

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE SUB-DIVISIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
AMLAREM SUB-DIVISION, WEST JAINTIA HILLS DISTRICT
MEGHALAYA**

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PRESS RELEASE

DLSA Conducts Legal Awareness Programme at Riahjalong Village

Riahjalong, 13 October 2026: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai, conducted a Legal Awareness Programme at Riahjalong Village on Tuesday, 13th October 2026, focusing on the social evil of dowry, gender equality, constitutional values, women's rights and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.



A total of 48 participants from Riahjalong Village attended the programme, which was aimed at bringing legal awareness and basic knowledge of rights and legal safeguards directly to the community.

The programme began with a welcome address by the Headman of Riahjalong Village, who welcomed the representatives of the District Legal Services Authority and the participating villagers.





Speaking on the social evil of dowry, gender equality and constitutional values, Shri. D. K. K. Mihsill, Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), highlighted the need for greater awareness of the social and legal consequences of dowry and other practices that undermine equality and dignity.

He emphasised that constitutional values such as equality, dignity, justice and non-discrimination should not remain merely legal principles but should be reflected in everyday social and family life. He also stressed the importance of collective community responsibility in challenging practices that discriminate against women.

In his address, Shri. Mihsill also highlighted the importance of understanding one's legal rights and responsibilities, particularly in matters affecting women and vulnerable sections of society.



The programme further included a session on the POCSO Act and Women's Rights, delivered by Smt. D. G. Kharshiing, Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Secretary, DLSA, West Jaintia Hills District.

Smt. Kharshiing explained the importance of the POCSO Act in providing a special legal framework for the protection of children from sexual offences. She also stressed the need for adults and community members to remain alert to situations that may threaten the safety and well-being of children.

She encouraged the participants to understand that protecting children is a shared social responsibility, while also drawing attention to the importance of reporting offences and seeking appropriate legal assistance when required. The session also highlighted the importance of protecting the rights, dignity and safety of women within the framework of law.



The programme was followed by an interactive session and discussion, during which participants engaged with the resource persons on various legal and social issues. The interaction provided an opportunity for villagers to seek clarification and gain a better understanding of legal protections available to women and children.



The programme also highlighted the role of the District Legal Services Authority in promoting legal literacy and access to justice, particularly among communities at the grassroots level. Such awareness programmes enable citizens to better understand their rights, legal remedies and the institutional mechanisms available to them.

The programme concluded with an emphasis on the need for continued community participation in preventing social evils, promoting gender equality, protecting children and strengthening respect for constitutional values and the rule of law.



The Legal Awareness Programme was organised by the District Legal Services Authority, West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai.