AALI organised a four-day training on Women Rights and Justice from 31st January to 3rd February, in Lucknow for 28 caseworkers from 26 AALI—associated districts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand. The day saw discussions around the imperative need of not just a violence-free society for women but for access to their basic human rights. Insightful conversations and different strategies on the way forward to achieve SDG5 (Gender Equality) were the highlight of the training programme.

Your support to the Influencers journey is ensuring women and girls’ freedom from violence and discrimination, access to legal justice, grassroot leadership, rights and entitlements, and freedom from economic dependence. This issue, we bring you updates from the I Witness field visits to the grassroots and ‘Jan Sahas’ social marathon against sexual abuse. Join us in celebrating AALI’s work towards women’s access to justice and congratulating Ibtada for winning the 3rd PoleStar Social Impact Award.

In the News

Jan Sahas in collaboration with the Social Responsibility Forum of NMIMS held the 11th edition of AARAMBH — a 5 km Social Marathon on 9th February, as a mark of solidarity towards the fight against sexual violence. The day saw more than 2,500 people from varied age groups including Svati Bhatkal, who joined the event with immense spirit, vivacity and exuberance on a Sunday morning. We are happy to share that Svati Chakravarty Bhatkal’s Rubaru Roshni, a deep reflection on forgiveness and the role it can play in dealing with loss and grief, has been nominated for the Hitlist Web Awards under the category Best Web Film. This documentary is available on Netflix and is a must-watch. Do watch and vote! The voting lines close on 18th March.

Grassroot Leadership

Vidya Shah, visited the villages of Alwar to witness Ibtada’s stellar on-ground work in the direction of enabling women leaders from the communities to develop improved access to rights and entitlements for poor families. Through trainings and exposure, women are made aware of the provisions available for them through welfare schemes by the Centre and the State which they turn-in to impart their peers. Listening to the first-hand narratives of grassroots women leaders sharing their rights and negotiating with local governance, government departments and their own families was an exhilarating experience.

#RunForACause #WEinfluencers

I-Witness : visits to the grassroots

“I-want to have meet with such an engaged and ambitious group of women. Ambition and achievement are truly agents of any changing order!”

– Swaraj Kacholia

Thursday 31st February was an enriching day of insights when Swaraj Kacholia visited the garment sector of Mewat, Foundation, where she interacted with women entrepreneurs associated with the Foundation’s Business School and Shoppee of Champions programmes. The women who run small businesses ranging from snacks and sweetmeat-making, intranotionary products and gift articles were interviewed to share about the profits they have begun making, thanks to the business acumen, marketing and accounting skills gained from the Mewat Dhiri programme. Swaraj particularly appreciated the entrepreneurs and suggested that mentorship from the sector would help the entrepreneur to grow their vision.