

National Ethics Council

Member Introductions



Ethics

THE ROAD AHEAD

Ethics is usually understood as the moralistic perception of the world, which often leads to the othering of individuals and groups. The potential of ethics gets reduced when it is clubbed with morals because of the highly subjective nature of these morals.

There is a need to redefine ethics, and shift the conversation towards doing what is 'right', by establishing fairness and ensuring justice.

The Council of Ethics has been established under the aegis of the Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI), and continues to work towards mainstreaming decision-making that is inclusive of each and every individual and leaves no one behind.

We believe that for true equity, ethics need to be at the vanguard of decisions made by corporations, institutions, governments and most importantly, individuals.

Meet Our Members

Amar Jyoti Sharma
Anubhuti Patra
Audrey D'Mello
Avani Kapur
Farida Lambay
Gayathri Vasudevan
Isha Sharma
Jyotsna Jha

Kalyani Subramanyam
Meenakshi Batra
Nandita Banerjee
Pouruchisti Wadia
Rishika Sharma
Suman Doonga
Sumitra Mishra
Uthara Narayanan

**in alphabetical order*

The Council Members of the National Ethics Council are experts in their respective fields and bring unparalleled value and knowledge to the table. While everyone at the Council comes from versatile backgrounds, one thing that we all have in common is our shared vision to make the world more inclusive and ethical for each and every individual, especially women and other minority groups.

Our Council Members are thought leaders and key advisors to the National Ethics Council. They provide the secretariat with the guidance to ensure that the work that we do is benefitting each and every individual and is not leaving anyone behind. The work that each one of them has done and continue doing, is truly inspirational and all of them collectively are the guiding light for the National Ethics Council.

Our Council Members range across industry sectors and we have had the good fortune of having researchers, educationalists, policy advocates, economists, activists, development professionals, writers, filmmakers, lawyers, government employees, amongst others.

Creating an Ethical World



We must find ways to give greater autonomy to individuals, by moving away from dictating behaviour and redefining how we understand ethics. In order to create a world that is equal, intersectional and inclusive, we must incorporate ethical considerations in our everyday lives by prioritising context over generalisations.

Communities that can achieve the inclusion of an ethical component in their everyday practices, invariably have the potential of being inclusive and mindful of everyone. At the Council of Ethics, our aim is to foster such communities to create safe spaces for each and every individual.

「 Rishika Sharma | President
National Ethics Council 」



Understanding the importance of Ethics

The fascinating thing about ethics is that it is crosscutting across sectors, industries, institutions, social issues, amongst the many other things. It is imperative to use an ethical lens to view the world to ensure that communities, as well as individuals within these communities, are prioritising collective action that benefits everyone, and not just a few.

Ethics must be mainstreamed into the lives of each and every individual, for it is only then, that we will be able to create an equal world that works on the principles of collaboration instead of competition.

┌ Isha Sharma | Vice President
National Ethics Council └

Amar Jyoti Sharma

Bharat Sanchar Nigam^l Limited

Amar Jyoti Sharma holds an undergraduate degree from the College of Vocational Studies (CVS), University of Delhi. After finishing her 2-year diploma in Office Management & Secretarial Practice, she completed her Postgraduate in Hindi from Himachal University.

Earlier on in her career, she worked as an Administrative Officer in Synthetic & Chemicals Ltd for 10 years and later left that behind to pursue mindfulness, naturopathy and yogic science courses.

She worked in the Vigilance Department of the Ministry of Telecom, Government of India, for 9 years and is presently working with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

She also has varied interests which have made her volunteer in efforts like SPIC MACAY. She is a socially active individual who is always associated with different organisations working towards the betterment of her home state, Himachal Pradesh.





Anubhuti Patra

Malala Foundation⁷

Anubhuti Patra is currently the In country-representative for India at the Malala Foundation, since September 2019. She works with local grantees in India to expand girls' education initiatives.

Anubhuti has been a Technical Consultant with 15 years of experience in research and program management. She has an expertise in program management, design and execution of qualitative studies and surveys focusing primarily on children and adolescents; primary education and gender. She has worked with the children in need of care and protection as well as out of school children quite extensively across the country.

She also has a master of science in Anthropology and Development from London School of Economics and Political Science and a masters in Sociology from the Delhi School of Economics.

Audrey D'Mello

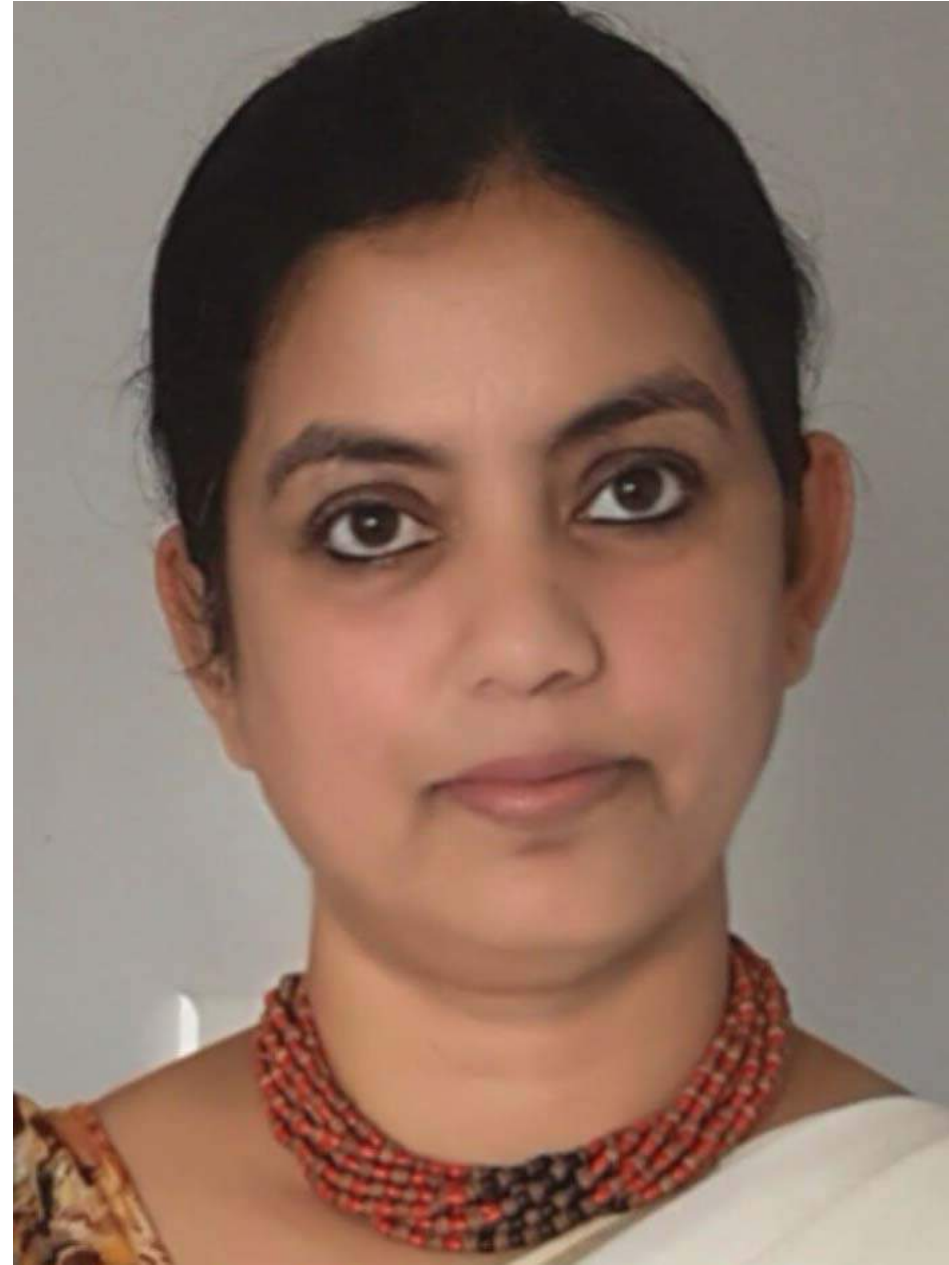
Majlis ⁷

Audrey Dmello has been working at Majlis since 2006.

She has a degree in law from the Bombay University and a post graduate degree in management from Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS).

She heads Majlis' comprehensive programme on Gender and Law, that involves legal representation of women and children in cases of sexual and domestic violence, legal rights training and campaigns for policy level interventions with a specific focus is to help marginalised women and children access justice. She has helped evolve a number of collaborations with the government to ensure effective implementation of laws.

Her other interests are writing research and raising her three wonderful children.





Avani Kapur

Centre for Policy Research & Accountability Initiative

Avani is a Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and leads the Accountability Initiative (AI) - a research group working towards more Responsive Governance a public system that is accountable to citizens in spirit and practice. Her own interest has been in building evidence for policy advocacy to strengthen public financial management for service delivery.

As part of her work, she is leading research studies on fiscal federalism, health, sanitation, nutrition and education financing. She has also been anchoring the publication of the annual budget brief series and implementation of fund tracking surveys on key social sector schemes. Avani is an alumnus of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), in the United Kingdom and Smith College Massachusetts, USA.

Farida Lambay

Pratham⁷

An educationist and social activist for 25 years, Farida Lambay, is the Founder and Trustee of Pratham - an NGO established in 1994, with Dr. Madhav Chavan. Her contribution in the field of education and issues pertaining to child labour have been instrumental in changing of policies.

Ms. Lambay heads the Pratham Council for Vulnerable Children and is also responsible for Pratham's direct programs in Mumbai and Gujarat. She was also recently appointed as a member to the Maharashtra State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights. She also serves on the Government of India Committee on Child Labour & Research in Education wherein she's responsible for initiating policy changes on a national level.

Her contributions to society have been instrumental. She has spearheaded initiatives such as YUVA (working on various social issues taking strength from the youth), as Prerana (working for the rights of sex workers in Kamatipura, Mumbai) as well as multiple disaster relief efforts. Recognised for her contributions, she received the Indira Gandhi Memorial Award in 2015.





Gayathri Vasudevan

LabourNet⁷

Dr. Gayathri Vasudevan was cited as one of the top 50 women in business by Business Today, a leading magazine in India in the year 2017 and "Entrepreneur of the Year in Social Business Category" by Forbes India in 2018. She has been a TED speaker several times.

She has done her BA Economics honors, Delhi University, Masters in Social Work, University of Mumbai and Doctorate in Development Studies, Institute of Social Economic Change (ISEC) with 30 publications in the areas of labour and employment and gender issues to her credit.

Between 1999 and 2007, Gayathri worked for the International Labour Organization (ILO), a United Nations agency. She co-founded LabourNet in 2006 with a vision to enable livelihoods and enhance quality of life through Education, Employability and Entrepreneurship. LabourNet has impacted about a million lives, empowering youth, men and women to earn a decent living or become profitable micro

Isha Sharma

Only Much Louder⁷

A Creative Director/Producer with an experience spanning 8 years, Isha has worked across a multitude of media platforms: digital as well as television.

Non fiction content being at the core of her passion for filmmaking, she started out by making independent case studies across different social issues across Delhi. From there, she has gone on to produce as well as direct various ad films, music videos, short documentary series, and is currently supervising projects for platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hotstar & Discovery+.

Currently also serving as the Vice President for the Council of Ethics, WICCI as well as part of digital agency OML, she continues to work towards making the workplace environment safer and more secure for everyone, especially women.

She is also an obsessive animal lover/activist.



Jyotsna Jha

Centre for Budget and Policy Studies



Dr. Jyotsna Jha has currently been heading the Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (CBPS), Bangalore for more than a decade. She has led a number of research initiatives and has a few co-authored books, several chapters and papers to her credit.

She has written mainly on the issue of equity in education, and in particular on gender and education, and women's empowerment. In recent years, she has also been engaged with the issues of public policies and finance in general, and gender budgeting and public spending on children in particular.

Trained as an economist, Jyotsna has significant experience of working on development related issues. Prior to joining CBPS she worked as an adviser to the Social Transformation Programmes Division at Commonwealth Secretariat in London, from where she undertook research and policy advocacy in a large number of countries. She has served as a member of the Global Advisory Committee for UN Girls Education Initiative - UNGEI for four years. She has also been a member of several committees and Task Forces in India.

Kalyani Subramanyam

Naz Foundation⁷

Kalyani Subramanyam is the Chief Operating Officer at The Naz Foundation (India) Trust. With a Master's Degree in Social Work and a Post Graduate Diploma in Personnel Management; she has 20 years of experience of working on issues of HIV and Sexuality and Rights.

She has worked with issues of HIV Care and Support for 15 years. She joined The Naz Foundation (India) Trust, a New Delhi based NGO working on issues of HIV and Sexuality in 2003. She has coordinated the Care Program at Naz- inputting in to the Naz Care Home and the Home-Based Care program. She has conducted several training sessions on HIV Care, issues of Children Living with HIV and life skills.

Kalyani was honored with the Life Time Achievement Award at the Global Goal Summit, 2017 for her commitment to providing safe spaces for girls to play and providing them with life skills education. This subsequently led her to being appointed as one of the members at the International Safeguarding Children in Sport Advisory Board at UNICEF.

With her experience of designing and implementing Women's Empowerment programs and her understanding of women's issues, Kalyani has served for many years as the NGO representative on the Internal Committees of a few companies as a part of their POSH policy. She is a Vital Voices Lead Fellow and an alumna of the Dasra Leadership program.





Meenakshi Batra

Charities Aid Foundation

A widely recognized and respected international development professional, Meenakshi Batra has many feathers in her cap. With over three decades of multifarious experience globally, she has driven organisations across the globe to catalyse change and make a positive impact on the lives of the underprivileged and marginalised sections of societies across South and South East Asia.

Meenakshi's work in the development sector encompasses a wide range of aspects - from providing strategic leadership, to strengthening organizations, facilitating sustainability through corporate social responsibility (CSR) and philanthropy. Through effective campaigns, programme management and networking, she has led organisations with immense clarity of thought.

Currently Meenakshi is CEO of Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) India – an organization with a mission to promote giving in India. Meenakshi's leadership has put CAF India on an impressive growth trajectory.

Through her work, Meenakshi has emerged as a thought leader in the field of philanthropy and development. Her work has been recognised and acknowledged through several prestigious awards, such as the Indian Women Achiever Award (IWAA), NGO Women Leadership Award, Women in Leadership Award and many more. Meenakshi serves on the boards of prominent organisations such as LEPR, Resource Alliance, Society for Promotion of Wasteland Development (SPWD), VANI (2015-17) etc. and is the convener of P6-MSD10 constituted by Bureau of Indian Standards (Government of India) to draft the requirement standards on CSR in India. She also serves on the CSR committees of Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), European Business Group (EBG), Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI).

Nandita Banerjee

ASER

Nandita Banerjee is currently working with ASER Centre, New Delhi, the research wing of Pratham Education Foundation in 2011 in their Capacity Building Unit. Since 2013, she has been the head of Human Resources and Capacity Building Unit.

She has been the Presiding Officer for Pratham Education Foundation's Internal Committee (IC) in New Delhi and registered as an external member of the IC in JPAL-SA, ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research), Forest Essentials Pvt. Ltd., Innovative LLP.

Nandita has been training, monitoring and evaluating Pratham Education Foundation and ASER Centres' programmes such as, ASER Survey in regions across the country and abroad. Along with the capacity building team, she has conducted training programmes with diverse audiences such as, ASER Centre and Pratham team members, government functionaries, NGOs, university and college faculties and students etc.

Her role involves considerable travel to rural areas and offices of ASER Centre and Pratham Education Foundation. Managing teams across all levels of the organisation and interacting with beneficiaries, has given her a wide understanding of the importance of socio-economic and geographical conditions in gender, education, employment and the environment. In her capacity as a former Presiding Officer of IC and external member, she has handled a number of cases related to sexual harassment of women at workplace. She has actively been involved in shaping the PoSH policy at Pratham Education Foundation and in other organisations including awareness building, training and ensuring compliance.

She has been working in the non-profit sector for last 18 years and has an MBA, a Masters in Economics and a Diploma in Training and Development. She likes to go trekking, read, travel and play with her dogs. She regularly volunteers with two NGOs who work with children and animal welfare.



Pouruchisti Wadia

Romila Palliative Care⁷



Pouruchisti is Associate Programme Director of Romila Palliative Care, an initiative to support patients with life-threatening diseases with pain relief and psycho-social care through a patient-centric approach. She is responsible for running the operations of the initiative.

Pouru has over 20 years of experience in the social sector. In her previous role at SNEHA, she was Associate Programme Director of the Prevention of Violence against Women and Children initiative and supported the programme director in implementing, monitoring and evaluating strategic plans. She has previously worked in roles across law, human rights and women's rights with non-profit organisations in Mumbai. Pouru has a bachelor's degree in Law and a master's degree in Social Work from Mumbai University and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, respectively.

Rishika Sharma

Eight Goals One Foundation⁷

Rishika is currently the National President of the Council of Ethics at the Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI), and part of the Core Team at Eight Goals One Foundation (8one).

She has a Masters in Gender Studies and is an active advocate of conversations around the practicality of theoretical concepts of gender, patriarchy, feminism, human rights, nationalism, governance, politics, peace and conflict.

She is also one of the 60 gender advocates chosen from the South Asia and MENA regions for the Swedish Institute's Leader Lab 2021 and has previously been invited to speak at UNESCO's celebration of the International Day of Education, at The F.A.I.R. Dialogue as well as at a remembrance hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in India.

In recent years, she has written critical reviews, short papers, and articles on themes such as 'Uniform Civil Code and Religious Fundamentalism', 'Feminist Theorisation of the State', 'Preconditions of Totalitarianism', 'Triangular Othering', among others.

Rishika and her team recently published an Annual Review on the State of Sexual Harassment in India, and the findings from this research was published in national as well as international media.



Suman Doonga

SPIC MACAY⁷



Suman Doonga is a passionate and devoted Indian arts and culture evangelist with over three decades of consulting and advisory experience, specialising in Education, Public Relations and Media.

Suman has inspired thousands of students over the years through her result oriented inspiring work as an educationist and social worker as a senior volunteer in SPIC MACAY and various educational and social empowerment organisations. Suman is the Media Director of SPIC MACAY, where she spearheads the media and publicity for the organisation nationally, with more than 5000 cultural programs, across cities in the country and abroad. She has successfully led the national publicity campaigns in print media and electronic media with all the leading national and regional news houses in India.

Suman is on the board of directors of many organisations like SPAA, Save The Artist, CED and is regularly invited to events across India as a speaker, and chief guest. One such notable event was at the London School of Economics, where she was invited for the South Asia Development Conference 2018 to speak about culture and nationalism.

Her talks at LSE, IIMC Delhi and many other premier institutes have inspired thousands of students and sensitised them towards India's rich heritage, culture and arts. She has been awarded for her contribution to the cause of Indian classical arts and culture as a successful promoter and a leader in creating impact to the society through her social work. Some of the notable awards include Life Achievement Award, by Rajasthan Sangathan, Teachers Award, among others.

Suman holds a double masters from Delhi University in Education and Literature. Today, as a notable presence in the Indian classical arts, culture and media fraternity, Suman writes articles for some of the leading national newspapers to promote classical art and culture. Her vision is to preserve and enrich the Indian classical arts and culture, and to encourage the current and future younger generations to make it an integral part of their lives.

Sumitra Mishra

Mobile Creches

Sumitra Mishra is the Executive Director of Mobile Creches. She is leading the organisation, ensuring the voice of most vulnerable young children is central to the policy agenda of governments, businesses and civil society where their areas of work overlaps with rights of children.

She has over twenty years of work experience with the most excluded and disenfranchised – persons with disabilities, victims of trafficking, survivors of violence, especially women and children.





Uthara Narayanan

BuzzWomen⁷

Uthara Narayanan's purpose in life is to lead people to find their own voice and achieve their dreams by unleashing their potential. She is currently experimenting with this through Buzz Women as the co-founder since 2012 (building human and social capital) and as the Director of Avantika Foundation (building civic muscle) since 2019.

Buzz Women enable rural women by making knowledge, skills and tools available at the doorsteps of these women towards economic, social, personal and ecological empowerment. This means women who go through the intervention are financially literate (97%), save more money (84%), become more confident (47%), start or expand enterprises(73%), come together as sisters in their communities, take charge of their personal and community problems (71%) and find their own solutions.

Buzz has reached 2.25 lakh women in the last 8 years with 3500 women community volunteers in 5 districts of Karnataka. They have also been able to franchise the model to The Gambia and Georgia. They aim to reach 1 crore women by 2030 in all 30 districts of Karnataka. Avantika Foundation is at its nascent stage of building the civic muscle towards community problem solving. Uthara graduated B.com, ICWAI and has a Diploma in Youth in Development.

Apart from discovering social change she is also a daughter, a wife, a mother of two kids, recovering self proclaimed OCD, planned traveler, pretend optimist, determined organizer, trained singer, crafts hog, enthusiastic polyglot and an amateur interior designer.



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