



## DROP IN CENTER AND SAMTA NYAY KENDRA

UNDER THE AMBIT OF COMPOSITE TARGETED INTERVENTION (CTI) PROJECT FUNDED BY CHANDIGARH STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY (CSACS) AND SUPPORTED BY DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (DLSA), CHANDIGARH



FOR HIGH RISK GROUP (HRG) COMMUNITY MEMBERS - TG, MSM & FSW

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INCLUSION OF HRG COMMUNITY



## ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS AND DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS (APSWDP)

IN SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (UN ECOSOC) AND ASSOCIATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATION (UN DGC)



## ABOUT DROP IN CENTER (DIC)

The High-Risk Groups (HRGs) including Transgenders, MSM, and FSW communities are among the most marginalized, vulnerable, and socially excluded communities. They are subjected to a variety of social discrimination from mainstream society. The 'leave no one behind' principle of the United Nations is especially relevant for these communities who are on the verge of being left behind by the National and International development initiatives. Issues such as poverty and unemployment, health disparity, poor health outcomes, discrimination in education, frightening levels of physical violence, homelessness, high rates of attempted suicide, etc. are faced by most Transgenders.

APSWDP has been entrusted with a Community Based Composite Targeted Intervention Project under the aegis of Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society wherein a Drop-in-center (DIC) has been established. Drop-in Centre (DIC) is a crucial service facility improvised to deliver quality services to High-Risk Groups. It emphasizes addressing immediate needs and requirements of the HRGs such as counseling, referral, and follow-up services for HIV and STI screening, strengthening linkages between HRGs and the service providers, commodity distribution, offering a platform to HRGs for self-expression and empowerment, enabling environment, and to protect and promote their rights.

## ABOUT SAMTA NYAY KENDRA (FREE LEGAL AID CLINIC)



HON'BLE JUSTICE JASWANT SINGH RAISING THE CURTAIN OF THE SAMTA NYAY KENDRA IN THE PRESENCE OF DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE, CHANDIGARH; MEMBER SECRETARY, STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, CHANDIGARH; AND DR. SUMIT ARORA, PRESIDENT, APSWDP.



HON'BLE JUSTICE JASWANT SINGH INAUGURATING THE SAMTA NYAY KENDRA AND DROP-IN CENTER IN THE PRESENCE OF MS. REKHA TRIVEDI, SECRETARY-GENERAL, APSWDP, AND DR. SUMIT ARORA, PRESIDENT, APSWDP.

**SAMTA NYAY KENDRA (Free legal aid clinic)** was established at the office of APSWDP Composite Targeted Intervention Project at New Indira Colony, Manimajra, Chandigarh on 19th September 2021 jointly by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society. The inauguration was done by Hon'ble Justice Jaswant Singh, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh, and Chairman, State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), Chandigarh. This free legal aid clinic is first in North India and fifth in the country aims to provide counseling and help to the third gender to redress their grievances. Also, it will render services such as legal awareness training, linkages, and capacity building services and would function on Wednesday and Saturday.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Drop-in center aims at providing counseling, psychosocial support in terms of group meetings and avail social security schemes. The center will also link PLHIV with care and support service providers, with government schemes and assist them in coping with issues. Experience has shown that in order to mobilize community support, advocacy among High-Risk Groups (HRGs) and Persons Living With HIV AIDS (PLWHAs) is required for creating an enabling environment. DIC offers a safe and secured environment for HRGs and PLWHAs to rest, recreate by engaging in different activities, discuss coping mechanisms, develop a strong bond, identifying different ways to mainstream life and livelihood, and overcome the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS.

The joint objectives of the Drop-In Center (DIC) and SAMTA NYAY Kendra are as follows:

- To promote positive living among HRGs and improve the quality of life of the infected.
- To build the capacity and skills of HRGs to cope with the infection
- To create an enabling environment for the HRGs
- To establish linkages of HRGs with PLWHAs Networks, with the existing health services, NGOs, CBOs and
- Other social security, welfare, and development programs.
- To protect and promote the rights of the infected.
- To provide free legal counseling, support and other NLSA Scheme benefits to Transgenders



Picture: Various Training and Capacity Building Activities among HRGs.

## PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Following free services are provided to the HRGs and PLWHA at Drop-in Center cum SAMTA NYAY KENDRA:

1. Counselling
2. Psycho-social support
3. Referral and Linkages
4. Formation of Self Help Groups
5. Enrolment in various social security schemes
6. ART linkages and follow-up
7. Extensive outreach
8. Recreational services along with the library
9. Free legal aid through DLSA panel lawyer





Picture: Shri Sandeep Mittal, Deputy Director, TI, CSACS Visiting DIC, CTI.



Picture: Various Recreational Activities in Drop In Center being organized by APSWDP.

## DIC LEVEL COMMITTEE

A Committee has been constituted to look after the daily affairs of the Drop-in center and its functioning. The committee is comprised of the following members:

- Sh. Narender Kumar, Project Manager
- Smt. Jasvir Kaur, Counsellor
- Sh. Pardeep Kumar, Outreach Worker
- Smt. Alka, Peer Educator
- Mx. Vishpreet Kaur, Peer Educator-cum-Para legal volunteer, SAMTA NYAY KENDRA

## FOR ANY QUERIES, CONTACT



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