To,

The Chancellor

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab

March 16th, 2019

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION FROM STUDENTS OF RGNUL, PUNJAB

Sir,

An academic institution is a mere assortment of brick and mortar, and we, the students of the Rajiv Gandhi National University write this representation of the value system we inherit - to fight for what is right and to fight fair in the spirit of the law. The students of Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law put forth this representation as a crystallization of demands made on the 15th March, 2019. We pray for an opportunity to be adequately heard, in a forum determined by the Students, with representations being made to the Chancellor of the University.

The students wish to re-affirm their commitment to the welfare of our academic institution, and seek to uphold the highest standard of integrity and legal ethic towards a hearing of our grievances. It is furtherance of the same, that we hope that the following document shall be treated as a legal instrument, asserting the nature of claims that require resolution before a judicial authority entrusted with the power to do full justice.

A representation to the agitating students has been made, dated 16th of March, 2019 by Hon'ble Justice Harsimran Singh Sethi, Punjab and Haryana High Court that an authority comprising of the two senior-most judges of the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court to address the grievances put forth by the students. In furtherance of the same, we respectfully address our claims to Your Lordships, and hope for justice.

LIST OF DEMANDS

I. REVOCATION OF THE SUSPENSION ORDER ISSUED THE 15TH MARCH, 2019.

It is our formal submission to the Authority concerned that the suspension order, dated 15th March, 2019, by the Administrative Officer of RGNUL, calling for the suspension of six students of the University, be revoked with immediate effect.

It is our submission that grounds for suspension, as stated forth in the Order, are wholly mala fide, and reek of an arbitrary appreciation of the facts that constituted the protest of the student community in the Boys Hostel Mess on 13th March, 2019. We further submit that the Order, issued absent a formal Order Number, and in vitiation of the paramount legal principle of *audi alteram partem,* cannot be considered to be just. Section 33 of the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law Act, 2006, provides for a crystallization of the principle, which the University has been in flagrant violation of.

It is further submitted that select students of the University, were subject to degrading treatment constituting a deprivation of their Right to Privacy. Mobile phones were confiscated ***absent consent*, private correspondence was forcibly perused in a general atmosphere of coercion** by the Students of the University. This form of behavior must constitute the facet of any formal enquiry initiated in furtherance of this submission.

II. A Formal Inquiry into the Conduct of the Administrative Officer of the University

The Administrative Officer of the University **[hereinafter A.O., RGNUL]**, repeatedly offends the value system that the University subscribes to. Multiple instances remain orally and electronically documented, of the A.O. making sexually colored remarks, violating the dignity of the women of this institution. An affront to the bodily and emotional dignity of the women of RGNUL, remains a non-negotiable concern for us, the students.

A formal enquiry, investigative of the behavior of the A.O., is a peremptory demand of the student community. It is respectfully submitted that the form of action taken against the AO, must be proportionate to his misdemeanors. In the determination of a punitive measure, we firmly believe that the removal of the A.O. shall be considered adequate. We also hope that during the pendency of proceedings, the A.O. considers it fit to resign from his position, or he be stripped of his powers or the ability to legitimately exercise the same. We append, a collated list of statements made by the A.O., before members of the student community that reek of a form of verbal violence unfit for this institution.

III. FORMALIZATION OF THE STUDENT BODY, R.G.N.U.L

In the representation forwarded to the institution, dated 16th March, 2019, we stand undersigned as the Student Association of the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law. We believe that this moniker deserves legal status. An appropriate legal order, delegating to the students, the ability organize themselves into a student body and formulate, a Constitution and a Charter of Rights of Individuals at Academic Institutions must be passed. We seek to be governed by a grander ethic, ***one that fosters respect towards its women***, one that eliminates all forms of discrimination and brings to members of this esteemed institution, the dignity of a holistic education. This practice is not without precedent, and academic institutions of repute across the world, and this country, prescribe to the genesis of a student body, formally representation the needs of the students. The representation of students in committees of the University (i.e. Mess, Sports Committee) where they stand deprived of the ability to put forth any concrete solutions, we respectfully submit, is not an adequate measure. We remain firmly committed to this student body, with powers and privileges arrived at by a process with students at the heart of the same.

IV. THOROUGH REVIEW/REPEAL OF DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES ENFRANCHISED BY THE UNIVERSITY APPARATUS.

We believe that the following actions of the University, require immediate reconsideration and repeal by the concerned Authority.

- Discriminatory implementation of in-time restrictions.
- Access to library is therefore, as a result, restricted particularly for women till 9 pm whereas the boys are allowed to use the library facilities till 1 am.
- Restriction in the movement of girls within the Girls Hostel post 11 pm.
- Arbitrary and inconsistent application of rules with regards the requirement of a leave pass.

We submit respectfully that the mandate of the equality of sexes at an academic institution, is of utmost pertinence. The University, in spurts of cosmetic commitment to this equality, applies to rights, a regressive standard, arbitrarily taking away from students their liberty. We

appeal to you that a decision, that effectively nullifies the right of free movement and access to academic facilities must not be the byproduct of this review.

The aforementioned claims, we submit, require your urgent perusal. ***They remain, illustrative and not exhaustive.*** We take great pride in belonging to RGNUL, in being RGNUL and we reaffirm our commitment to the classrooms that make us. We are voices, raconteurs of a system that repeatedly violates us, ruthlessly and absent reason. Kindly refrain from finding us in faces, hoping to break us. We refuse to be broken.

We remain,

Students of RGNUL

ANNEXURE 1

A. STATEMENTS MADE BY THE A.O. DOCUMENTED VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS.

1. "Ye gender equality ka chashma utaaro."

2. "I identify you as girls before students."

3. "Ladke kuch bhi kare, koi farak nahi padta."

B. OTHER STATEMENTS MADE BY THE A.O.

1. "I will chew your balls off."

2. "Bastard."

3. "I can't believe RGNUL ki ladkiyaan available ka tag lagake ghoomti hai."

4. "Gaand mei haath daalke muh se nikaal dunga."

5. It must be noted that there are innumerable instances where the A.O. has referred to students using profanities such as "maadar chod" and "behen chod" very casually in conversations held in his office.