

**Adv. Nilmani Gandhi Mediator Arbitrator**

National President

Mediation & Dispute Resolution Council

18.01.2021

**Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**

Honourable Minister

Finance and Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Finance

Room No. 134, North Block

New Delhi – 110001

**Subject:** Seeking Mediation and Dispute Resolution sector specific financial support, incentives and policies in the upcoming budget.

Respected Madam,

Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI), is the first independent National Business Chamber for Women established in India.

I am honoured to introduce myself as the National President of Mediation & Dispute Resolution Council and Founder of Susamvaad Dispute Resolution. The mediation Council is a national platform focused on empowering women in mediation and dispute resolution and easing the ecosystem in professional practice, academia, government service and entrepreneurship.

Our purpose is to create the right awareness about Mediation & Dispute Resolution, its use as an efficient alternative to litigation for resolving disputes. Provide women and Indian society the tools to resolve disputes peacefully and effectively, to create an opportunity of easy access of justice to all women of India. To meet with this initiate the actions to bring women of this profession together, to expand the ambit of legal education in the country with women representation and leadership. To empower women to make India Mediation and Dispute Resolution hub. Aspire and inspire them to step into this demanding dispute resolution profession with education, access, innovation, solidarity and empowerment. Directly or indirectly contribute in nation building through their work and determination. Our purpose in addition is to promote and achieve best mediation practice and standard code of professional conduct and ethics.

We have a robust National Council which is well represented by women professional from mediation and dispute resolution sector with great experience across professional practice, academy and government sector from across the nation.

I am privileged to introduce Mediation & Dispute Resolution Council members:

1. Dr. Rashmi Prasad, Vice president - Best Mediator awardee at Zarkhand High Court.
2. Bhakti Popat, Council Member – Advocate Mediator Arbitrator and Psychologist Mumbai High Court.

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3. Anu Pal, Council Member - Solicitor & Mediator Punjab & Haryana High Court
4. Dr. Pratima Narayanan, Council Member - Advocate, Mediator, expert in Technology law.
5. Neena Khare, Council Member - Advocate, Trainer Mediator MP. Online Mediator.
6. R. Manjira Venkatesh, Council Member – Advocate Mediator, Former Member of State Advisory Committee for Adoption
7. Shanta chellappa, Council Member - Advocate, Internationally recognised mediator
8. Shruti Desai, Council Member – Advocate, Mediator, Arbitrator Mumbai High Court
9. Sadhana Sandhu, Council Member - Advocate, Mediator Supreme Court of India
10. Lata Wagh, Council Member - Advocate, Mediator Social activist, Maharaashtra.
11. Ankita Das Day, Council Member - Advocate, Mediator Kolkatta.
12. Sujata Joshi, Council Member - Advocate, Mediator
13. Priyanka Pandit, Council Member - Advocate, Mediator, Client research analytics.
14. Kudrat Dev, Council Member - Advocate, Mediator
15. Aparna Mukharjee, Council Member - Advocate, Mediator
16. Shipra Paul, Council Member - Advocate, Mediator, Arbitrator
17. Geeta Devi Pappana, Council Member - Advocate, Mediator, Dispute Resolver.

The National Council of Mediation and Dispute Resolution would like to propose the following recommendations/policy interventions in the Mediation sector for women, with respect to the upcoming budget:

1. Creation and management of dedicated Mediation Centres within every government offices of every district of the States and Union Territories, which may be funded and supported by the Central/State governments.
2. Every organisation may be directed to form panel of trained accredited women mediators for its dispute resolution.
3. Similarly the Ministry of corporate affairs to empanel the eligible women mediators in the panel of Mediation and Conciliation of every Regional Director. The representation as such of women mediators be given by 25% at least, for which the financial provision may be made.
4. A provision for fund allocation for education and research in Mediation and dispute resolution may be made.
5. Training and Mediation activities cost by individuals mediators and participants may be made income tax free. GST relief may be sanctioned on the cost of such activities and training.

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6. Provisions for bringing awareness about Mediation and Dispute resolution and its use as an efficient alternative tool to litigation for resolving disputes may be made.
7. Financial provision for robust collaboration for imparting education, training and empowerment of women mediators, professionals may be made.
8. Provision for bringing collaboration among women industrialists, entrepreneurs, businesswomen, NGOs and Government for sake of promotion and use of Mediation and dispute resolution as effective preliminary alternate mode of dispute resolution.
9. Considering current operation of commercial business, industry and international transactions as well as Online Mediation & dispute resolution activities as conflict management, the support and provisions may be made for robust mechanism for management of these activities and policy making to boost the Mediation and dispute resolution system in India effectively and efficiently.

We look forward to your kind attention and support on the requests that have been proposed.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely

**Adv. Nilmani Gandhi**

**Mediator & Arbitrator**

National President

'Mediation & Dispute Resolution Council'

Founder of "Susamvaad Dispute Resolution"