



# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



*“Sustainable Development Goal 16 focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.”*

## **1. Inclusive Curriculum**

Education and awareness are crucial for creating a more sustainable and equitable world. With a view to advance with the objectives of SDG 16 and building societies that are more peaceful, just and inclusive, a number of related subjects are taught to our students at Sharda University. Some of them are as follows:

- **Concepts of Human Rights(MAL134)**
- **Legal Environment Framework (MCN102)**
- **Cyber Law (MAL123)**

**Additionally, a number of related events have been conducted for the overall exposure of the students to the concept of SDG 16 and allied areas.**

A guest lecture was conducted on the topic **“Freedom of speech and expression”**.The main

Objectives of the event were

- To provide students with valuable insights and exposure in Freedom of speech as a conduit of dispensation of information promoting peace and dialogue.
- To acquaint the participants with the contemporary issues and challenges in the legal profession.
- To provide an excellent opportunity for networking and establishing connections with professionals who have made significant contributions to their respective domains.
- To have a good understanding of developing research areas and academic growth in future career prospects of our students.

Sharda University's unwavering commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions is exemplified by a series of impactful initiatives and events held throughout the year 2023. SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions is crucial for fostering a society where all individuals can live without fear, in a just and inclusive environment, and with strong institutions that uphold the rule of law. Sharda University recognizes the significance of these principles and is committed to addressing the root causes of conflict, promoting the rule of law, and providing access to justice for all.

In 2023, Sharda University made significant strides in its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goal. The year was marked by a series of initiatives and events that showcased the institution's unwavering dedication to promoting a better world through education, community involvement, and the pursuit of peace and justice.

## **1. Academic Excellence and Transformative Social Impact through Conferences, Seminars, and Workshops:**

Sharda University is actively engaged in promoting peace and conflict resolution, and academic excellence through academic research and community involvement. The university hosts seminars, conferences, and workshops that bring together experts, scholars, and practitioners to explore innovative approaches to conflict resolution. Students and faculty members are encouraged to participate in these activities to enhance their understanding.

Throughout the year 2023, Sharda University played a pivotal role in preparing the next generation of legal professionals through preparatory sessions for Judiciary and UGC-NET (Law) examinations. These sessions empowered students with the knowledge and skills required to contribute to a just and legally sound society.

The institution's dedication to promoting justice was evident in various international and national guest lectures, and panel discussions. One notable event was an International Guest Lecture on “Introduction to Interplay between Global Investment Regime & Global Minimum Tax” organized in 2023. The resource person Prof. BłażejKuzniacki, Lazarski University (Warsaw), highlighted the interaction between the global investment regime and the growing global minimum tax framework which signals a watershed moment in international economic justice and governance. It was emphasized that finding a healthy interaction between these two regimes will be critical in establishing a fairer and more sustainable global economic environment as conversations and negotiations progress.

**In September 2023, the university organized the International Conference on “Prospects and Challenges for Innovative Ideas in Intellectual Property Rights”,** showcasing its dedication to ensuring a secure digital environment—a vital component of SDG16. Issues related to particularly vulnerable senior citizens were not overlooked as evidenced by **National Conference on “Critical Issues & Challenges of Elderly in India-The Path Ahead”,** reflects a commitment to building an inclusive and just society.

Sharda University toolkits commitment to justice further by empowering students with the essential skills required to contribute effectively to the legal field. The Workshop on “Use of SCC & HEIN Online Database for exceptional Legal Research' laid the foundation for future legal professionals, further solidifying its dedication to a just society. In September 2023, the National Youth Parliament Competition, organized in collaboration with Yuvak Foundation provided another testament to the university's commitment to achieving objectives of SDG 16.

## **2. Justice & Legal Education**

Sharda University's commitment to justice is evident through its rigorous legal education programs. The university offers a diverse range of courses in law, empowering students with the knowledge and skills needed to become advocates for justice.

The year kicked off with an **"Educational Visit 31st Foundation Day event of National Commission for Women" on 31 January 2023. This visit provided students within sights in to the vision, mission, legal procedures and practices followed by NCW necessary for ensuring**

**justice for women thus aligning with SDG 16's emphasis on justice.** World Day of Social Justice was celebrated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 was organized to promote gender equality, indigenous peoples and migrants' rights. This event underscored Sharda University's commitment to ensuring protection of weaker sections of the society.

The 7th Anand Swaroop Gupta Memorial International Moot Court Competition organized in March 2023, showcased the university's global outlook and commitment to preparing students for international legal challenges. Moot court competitions play an essential role in fostering the skills required for advocating justice and contributing to SDG 16.

The Intra Moot Court Competition organized on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 was a vital stepping stone for law students. Such competitions equip future legal professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their careers, contributing to the development of strong institutions. The organization of this event was another testament to the university's dedication to nurturing future legal professionals. Moot court competitions are instrumental in preparing students to contribute effectively to the legal landscape, promoting justice and strong institutions.

Sharda University continued its commitment to fostering knowledge and understanding by organizing Joint National Conference on Emerging Trends in Education, Management, Social Sciences and Law” was organized from 18th April 2024 to 19th April 2024. The conference provided a platform to the budding researchers and industrial practitioners to deliver their research in presence of eminent expert and renowned industrialist and to publicize their novel findings in front of the big forum. It provided an opportunity to participants to upgrade their knowledge in context of emerging issues and trends.

### **3. Championing Justice and Community Well-being through Legal Aid and Community Connect Initiatives**

Social Engagement lies at the heart of Sharda University's core values. The university passionately encourages its students and faculty to actively engage with communities and civil society organizations. This commitment not only fosters a profound sense of responsibility towards society but also plays a pivotal role in promoting justice. Through a myriad of outreach programs and initiatives, Sharda University tirelessly strives to address pressing social issues and fortify the very fabric of communities. This enduring dedication is evident throughout the various events and endeavors in which the university has partaken in the year 2023.

On Saturday, February 11, 2023, a student visit to Lok Adalat at District & Sessions Court, Gautam Budh Nagar was organized to give a firsthand experience to the students regarding the functioning of Lok Adalats. Also, Community Connect cum Legal Awareness Visit was organized for students to Bisrakh village February 2023. The aim of visit was to raise awareness among villagers in relation with free legal aid and make them aware of existing legislation that is, Legal Services Authorities Act,1987.

As the year continued, the university further underscored its dedication to SDG 16 with impactful 'Awareness Events.' Legal Talk Show on the topic “Lok Adalat” on 90.8 FM Sharda Community Radio was organized on Monday, 06th February 2023 - Saturday, -11th February 2023 to sensitize students about Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

Subsequently, “Empower Her: Gender Sensitization and Hygiene Drive” at Jagshanti Udyan Care Home, Greater Noida was organized in August 2023 exemplifying university's active involvement in care and protection of vulnerable sections of the society.

#### **4. Family Dispute Resolution Clinic: A Transformative Force for Peace and Justice in Collaboration with Gautam Budh Nagar Police and Sharda University School of Law**

FDRC, the Family Dispute Resolution Clinic, stands as a remarkable initiative born from a collaborative partnership between the Gautam Budh Nagar Police and the School of Law at Sharda University. Dr. Ritu, the visionary founder and coordinator of FDRC, has been at the helm for the past three years, leading this unique endeavor since its inception in July 2020. The clinic's track record is nothing short of inspiring, having positively impacted over 900 families to date and remaining steadfast in its commitment even during the tumultuous times of the three waves of the Covid-19 pandemic. This unwavering dedication earned FDRC recognition as one of the innovative initiatives by the Uttar Pradesh Government.

Under the guidance of Dr. Ritu , the clinic has conducted an impressive 3500+ counseling sessions, achieving a remarkable success rate of 86% and above for three consecutive years. Dr. Ritu's exemplary performance has not gone unnoticed, as she received commendations twice in 2020, 2021, and 2022 from the Commissionerate of Police, Gautam Budh Nagar. Her contributions have extended beyond regional boundaries, with accolades from the National Commission for Women and the prestigious ITC Nari Shakti Award. Her dedication also earned her appreciation from luminaries like CJI Justice N.V. Ramanan and Law Minister Kiran Rijiju. Remarkably, the clinic boasts an 83.44% success rate in resolving family disputes over the past two and a half years. The team's dedication and exceptional results have garnered attention and praise from various quarters, making FDRC a prominent and influential entity in the field of family dispute resolution.

In conclusion, Sharda University's multifaceted efforts in 2023 underscored its holistic commitment to making a positive impact on society and the world. These activities demonstrated the institution's dedication to creating a world marked by peace, justice, and strong institutions.



