the Constitution of India and various UN Declarations, Conventions and Charters.

To undertake and to promote various legal literacy and capacity building programmes at different levels to create the legal awareness among people and to promote their interests and to conscientise the weaker sections of the society on their affairs particularly women, children, and other vulnerable sections like dalits, tribal and minorities in order to protect their inalienable rights.

To train the trainers, para-legal personnel, bare-foot advocates and such other human resource in order to bring justice for all especially those who can not afford.

To create litigation free villages and initiate out of court settlements.

To bring together progress oriented Professionals, Lawyers, Advocates, Journalists, Academicians, Scientists and Artistes to work for the common good of the society functioning as a catalyst and a meeting place for social activists, professional and creative minds.

To foster linkages and networking among individuals and organizations at the regional, national and international levels to promote human development with equity and to collaborate with Government for empowerment of the weaker sections of the people for creating a just and humane society by providing facilities for voluntary organizations of national and international accreditation to share this vision.

To build a strong nation where all the citizens irrespective of caste, creed, race, sex can experience equality, liberty, justice, human dignity, fraternity and unity guaranteed by the Constitution of India.

Generating objective and reliable data on rights and social justice issues through research. Providing facilities in law research in the NE Region, regarding the administration of justice, the customary laws and practices.

Mobilizing peoples' power and to initiate legal action against human rights violations by direct intervention on its own or in association with others.

Work for the protection of rights based on human dignity, freedom and security of people in general including the disabilities of orphaned children, HIV affected people, prisoners, lonely & mentally distressed, and those prone to suicidal tendencies.

To promote the value of sustainable development, eco friendly life-styles; to mobilize people for observing fundamental duties including the preservation of natural resources, safe environment and for protection of the earth.

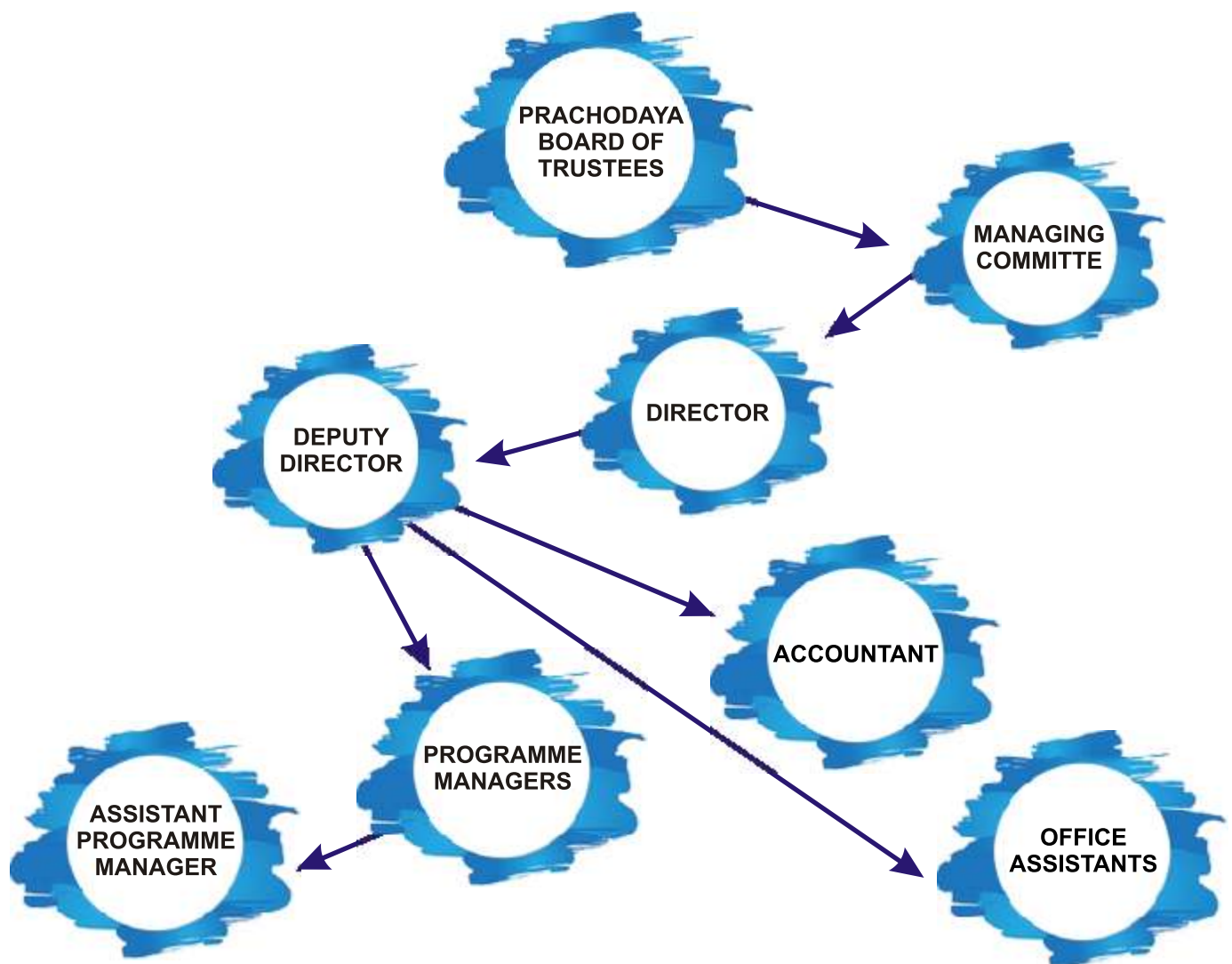
To hold and conduct law-lectures, conferences, seminars, workshops, symposiums and competitions in the field of law. To run courses

in law leading to awarding diplomas and certificates. To undertake socio-legal surveys and researches on issues affecting larger sections of the people, for remedial action.

LCHR Mode of Collaboration

LCHR collaborates with like minded individuals or group of goodwill that shares the same vision and mission and it shall make every attempt to collaborate with voluntary organizations as well as governmental agencies remaining rooted locally and addressing the issues globally.

LCHR ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Experience of district Coordinator...

I am **Elina Toppo**, a trained Para Legal Person from Tinsukia district and a member of Deepjyoti Manav Adhikar Manch (DMAM), rights based group created by LCHR. In the month of April, 2018, I was approached and informed by the mother of Sarita (name changed) that her daughter Sarita, aged about 15 years, was taken to Delhi about 2 years and 6 months ago for domestic work without her consent. Knowing this, I went to the office of District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Tinsukia to seek help. The officials of DCPO advised me to file an FIR in the nearest police station. Accordingly, I filed an FIR at Doomdoooma police station and requested the police to take the most appropriate action immediately. Without delay, the Doomdoooma police contacted the Delhi police and sought their help to find the whereabouts of the girl. The address of the family where the girl was kept was found out and the girl was rescued. She was handed over to her parents on May 25, 2018 and is living happily. This was one of my greatest achievements of my life as a PLP. This was a case of abduction as the girl was a minor and the family was never consented. I thank LCHR for continuously encouraging and motivating me to work for the poor and needy. I have gained a lot of legal knowledge from trainings, legal awareness programmes and through my work experiences.



Experience of Para Legal Person (PLP)...

I am **Ruben Orey**, a Para Legal Person (PLP) and a member of Margherita Manab Adhikar Manch (MMAM), a group created by LCHR. Prior to becoming a member of MMAM, I have received a good number of trainings from LCHR on various laws that are basically important for the poor, deprived and common people. This helped me to raise voice for the voiceless in my area through legal awareness programmes and meeting the Government officials, police officers and political leaders. Earlier, I was not confident enough and hesitated to face the people in power and in the Government due to lack of knowledge and information on legal rights, but now I am able to face them confidently and speak for the rights of the needy. I have gained a lot of confidence and courage to deal with the people in the Government because of LCHR. Further, as a member of MMAM, I have received various trainings on group management skills, accountancy and leadership which have greatly developed my skills. As a member, I worked on matters related to land, child marriage, child trafficking, child labour, school dropout children, opening bank accounts, Public Distribution System etc. I have also helped people to get PAN cards, caste certificates etc. All of these became possible because of LCHR and therefore, I thank LCHR from the bottom of my heart.



Experience of Intern...

I am **Kemessanuo Sophia**, a student at J.B. Law College, Guwahati. It has been a fun and good experience as an intern in LCHR. I got to learn new things, not only expanding my knowledge from books but also through activities like typing on computers, filing applications under the provisions of Right to Information (RTI), Act etc. What I would also like to mention is that the working environment of the office is very good. Here everyone is very friendly and always willing to help in every way possible way. As a whole, through this internship, I got to learn a lot. I thank LCHR for giving me this wonderful privilege.



LCHR TRAINING/ACTIVITIES DURING 2017-2018

Monitoring

LCHR team along with project managers carried out monthly monitoring meetings at project areas in Assam. The monitoring and evaluation were conducted under the project titled “Formation of Cluster groups among the Para Legal Persons and training them to access justice in the Assam tea plantations.” This project is supported by DKA-KFB Austria.

The Para Legal Persons (PLP) are well motivated youths from various tea plantations of Assam. They are trained in various laws and share the same knowledge with members of their areas by organizing awareness programmes and undertaking various helpful activities for the benefits of the people. In this year a total number of 64 youth are trained as PLPs.



On June 28th, 2017, Pushpa Rana & Mousumi Kalita from LCHR went for monitoring and evaluation of the group, Jibon Jyoti Manav Adhikar Manch (MAM) in Biswanath district. The meeting was held at Borpookhuri Tea Estate, where 6 members along with district coordinators of Udalguri & Nagaon participated.

LCHR Tour

“Once a year, go some place you’ve never been before” - Dalai Lama

From April 21 to 24, 2017 LCHR Staff went to Darjeeling for Staff Orientation programme.



Office Bearer Training

Office Bearers’ training entitled “Group Management and Advocacy Skills” was held from 6th to 8th September, 2017, at Capuchin House, Juripar, Guwahati. 36 participants were present in that programme. Valerian Castelino, Director of Purvanchal Pragati Samaj was the trainer of that programme.



On 24th & 25th of November, 2017 LCHR organized Office Bearers’ training on “Group Management and Advocacy Skills” at Capuchin House, Juripar, Guwahati. The total number of

participants was 44. The resource person was Valerian Castelino.



Training for the members of Manav Adhikar Manch

From 29th to 31st January, 2018, 56 PLPs from tea gardens of Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Udalguri, Sonitpur, and Nagaon districts of Assam were trained on various provisions on Land Law, Free Legal Aid, CARA, UJJAWALA, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme, Bonded Labour System (Abolition Act, 1976), Right to Development on Food & Health of Children in India, Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation Act, 1986), Child Parliament & ICDS, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Prevention of Child Trafficking, ICPS and Loan Schedule.



2nd Regional Workshop of the North East Legal Fraternity

From May 26th to 29th, 2017 LCHR conducted the 2nd Regional Workshop of the North East Legal Fraternity at Seminar Hall, Jagriti, Guwahati. Altogether 54 persons participated in this programme. The theme of the workshop was "Crafting a Vibrant Legal



Fraternity". The guests and the resource persons were G.P. Amalraj, Deputy Secretary, North East India Regional Bishops' Conference, Dr. Melvil Pereira, Director, North Eastern Regional Social Research Center, Guwahati, Dr. Walter Fernandes, Senior Fellow, North East Social Research Center, Guwahati, Prof. Alphonsus D' Souza, Senior Fellow, North East Social Research Center, Guwahati, Allen Brooks, Member, Assam State Minority Commission, R.P. Kakoti, Senior Advocate, Gauhati High Court, DCC Phukkan, Advocate, Gauhati High Court and Dr. M.P. Raju, Advocate, Supreme Court of India.



Exposure

On September 10th, 2017, PLP cluster groups from Dibrugarh and Tinsukia district went for exposure to "The Mustard Seeds Village", a Non-Governmental Organisation at Lakla, Jagun, accompanied by LCHR team. The total number of PLPs who took part was 53.



LCHR team and the PLP cluster groups of Nagaon district went for exposure at District Child Protection Unit and at Child Care Institute, Panigaon, Nagaon on October 12th 2017. There were 12 participants.



The Second Regional Convention of the North East Legal Fraternity

LCHR organised the Second Regional Convention of the North East Legal Fraternity (NELF) at Pastoral Center, Shillong from October 20 to 23, 2017. The convention was witnessed by about 120 participants comprising of advocates, lawyers engaged in various professions, students of law and research scholars from 13 Legal Fraternity of North East India. The guest and resource persons comprised of Peter S. Dkhar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills, Romy Chacko, Advocate on Record, Supreme Court of India, Peter Martin, Advocate, Ranchi High Court, Jharkhand, John Madur, Vicar General, Archdiocese of Shillong and Felix Dkhar, Director of Pastoral Center, Shillong.



Legal Orientation Program

LCHR organised a 1-day legal orientation program on November 27, 2017 at St. Xavier's Junior College Balipara, Tezpur, Sonitpur District. The topics dealt in were Anti-Ragging, Cyber law and Gender equalities. It was attended by the students of Arts & Commerce stream, teachers, Professors and Principal of the college. A total number of 300 persons benefited from the programme. The Director of LCHR Owen Chourappa, Advocate and Pushpa Rana, Asst. Programme Manager were the resource persons.



On December 11, 2017 LCHR conducted a 1-day legal orientation program at Loyola College, Williamnagar, Meghalaya. About 100 participants comprising of students from arts & commerce streams were present. The sessions were based on anti-ragging, gender equalities and cyber law. LCHR team members namely, Owen Chourappa, Director and Pushpa Rana, Asst. Program Manager were the resource persons.



North East Legal Fraternity

On 08.04.2017, a meeting of the Kohima Legal Fraternity was held at Cathedral Church, Kohima. It was a historic and full of life as the

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Bishop of the Diocese attended the fraternity's meeting for the first time. The Bishop encouraged the members and urged them to work for the poor and needy. A total number of 16 persons were present.



On 06.05.2017, the Ialam Lynti Legal Fraternity of Shillong organised its 2nd Workshop of the second year in a seminar hall at Archbishop's House in Shillong. Ravi Sagar and Abinash Narzary facilitated the workshop from LCHR. Paul Olphindro Lyngkot SDB of the Shillong Province enlightened the participants on becoming good lawyers with human values. 14 persons attended the workshop.



On 21.05.2017, the Guwahati Legal Fraternity (GLF) and the Students' Legal Fraternity of Guwahati jointly organised a meet at Conference Hall, Jagriti. 12 students including the members of

GLF were present in this meeting besides Ravi Sagar, Director of LCHR, Abinash Narzary and Sabita Barwa from LCHR.



Visitors to LCHR

On January, 5th 2018, the immersion group from Peace Centre, Marquette University, USA visited LCHR. A team from LCHR guided this group to Salona T.E in Nagaon district of Assam for an exposure programme and to interact with the PLPs.



Survey

From 25/02/2018 to 01/03/2018, LCHR team conducted a survey on Child Labour in tea plantation areas under Lakhimpur & Biswanath districts of Assam.



LCHR Resources

Owen Chourappa and Abinash Narzary were the resource persons in a one-day training programme held at Seva Kendra in Silchar, Assam on June 10, 2018. Abinash Narzary spoke on the 'Rights of Tribals in India' and 'Cyber Laws'. While Owen Chourappa dealt with 'Fundamental Rights'.

LCHR participation

Shobha K.P & Ravi Sagar attended a 2-day workshop on Human Rights in Williamnagar, Garo Hills, Meghalaya on July 4 and 5, 2017.

Pushpa Rana & Mousumi Kalita attended meeting titled, 'SC ruling on 498A sec of the IPC' at North East Network, Guwahati on August 11, 2017 organized by North East Network (NEN).

Sunita Borgoyari and Mousumi Kalita attended

2-day training programme on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) at SVD House, Airport Road, Guwahati on October 20 & 21, 2017.

On 10th November, 2017 Pushpa Rana participated in a seminar on "Human trafficking from the Northeast" organized by NESRC at Jagriti, Christian Basti, Guwahati.

Pushpa Rana attended a seminar on "Process of migration from Northeast India" at Jagriti Conference hall, Christianbasti, Assam on 23 and 24 February, 2018 organised by NESRC, Guwahati, Assam.

Abinash Narzary and Sunita Borgoyari participated in a programme, "Strengthening North East Network Forum Partners in Combating Human Trafficking" organised by NEDAN Foundation at DBI, Kharghuli on March 27 and 28, 2018.

Farewell to the former Director and Chairman of LCHR



Under his guidance LCHR has grown in leaps and bounds. Our sincere gratitude to its founder director **Ravi Sagar**, Advocate and wish all the best for the future endeavor.



We sincerely thank our former Chairman **Arul Susiamanickam** SJ for his support and guidance.

Welcome to new LCHR Director and President



LCHR team welcomes new director **Owen Chourappa**, Advocate and President **Dr. Melvil Pereira**. We give them our best wishes.





Front Row Left to Right: Pushpa Rana (Assistant Programme Manager), Mary Sonia Besra (Intern), Mousmi Kalita (Programme Manager), Sabita Barwa (Accountant)

Behind Row Left to Right: Abinash Narzary (Programme Manager), Reshab Murmu (Intern), Owen Chaurappa (Director)

Warm welcome to: Owen Chaurappa (Director)

Photo Gallery

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Legal Orientation at St. Xavier's College, Tezpur



Monitoring at Dejoo Tea Estate, Lakhimpur



LCHR released success stories at Conference Room (LCHR)



Dist Coordinator meet at LCHR Reference Room (LCHR)



2nd Regional Workshop at Seminar Hall (LCHR)



3rd regional Workshop- NELF at Kharguli, Guwahati



PLP Exposure visit at Jagun, Tinsukia



Ravi Sagar's farewell meet at Conference Room (LCHR)

PRACHODAYA
JESUIT HOUSE, UZAN BAZAR
JAHAJ GHAT, GUWAHATI

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

RECEIPTS	TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
		Project Expenses	
Donation & Contribution	78,96,885.88	Formation of Cluster-groups among the para-legal persons among the tea plantation labourers in Assam(DKA-IV)	24,43,889.00
Interest Received	4,14,434.00		
		Creating Legal Cells in 15 Dioceses of Northeast India to access	12,40,718.00
		<u>LCHR Programmes</u>	
		Awareness & Training Programme	9,555.00
		Publication	97,000.00
		Seminar & Workshop	40,802.00
		<u>Administrative Expenses</u>	10,33,954.00
		Charity & Donation	25,000.00
		<u>Capital Equipments</u>	
		Library Books	6,265.00
		Balance for the Year 2018-19	34,14,136.88
Total(Rs)	83,11,319.88	Total(Rs.)	83,11,319.88



Prachodaya, Guwahati

Our Partners

We gratefully acknowledge your partnership and your collaboration



DKA/KFB Austria

Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar



Nagaland Jesuit Society (NJS)

**Nagaland Jesuit Educational
Charitable Society (NJECS)**

Your generosity enabled us to strive for Justice



Legal Cell for Human Rights



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