



**SOMAIYA**  
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding has been made and executed at Vidyavihar, Mumbai on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023

BETWEEN



**SOMAIYA**  
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY

Women Development Cell, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Vidyavihar, Mumbai East, 400077, Maharashtra, through the Registrar of the University (hereinafter called the First party).

And



Since 1988

'Bharatiya Stree Shakti' (BSS), through Ms. Seema Deshpande, President - Mumbai Branch, having its central office at 4, Girish Building, Kataria Road, Mahim, Mumbai 400016, Maharashtra (hereinafter called the Second Party).

### Introduction:

This MoU represents a collaboration between Women Development Cell, Somaiya Vidyavihar University (SVU) and Bharatiya Stree Shakti (BSS). Founded in 1988, is a non-political organization dedicated to empowering women and fostering a gender-just society. Their work spans education, health, financial independence, equality, and self-respect. BSS joins hands with the university to raise awareness and promote gender equality among students and staff.

This partnership signifies a shared commitment to addressing gender issues, conducting gender audits, offering self-defense workshops, and providing pre-marital counseling. Together, they aim to create an inclusive environment where the strengths and contributions of women are valued, and where discrimination is eradicated at all levels, in both family and society.



  
Prof. Nandkumar Gilke  
Registrar  
Somaiya Vidyavihar University



**SOMAIYA**  
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY



AND WHEREAS, the First Party, Somaiya Vidyavihar University has been established with the vision of Respond to the needs of modern times and provide a spiritual foundation. And with the mission of inculcating values and provide opportunities for all round growth .

Our Vision: Padmabhushan Shri K J Somaiya founded Somaiya Vidyavihar on the 9th of September 1959. He later founded the Girivanvasi Pragati Mandal, The K J Somaiya Medical Trust, Girivanvasi Education Trust and sister institutions to make great citizens of India and the World. In the words of Swami Vivekananda, “We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect expanded, and by which one can stand on one’s own feet.” We have now grown into a multidisciplinary and multi-campus education institution with over 1500 faculty, and 39,000 students.

Our motto is: ज्ञानादेव तु कैवल्यम् । Knowledge alone liberates. Liberates from poverty, from hunger. Also to liberate one from the attachments that bind us to small-mindedness. Knowledge also provides opportunity. To make the life lived more meaningful. In the service of one’s family, one’s community, one’s समाज, country, and indeed the world. Bearing in mind that there is no religion other than the life lived in the service of humanity.

न मानुषात् परो धर्मः। We will strive to provide access and opportunity to build a more inclusive society.

Our education in any subject will reflect its timeless fundamentals, its current context, and applications. There is so much scientific discovery taking place, at the intersection of fields, of biology, computing, medicine, the social sciences and everywhere else. We will provide students and faculty with an environment to engage this world, to discover new truths, make new applications to create and share knowledge.

Our education will also be experiential. With projects that are ‘real’ and those that complement the learning inside the classroom. Our students and faculty will be at the cutting edge of change, to incubate companies, to create NGOs, and pursue any field of their passion.

Our education will also be holistic. Sports and physical exercise must be a firm part of the curriculum. For students to develop a love for sports, for recreation, for health, for teamwork, for competition. Our education will also instill an appreciation for art and culture.

In the Bhagavad Gita, Arjun asks Krishna how is one to control one’s mind that is as fleeting as the wind. Krishna responds that it can only be done through practice and discipline. अभ्यासेन तु कौन्तेय वैराग्येण च गृह्यते । We will strive to teach our students to learn to stay calm in our turbulent world.

And our education will also include the ancient Indian tradition, its culture, its depth, and its knowledge. We must keep the connection with our mother tongue and our languages. Languages are storehouses of culture, and the loss of a language takes with it much learning, stored through it over the ages.



  
**Prof. Nandkumar Gilke**  
Registrar  
Somaiya Vidyavihar University

Somaiya Vidyavihar University,  
Vidyavihar (East), Mumbai - 400 077, India  
Web : [www.somaiya.edu](http://www.somaiya.edu)



**SOMAIYA**  
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY



Finally, our education will help students lead a full life, to fall in love with life.

Our dream, is to build a world class research and teaching institution, that is global in the reach of its ideas, and universal in its service. Welcome to our community.

WHEREAS, the Second, is established following vision

1. Raising voice against gender injustice.
2. Women empowerment and redressal of problems with the five-point programme of 'Education, Health, Financial independence, equality and self-respect'.
3. Ensuring active women involvement in the process of decision making in all spheres of society.
4. Ensuring active participation of women in national and social transformation.

It has been decided between First Party and Second Party to make this Memorandum Of Understanding for the term of **Three Years**.

NOW THEREFORE, the aforementioned parties have agreed on the terms and conditions as mentioned hereinafter.

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective from **1<sup>st</sup> January 2024** and will last until **31<sup>st</sup> December 2026**. At this point the Memorandum of Understanding will undergo review by both parties to assess the next stages or a renewal of a longer-term Memorandum of Understanding. Either party may cancel this agreement with 30 days written or emailed notice, which is reasonable. In no event will failure to perform any actions described in this agreement result in any claim for damages or compensation by either party. Any notice of cancelation of this agreement shall be sent to the named individual whose signature appears below on behalf of the respective party to this agreement.
2. During these 3 years the Second Party shall function purely on a systematic approach and its activities will be closely monitored by the Coordinating Committee. consisting of
  - a) CA Monica Lodha- Ex – Officio President Women Development Cell of the University who shall have the authority to oversee and approve/disapprove any activities in the interest of students and/or the First Party (University) during the term of this MoU and will serve as a key advisor on matters related to women's development and gender equality within the university.
  - b) Dr. Preeti Rawat – Chairperson Women Development Cell of the University and Director Faculty & Staff Development Centre (FSDC)
  - c) Dr Nandana Prabhu- Secretary-Women Development Cell of the University and - Associate Professor, Department of information Technology, K J Somaiya College of Engineering.



**Prof. Nandkumar Gilke**  
Registrar  
Somaiya Vidyavihar University



d) Ms. Seema Deshpande- President Mumbai Branch – BSS

3. It is agreed between the parties that, second party will conduct various programs for female as well as male students participants related to gender equality to attain the common objective of awakening gender sensitization among students of the University. First party shall select interested female as well as male students for these programmes. First Party shall also provide necessary infrastructure without any charges with regard to premises and any other assistance deemed essential and necessary to help the second Party in conducting the said programs smoothly and by paying the permissible honorarium as and when necessary as per the university rules.
4. Following is the general outline of programmes agreed to be carried out during the term of three years of this MoU.
- Create awareness of Gender Issues among students and teaching and nonteaching staff by arranging guest lectures and other programmes on women related issues.
  - Conduction of Gender Audit .
  - Conduction of Self-defense workshops.
  - Imparting pre-marital counseling and awareness about precautions.
  - Internship program for the students

The programs outlined in this MoU aim to promote gender equality and gender sensitization at Somaiya Vidyavihar University. These programs will be conducted regularly, with specific schedules to be agreed upon.

5. The Second Party further agrees to cooperate in conducting additional women's welfare activities and any activities mandated by the University in accordance with government circulars. This collaboration encompasses a range of initiatives, including expert guidance on women's welfare policies, active involvement in awareness campaigns, collaborative research projects, Outreach activities and the provision of training sessions for the University faculty, staff, and students.

6. This MoU does not impose any financial obligation on the parties.

7. In witness whereof the Parties hereto have set and subscribed their respective hands and signed this Memorandum of Understanding on the day and the year mentioned first.





**SOMAIYA**  
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY




For First party:



(Seal or Stamp of the University)

Witnesses

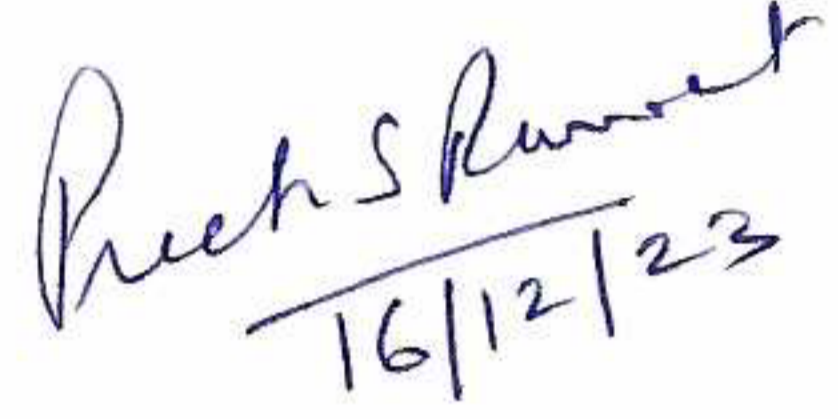
  
CA Monica Lodha

Ex – Officio President, Women Development Cell

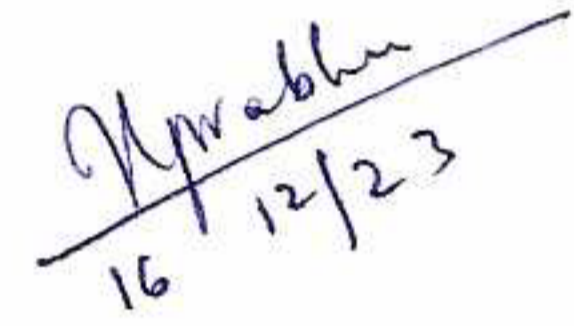
Email id: wdc.svu@somaiya.edu

Contact Number: +919819468090

1. Dr. Preeti Rawat

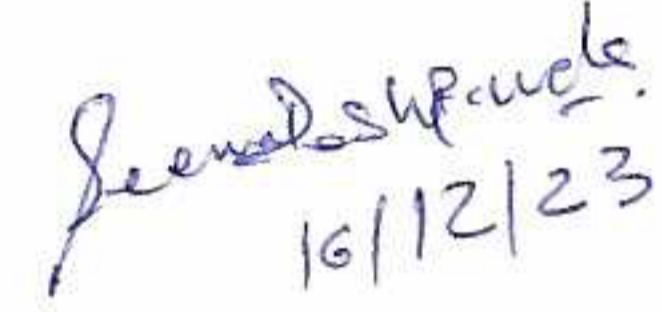
  
16/12/23

2. Dr. Nandana Prabhu

  
16/12/23

For Second Party :

Ms. Seema Deshpande

  
16/12/23

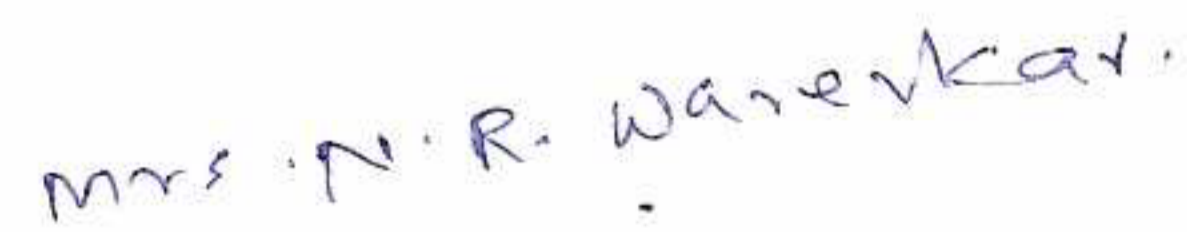
President Mumbai Branch – BSS

Email id: bharatiyastreeshakti88@gmail.com

Contact Number: 022-24376441

Witnesses

  
1. Ms. Manjula Nair

  
Mrs. N.R. Warekar.

2. Ms. Nutan Warekar

  
**Prof. Nandkumar Gilke**  
Registrar  
Somaiya Vidyavihar University

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