

Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi



**ONE DAY
IOS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
on
PRESSING AND UNANSWERED ISSUES UNDER
FAMILY LAWS
Comprehension and Resolution**

15th September 2026

[In HYBRID MODE]

CONCEPT NOTE

Family is the foundational unit of society, and family law represents one of the most important areas of legal regulation influenced by ethics and deeper social engagement. It mainly extends to closest interpersonal human engagements of marriage, consequent obligations emerging out of marriage, dissolution of marriage and processes of dissolution, duty to maintain relatives, adoption of children, custody and guardianship of children, legitimacy and legitimating, succession and inheritance, patterns of domestic relationships and protection from family-related violence, standards of peaceful life. At the same time, family laws are deeply connected with religion, culture, custom, social practices and community identities. This makes family law one of the most complex and evolving areas of contemporary jurisprudence.

In any jurisdiction, the legal framework governing family relations is characterised by a combination of religious beliefs and norms, modern legislations, judicial precedents, and customary or tribal practices. Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Parsis and other groups follow family laws with some faith-oriented differences applicable to solemnisation and dissolution of marriage, maintenance of spouses, child rights, domestic aggression, succession and other family matters. They are also considerate to individual rights and religious

freedom. Recent social transformations require a re-examination of family laws and practices to evaluate the ground situations and norms about matrimonial behaviour, performance of obligations by family members under respective family laws, maintenance of spouses and other members of the family, child custody and care or welfare, succession and inheritance, management of family property, suitability of diverse family patterns and norms, nature and causes of matrimonial disputes and resolution thereof. Some attempts are being made to develop uniform family laws which also need a thorough evaluation in their content and context coupled with purpose to be achieved. Parental responsibilities and parenting techniques need also be given due consideration in present socio-technical environment posing innumerable challenges.

The Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi is, in view of the urgencies of the issues and their adverse impact on families and children, organising this conference to look into the nature, efficiencies and deficiencies in existing family laws with objectivity, principally to promote a deeper *comprehension of the existing legal framework and the formulation of practically sound and socially sensitive mechanisms for resolution of matrimonial disputes*. The purpose is to provide a multidisciplinary platform for academicians, judges, lawyers, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, social scientists and civil society representatives to critically examine emerging challenges and propose sustainable solutions.

Themes

1. Emerging, troublesome and unanswered issues in prevalent family laws and systems.
2. Impact of technological and social transformation on the institution of marriage and family leading both to prosperity as well as an environment of conflicts, clashes and breakdown.
3. Prevalent discoursing on the welfare and rights of vulnerable members of families, particularly women, children, senior citizens and economically dependent persons.
4. Unjust gaps, ambiguities and inconsistencies in existing family laws and contemporary requirements.
5. Myths and realities about ongoing interaction between personal laws and values of equality, dignity, and freedom of religion.

6. Search for principles and mechanisms for harmonising diversity spousal relations without undermining legitimate cultural and religious freedoms.
7. Ineffectiveness of courts (including family courts), any other forum, mediation and alternative dispute-resolution mechanisms in resolving family disputes.
8. Status of comparative and interdisciplinary research on family-laws in India and other jurisdictions.
9. Initiation of a neutral academic and professional dialogue on issues relating to family laws.
10. Any other like theme

Call for Papers

The IOS invites research papers, scholarly articles, case-studies and policy-oriented contributions from academicians, judges, lawyers, researchers, doctoral scholars, postgraduate students, policymakers and professionals working in related fields. Contributions should demonstrate originality, analytical rigour and practical relevance and may adopt doctrinal, empirical, comparative, interdisciplinary or socio-legal methodologies.

Features for Abstract

Authors are invited to submit an abstract of approximately **250–350 words**, clearly indicating:

- Title of the proposed paper
- Name(s) of author(s), Institutional affiliation, Designation, Email address and contact details
- Brief description of the research problem, objectives/research questions, methodology and anticipated arguments.

Features for Full Paper

The full papers should ordinarily contain:

- Introduction and statement of the problem
- Research objectives/questions
- Literature/legal review
- Analysis and discussion
- Findings
- Recommendations/conclusion
- Appropriate references and citations

Papers should be original and should not have been simultaneously submitted for publication elsewhere.

A Commanding Perspective

The challenge is not simply to ask whether family laws should change, but how they should change or not change, in whose interests, through what institutional mechanisms, and within what social framework. The Conference shall facilitate this conversation by bringing together diverse perspectives and by moving from comprehension to constructive resolution. It aspires to contribute to a family-law framework that is just without being socially disruptive, to respect legitimate pluralism.

Important dates:

Submission of Abstract: 27th August 2026

Acceptance of the Abstract: 28th August 2026

Submission of Full Paper: 10th September 2026

Conference Date: 15th September 2026