

COMMITTEE FOR REFORMS IN CRIMINAL LAWS

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ABOUT OUR APPROACH AND FUNCTIONS

The Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws has been set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, vide its notifications '1-2-19 Judicial Cell (Part I)' dated 02-03-2020, 04-05-2020 and 29-05-2020 with the mandate *"to recommend reforms in the criminal laws of the country in a principled, effective, and efficient manner which ensures the safety and security of the individual, the community and the nation; and which prioritises the constitutional values of justice, dignity and the inherent worth of the individual."* (available on the website).

Since its establishment, the Committee has been inclined to be open, transparent and fair in its working. We fully respect all the opinions and suggestion made to us. The structural part of it .e.g. composition- lies with the M.H.A. but for its functional part we are completely autonomous and willing to respect the suggestions. Its structure consists of academicians, advocates, judges and other professionals, and as such, the Committee has remarkable diversity and competence in professional experience, affiliations, and, scholarship. Moreover, nothing restricts us to acquire the advice, guidance, knowledge and experience of a galaxy of people who are available in this country and are willing to extend their cooperation to us. This makes us quite confident of accomplishing this task to the satisfaction of all the stakeholders in the system and society.

The Committee has been operating as a team of nearly 30 individuals including Consultants, Researchers and Interns. The aims, guiding principles and objectives of the Committee are accessible online at the website of the Committee (<https://criminallawreforms.in/>) for public viewing. Our mandate and mission is capable of addressing the crucial

concerns of criminal reforms in India and in doing so we are conscious of those social categories requiring prioritisation. Our approach is guided by the progressive and humane thinking in the realm of criminal law. We are also alive to the most relevant debates which are in the public domain and have a definite bearing on the need for just reforms in the criminal laws of this country.

To cope up with the physical restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 related circumstances, the Committee has developed a web based platform for consultations with domain experts and professionals including and the people at large having interests in these areas. The Committee has adopted an open methodology with respect the Consultative processes to be undertaken by the Committee. Registrations for the consultations are open to everyone irrespective of ideologies; views; preferences; sexual orientation; disabilities; race; ethnicity; class; caste; sex; gender; religion; place of residence; or, place of birth and as such, everyone is free to share their views, opinions, suggestions, recommendations, knowledge and experience on the questions of law. Towards this end, we have received an encouraging response in terms of registrations by several hundred professionals, stakeholders and functionaries of our Criminal Justice System. Moreover, the participants are free to exceed the word limit of 200 words as the same is not a hard rule but merely a guideline urging participants to exercise self-restraint for the sake of brevity. The shorter time notice of response is due to the fact that the assignment has to be completed within a duration of **six months**. We are willing to make the questionnaires available in various regional languages.

The Committee is inclined to engage with all the learned stakeholders in the criminal justice administration working in any capacity to please join us and extend your valuable inputs leading to the reforms in the criminal laws of this country. We intend to facilitate this engagement by way of varied consultations and forthcoming discussions groups or the written submission that can be made to us through email at criminallawreforms@nludelhi.ac.in. We would be keen to have meetings with all such persons/organisations and professionals to share more about our work.

In order to maintain utmost transparency in our work, we would be posting all relevant updates for the public notice on website.

Looking forward to your valued cooperation.

Regards,

Date: 08-07-2020

Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh
(Chairperson)