

## Legal Aid Clinic

The Constitution of India directs the state to provide free legal aid to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. To this end, the Parliament has passed the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, also for the development of programmes, promotion, guidance and supervision of the establishment and working of legal services clinics in legal education institutions. And the Bar Council of India Rules 2008, made under the Advocates Act, 1961, require each legal education institution to establish and run a Legal Aid Clinic in cooperation with the local Legal Aid Authorities.

Accordingly, the School of Law, Justice & Governance, which is the legal education institution of the Gautam Buddha University, has established a Legal Aid Clinic. Every person who has to file or defend a case is entitled to its free legal services if that person is:

- (a) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe
- (b) a victim of trafficking in human beings or *begar* and other forms of forced labour
- (c) a woman or a child
- (d) a person with disability
- (e) a person of underserved want, such as a victim of mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster
- (f) an industrial workman
- (g) in custody
- (h) in receipt of annual income less than Rupees 9000 (if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court) or 12000 (if the case is before the Supreme Court)

The Clinic also works for helping the disadvantaged people who seek its help for solving their legal problems. Currently, it is supervised by the School's Dean (I/C) and run by its two faculty members in cooperation with the Legal Aid Authorities, voluntary lawyers and non-governmental organizations of Gautam Buddha Nagar. It will be duly run in due course by the final year students.

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