

9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

President and Office Bearers  
New Delhi Bar Association  
Patiala House Courts  
New Delhi  
E-mail: info@ndba.co

CC: Bar Council of Delhi  
2/6, Siri Fort Institutional Area,  
Khel Gaon Marg,  
New Delhi-49

Sirs,

**Re: Objectionable “Holi Milan” celebrations**

At the outset, we wish you a happy Holi. We are all lawyers in various fora in the city of Delhi.

As you know, this year Holi fell on Women’s Day which has been the cause for much celebration and many inspiring messages are being circulated on all media on the greatness of women, how much they can achieve, how far they have come in the world in every field, and other such uplifting “forwards”.

Unfortunately yesterday we also came across some video clippings of a celebration organized by the Delhi Bar Association on the occasion of Holi, featuring scantily-clad women dancers, performing what can best be described as inappropriate dance numbers. For the sake of clarity, the two videos are attached. This letter is not directed against the dancers themselves, who were doing their job and no disrespect is intended to them. However, an event of this nature being hosted by a Bar Association is shocking. It is even more appalling that this celebration was held in the premises of Patiala House courts.

It is totally inappropriate, sexist, and unbecoming of lawyers to host such an event under the official name of any Bar Association and in the premises of a court. As lawyers we ought to uphold the Constitution and work towards gender equality in the workplace. These actions lower the majesty of the Court and also amount to various other legal wrongs. Further, you must also be aware that the hosting of this function in the court premises amounts to sexual harassment of a non-verbal nature that creates a hostile work environment for women lawyers, judicial officers, and staff who frequent the Patiala House courts. We are especially offended by this incident as we take pride in our profession and do not want to see it being denigrated in this manner.

Aside from the legality of such an event, it is in very poor taste given that, less than a kilometre away at the Supreme Court of India, the Hon’ble Chief Justice of India has been talking about encouraging the participation of women lawyers in the legal profession in India. Hosting events of this nature that objectify women and reduce them to devices for entertainment and pleasure are directly contrary to all goals of a modern society in a country that aims to be a world leader. It is not only misogynistic, it brings disrepute to the country, because it tarnishes the image of

India that a Bar Association in the capital city would think of hosting such a vulgar event. Please do not organise such events in the future. It is uncivilized and unconstitutional.

All lawyers in this city, including women, deserve better.

We have marked a copy of this letter to Bar Council of Delhi so that an enquiry maybe conducted on who was responsible for organizing such an event, and appropriate action may be taken against such individuals. We expect that you, as Office Bearers of the New Delhi Bar Association, will issue a statement expressing your regret for this gross and vulgar incident.

Sincerely,

(List of lawyers in accompanying sheet)

Encl.: Videos received of the “Holi Milan” event