

PANEL DISCUSSION ON REVAMPED CRIMINAL LAWS (October 30, 2023)

The Seminar Committee organized a panel discussion on “**Revamping the Criminal Law Landscape: Implications of Replacing Traditional Laws with the BNS, BNSS, and BS Bills in 2023**” on 30th October 2023. The esteemed panel for this session were Dr. Subhash C. Raina, Founding Vice Chancellor of HPNLU and Dr. Sarfaraz A. Khan, Associate Professor at WBNUJS. The event started with the Chairperson, Dr Prem Kumar Gautam, introducing the central theme of the discussion, which revolved around the transformation of the criminal law landscape.



Dr Sarfaraz A. Khan started with a thoughtful discussion on the limited changes brought about in the evidence law by the Bhartiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 and presented suggestions for potential enhancements in the Bhartiya Sakshya Bill. Referring to the 113th Law Commission report, the speaker proposed legislation addressing custodial conditions, including issues related to custodial violence, rape, and death. The Shakila Gaffer Khan case and the recommendations of the Supreme Court were cited as important considerations that could have been

incorporated into the bill. Furthermore, he acknowledged the addition of "mob lynching" to the bill.

Dr Raina continued the knowledge discourse by emphasising the need to focus on cybercrime and hate crime and raised the question of whether honour crimes should be treated as a separate category or integrated into existing sections. He underscored the importance of protecting elderly individuals and other vulnerable groups. The topic of witness protection was expressed in relation to the need for police reforms before this implementation. He also commented on adding community service as a reformative technique but believed that the bills required more precise framing and interpretation.

The floor was then opened to questions from the audience, which led to an informed and engaged discussion on various aspects of the three bills.

The guest speakers then facilitated the winners of the paper presentation competition, Athena 4.0 and the event was concluded.