



# 1<sup>st</sup> AMITY NATIONAL DEBATE COMPETITION

**“Should Homosexuality be Decriminalised in India?”**

**21<sup>st</sup> March, 2014**

Amity Law School, Delhi held its first National Debate Competition on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2014. The subject of the debate was- “Should Homosexuality be decriminalised in India?” Fourteen teams from various prestigious law colleges of the country participated in the event. The event started around 11 am. The event started with welcome address delivered by Prof. (Dr.) B.P Singh Sehgal, Director, Amity Law School, Prof. M.K Balachandran (Professor of Eminence) and Prof. Dr. Isheeta Rutabhasini followed by vote of thanks given by Faculty Convener of the event Ms. Neelam Tyagi.



Mr. Sudipto Sircar and Ms. Nalini Sharma, who are also the alumni of the college were invited to judge the preliminary rounds. Each team had two participants, one being for the motion and other against it. The preliminary rounds started off with the first team’s speaker one elucidating upon the rationale of the 2009 Delhi High Court judgment in the Naz Foundation Case and the speaker against the motion highlighted pertinent issues relating to homosexuality such as HIV- AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Similarly, various other speakers favouring

the motion expressed their views on why decriminalising homosexuality is the need of the hour. They emphasised on the importance of giving personal freedom to a person to choose his/her partner in order to satisfy one's emotional and sexual needs. Apart from this, they laid emphasis on other advantages of homosexuality such as increased rate of adoption and increase in the span of one's personal freedom. Participants speaking against the motion strongly criticized the view and pointed out that homosexuality is strictly against the Indian culture and is merely a disease that may be treated. Also, they supported the apex court's judgment in Naz Foundation and opinionated that judiciary was right in going with the general will of the citizens which is mostly against homosexuality. Some speakers talked of homosexuality as a disease that can be treated and also held it responsible for carrying several other diseases.



After the completion of preliminary rounds, Ms. Nalini Sharma and Mr. Sudipto Sircar shared their experience of judging the round. Ms. Nalini expressed her delight over getting the opportunity to be a part of the event. She praised all the participants and stated that more emphasis should have been laid on differentiating between aspects like decriminalisation and legalisation. Mr. Sudipto pointed out that the Naz Foundation judgment could have been discussed at length and informal language should be avoided during the presentation.

The preliminary round was followed by a short break during which the guests enjoyed the lunch. Shortly thereafter, the results of the preliminary round were announced and four teams namely Faculty of Law, Punjab University, University of Petroleum & Energy Sciences, University School of Law & Legal Studies and Amity Law School, Noida made it to the final rounds. The final rounds were judged by Ms. Neha Malik, Associate at Rajan Narain & Associates, Mr. Anant Maria and Mr. Tushar Gupta who were both alumni of our college. The teams in the final round shared their views again and another heated up debate session was held between the final four teams. The results for the final rounds were discussed after a

short interval. Amity Law School, Noida won the Best Team Award and University School of Law & Legal Studies stood runners-up. Ms. Aiman K. Rizvi of ALS, Noida bagged the Best Speaker's Award while Mr. Anmol Diwan and Ms. Bhawna Chowdhary stood first and second Best Interjectors respectively.



The event was concluded with a message by Prof.(Dr.) B.P Singh Sehgal who applauded the efforts of all participants. Prof (Dr.) Isheeta Rutabhasini emphasised on the importance of participation which is even more important than winning. In the end, Ms. Neelam Tyagi, Faculty Convener of the event thanked the judges, participants and volunteers for making the event a success.