



**REPORT ON THE SPECIAL LECTURE, "BREAK THE SILENCE" CONDUCTED BY
THE GENDER SENSITIZATION COMMITTEE ON 27-6-23**

Pride Month is an annual celebration that takes place in June to honor the LGBTQ+ community. This month-long celebration is a time for members of the LGBTQ+ community to come together and celebrate their identities, as well as a time to raise awareness and advocate for equality. The Gender Sensitization Committee of CAIL was privileged to organize a special lecture, "Break the Silence," in relation to Pride Month on 27-6-23. The session was an interactive awareness session on transgender rights. The chief guest for the day was Dr. Akkai Padmashali, a renowned Indian transgender activist and motivational speaker. For her activism, she received the Rajyotsava Prahasti, the second-highest civilian honor in Karnataka.

With much anticipation and curiosity, all second, sixth, and eighth-semester students gathered in Chavara hall at 8:50 am. The event began with the MC, Riya Dipak, a student member of the committee, giving a brief introduction to the event, followed by a prayer song. The welcome speech was delivered by Diya Pradeep, Student Convener of the Committee. Later, Father Dr. Davis Panadan enlightened us with his wise words. The badging ceremony took place after Father's opening remarks. In this ceremony, the Chief Guest, Principal, Vice Principal, Faculty Convener, and members of the committee were given pride badges to wear. Annanya Singhal, member of the committee, shared a brief profile of Dr. Akkai Padmashali, then the session began.

Dr. Akkai Padmashali left the audience spellbound with her charming presence and powerful stance. She voiced the struggles and experiences faced by the LGBTQ+ community to foster understanding and create a more inclusive atmosphere. Dr. Akkai emphasized the stand of the

Indian judiciary as well as the society on Transgender individuals and their rights through case laws and personal experiences. She addressed the high rates of violence and harassment faced by transgender individuals and stressed how crucial it is to ensure that transgender individuals are granted the same rights, protections, and opportunities as cisgender individuals.

After the lecture, there was a Q&A session which saw a variety of questions posed by the students present in the audience. Dr. Akkai answered every question with warmth and expertise. Following the session, Ms. Rakshitha, another transgender activist, addressed the gathering and shared her experience.

The chief guests of the day were felicitated by the principal and vice principal, CAIL. Bhavya Shree D, Co-convenor of the committee, rendered the vote of thanks. The event was concluded with National Anthem. All the students participated actively and enthusiastically during the event, and Dr. Akkai Padmashali indeed proved to be an empowered icebreaker.

Photos of the event:







Sunilkumar. P

Faculty Convener

Gender Sensitization Committee