

ASHNA DEVAPRASAD

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EDUCATION

- MPhil, Criminological Research (2022 – 2023)
University of Cambridge
Activities: Research & Engagement Officer, Decolonising Criminology Network; Biodiversity Officer, Girton College; Member, CU Human Rights Law Society; Member, CU Indian Classical Music Society.
Research training: Quantitative Analysis; Mixed Methods; Statistical Analysis; Qualitative Research Rigour.
- B.A. LL.B (Hons.) (2017 – 2022)
The National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS)
CGPA: 9.93/10
Activities: Founder, NUALS Prisoners' Rights Project; Editor-in-Chief, NUALS Law Journal; Mentor & Team Leader, Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access (IDIA); Elected Representative, Student's Council; Secretary, NUALS Debating Society; Field Researcher, Legal Aid Clinic; Student Coordinator, NUALS Alumni Association.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Researcher, Cambridge Pro-Bono Project (Nov. 2022 – Apr. 2023)

- Drafted sections of a report under the 'Empowering Women by Balancing the Law' project of the World Bank.
- Reviewed and analysed international development reports and statistics on The Gambia's legal framework on female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender-based violence.
- Analysed primary and secondary literature across criminal law, human rights law and public law to compare The Gambia's legal framework on human trafficking and child marriage with international and regional best practices.

Death Penalty Research Fellow, Project 39A (Mar. 2020 – Jul. 2022)

- Drafted two reports presenting comprehensive annual statistics on the death penalty.
- Prepared literature reviews, case law compendia, and research reports on death penalty sentencing in India.
- Conducted semi-structured interviews with sixty-eight death row prisoners and their families and analysed qualitative data on their socioeconomic backgrounds for mitigation investigations.
- Curated data on nearly two thousand three hundred death row prisoners to design and maintain a national death penalty database on Excel.
- Prepared and presented datasets on terror offences in capital cases using Excel and Tableau for Harm Reduction International and Reprieve UK.

Research Intern, Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network, Malaysia (Feb. 2021 – Jun. 2022)

- Managed advocacy efforts with regional partners to streamline strategies for death penalty abolition.
- Organised strategic litigation training sessions for Malaysian capital defence lawyers.
- Reviewed national statistics and news reports on death penalty cases for policy analysis.
- Drafted sections of [Malaysia's Universal Periodic Review report](#) submitted to the UN Human Rights Council.

Research Assistant, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (May – Aug 2021)

- Designed a primer for child protection officers on restorative justice alternatives for child sexual abuse survivors.
- Provided drafting assistance to create an Emergency Response System Guide for child welfare social workers.
- Coordinated with the Counter Child Exploitation Unit to design evidence-based interventions against child exploitation, including sexual abuse and cyber trafficking.

Research Assistant, Advocate Ajit Joy, UNODC South Asia (Sep. 2020 – Jul. 2021)

- Drafted the Maldivian Anti-Migrant Smuggling Act after reviewing literature and case studies on migration policies.
- Assisted policymakers at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime identify pathways of migrant exploitation.

Research Intern, CivicDataLab & Agami India (Jun. 2021– Jul. 2021)

- Constructed a first-of-its-kind open access dataset on the backgrounds, tenure, and professional trajectory of High Court judges from across India.
- Tested AI-assisted Open-Source Data Labelling tool on trial court transcripts and evidence files to assist prosecutors.

Research Intern, Prison Reforms, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative India (Mar. – Apr. 2021)

- Tracked state legal compliance with the Prisons Act, 1894 and the Model Prison Manual, 2016 to analyse the impact of the pandemic on Indian prisoners.
- Conducted a desk-based review of international policies on the rights and care of transgender prisoners for a research report.

Field Researcher, Centre for Action Research and People's Development, Hyderabad (May – Jun. 2018)

- Interviewed female survivors of child marriages to map their experiences and document the implementation of child marriage prohibition policies in five villages in Telangana state.
- Organised consultations with adolescent girls and young mothers to discuss social policy and rehabilitation interventions for domestic violence.

PUBLICATIONS

- Ashna D, 'Technically Worse: The Paradox of 'Smart' Prisons in India,' British Society of Criminology Blog (2021).
- Ashna D & Parameswaran C, 'The Pains of a Pandemic Behind Bars: A Study of the Impact of COVID-19 in Ernakulam Prisons', Legal Aid Clinic & Centre for Continuing Legal Education & Extension, NUALS (2021).
- Ashna D & Ambily P, 'Faulty Foundations: A Socio-legal Critique of the Regulation of Forensic Science Laboratories in India', National Law University Jodhpur Law Review (2021).
- Ashna D, 'The Impact of Dehumanising Language on Death Penalty Discourse', Cambridge Human Rights Law Society Blog (2021).
- Ashna D, 'Death Penalty Law in India: A Case of Consistent Inconsistencies', Columbia Public Policy Review (2020).
- Ashna D, 'Do Prisoners in India Have a Right to Health', London School of Economics Social Policy Blog (2020).
- Ashna D, 'Nigerian Death Penalty Sentencing Over Video Conference Raises Fair Trial Concerns', Oxford Human Rights Hub (2020).
- Ashna D, 'Creating LGBT Inclusive Workplaces in India: The Push for an Anti-Discrimination Law', Georgetown Public Policy Review (2020).

Data Research

- ['Death Penalty Sentencing in India's Trial Courts \(2018-2020\)'](#), Project 39A (2022)
- ['UN Peace Operations: Evolution of Doctrine, Practice & Integration of Human Rights Issues'](#), SAGE (2022)
- 'Death Penalty in India: Annual Statistics Reports' Project 39A ([2020](#), [2021](#))
- ['Know your High Court Judges'](#) (KHOJ Dataset, 1993-2021), Justice Hub (2022)
- ['Reform in Limbo: Report on the Death Penalty in Malaysia'](#), ADPAN (2021)
- ['Our New Database Reveals Rise In Sedition Cases In The Modi Era'](#), Article 14 (2020)

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Awarded the Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholarship and the Economic & Social Research Council DTP Studentship to pursue the MPhil in Criminological Research at the University of Cambridge (2022)
- Awarded three gold medals for best academic performance in the B.A. LLB. (Hons.) Degree (2022)
- Headed the 'Stories Behind Bars' initiative as a United Nations Academic Impact Millennium Fellow (2021)
- Finalist, Rhodes Scholarship, India (2021)
- Selected Speaker, Anti-Death Penalty Asia Youth Forum & World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (2021)
- World Champions & Best Memorial Award, 24th Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition, Stetson University Florida (2020)

VOLUNTEERING

- Volunteer, The New Bridge Foundation (Oct. 2022 – present)
- Volunteer, Attapadi Tribal Welfare Project (2017 – 2022)
- Rescue & Outreach Volunteer, Oneness Animal Welfare Trust (2019 – 2022)

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Microsoft Word & Excel; R programming; NVivo; Ethnography; Semi-structured interviews & questionnaires; Inferential statistics; Social network analysis; Data visualisation with Tableau; Quantitative and Qualitative data analysis.