

**W**ith regard to the Supreme Court Judgment and guidelines issued in 1997 to provide for the effective enforcement of the basic human right of gender equality and guarantee against sexual harassment and abuse, more particularly against sexual harassment at work places, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued circulars since 1998, to all the universities, advising them to establish a permanent cell and a committee to develop guidelines to combat sexual harassment, violence against women and ragging at the universities and colleges. It has further advised the universities to be proactive by developing a conducive atmosphere on the campus, wherever the status of woman is respected and they are treated with.

Keeping the UGC and the Supreme Court guidelines in view, Vignan's University has constituted a committee against sexual harassment since 2009 to provide a healthy and congenial atmosphere to the staff and students of the university.

The Vignan's University sexual harassment committee consists of members of the faculty, administration, student's representatives and NGO representative is committed to:

- Ø Observe the law and supreme court guidelines on Sexual Harassment
- Ø Sensitize the campus community on gender issues
- Ø Addressing complaints from victims

As per the recent guidelines by UGC Secretary, Jaspal S Sandhu directed all the universities to create a page on their websites to help victims – students and teachers – to lodge complaints with the Registrar, Principal or the heads of the institution.

Whenever a sexual harassment complaint is lodged or such a case comes to their notice, the authorities concerned should immediately take action against the perpetrators, and maintained that universities must show zero tolerance towards gender-based violence so that cultures of impunity and cultures of silence and complicity could be eliminated.

“Principals, Registrars or the institute heads should bring the incident and action taken on it to the notice of the UGC” Sandhu said, disclosing constitution of a task force by UGC to review safety measures taken on campuses. He also directed the universities to maintain complaint books to help students to lodge complaints. This facility should be in addition to the website and other facilities to file complaints, he added.

If you are a victim please lodge a complaint in the complaint register. Those details will be kept confidential.