



JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

# CENTRE FOR GENDER- EQUITY STUDIES

INVITES YOU TO A NATIONAL SEMINAR ON

# Speaking (of) widows

BASED ON THE PROJECT IN ASSOCIATION WITH

## The Guild of Service



10 APRIL 2023



10:30 A.M. ONWARDS



COMMITTEE ROOM

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## **National Seminar on Speaking (of) Widows, 10 April 2023**

### **Concept Note**

As part of the year-long “Empowering Widows” Project, the Gender Equity Studies Centre, Janki Devi Memorial College, is organizing a National Seminar titled “Speaking (of) Widows” on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The project is based on a collaboration of JDMC with The Guild of Service, New Delhi, an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, United Nations. It was inaugurated with a National Seminar on “Empowering Widows”, organised by the Gender Equity Studies Centre, JDMC, which was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. With the participation of speakers, panellists and a receptive audience of faculty and students, the seminar proved very successful and thought provoking.

Widows in India have a long history of suffering in silence to the point that they are often referred to as “the forgotten women”. The seminar title “Speaking (of) Widows” refers to our attempt to record the voices of some of the widows, while also looking historically at widows in literary, cultural, and religious contexts.

As part of the research project seeking to understand best practices for empowering widows, surveys were conducted on general perceptions about widowhood. Thereafter, students, along with three faculty members, visited the Ma Dham shelter home and other sites in Vrindavan. Presentations at the seminar will draw upon the findings of the research team and will hope to offer recommendations for improvement in policy and practice.

The seminar presentations by JDMC’s faculty and students will be chaired by members of the Guild of Service whose feedback will give direction to the report and recommendations. It is expected that the project report will lead towards a book publication.