

**Case 2: Complaints of Ms. Sushmita Barman, PhD student of Department of Political Science, The University of Burdwan against Prof. Harihar Bhattacharya, Department of Political Science, The University of Burdwan.**

Submission of report by the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) into the charges labelled against Prof. Harihar Bhattacharya, Department of Political Science, The University of Burdwan vide communication from the University authority to the Presiding Officer (PO), ICC, BU on 10.03.2023. Enquiry proceedings conducted within 30 days i.e. on 10.04.2023.

Prof. Harihar Bhattacharya, Department of Political Science, The University of Burdwan was alleged to have made caste-based remarks to a PhD student on 10.03.2023, Department of Political Science, The University of Burdwan.

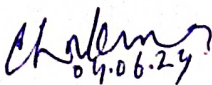
**Action taken Report:**

The ICC on investigating the complaint made by Ms. Sushmita Barman was of the opinion that the relevant complaint was not a fit case to be considered under the jurisdiction of ICC. The stated opinion was based on the following reasons.

1. Section 2(n) of The Sexual Harassment Of Women At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 provides 'sexual harassment' includes any one or more of the following unwelcome acts or behaviour (whether directly or by implication) namely: -
  - i. Physical contact and advances; or
  - ii. A demand or request for sexual favours; or
  - iii. Making sexually coloured remarks; or
  - iv. Showing pornography; or
  - v. Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature.

The narration made in the complaint do not confirm any of the behaviours as described under Section 2(n) of the Act of 2013.

2. The ICC resolved that the allegations of the complainant dealt exclusively with matters relating to caste discrimination and not particularly with sexual harassment. Therefore, ICC was unable to consider the case as the issue falls beyond the scope of the ICC.
3. The report was submitted to the Registrar, The University of Burdwan.

  
04.06.24  
PO, ICC

Presiding Officer  
Internal Complaint Committee  
The University of Burdwan  
Purba Bardhaman, 713104