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## FOREWORD

We are delighted that this collection of articles on the theme of “Indian Feminisms, Law Reform and the Law Commission of India” is being published by the Journal of Indian Law and Society, housed at the W.B. National University of Juridical Sciences - an institution with which our association goes back to 2002 and in various capacities<sup>1</sup>. We would therefore like to express our gratitude to the faculty and students involved with the Journal of Indian Law and Society for accepting our proposal for this *Special Issue* and for being extremely accommodating despite the delay in the final submission of the entire manuscript. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the meticulous editorial assistance that we received from the JILS team. We want to specially mention Shambo Nandy and Vasujith Ram who have been in this journey right from the beginning, pushing us during long periods of slackness that we had developed in the course of preparing this volume.

Sincere thanks to all the reviewers for taking time to engage with the papers and for their feedback — Amrita Pande, Kalpana Kannabiran, Kamala Sankaran, Latika Vashist, Mary John, Navaneetha Mokkil, Oishik Sircar, Prabha Kotiswaran, Prashant Iyengar, Rajni Palriwala, and Srila Roy.

Arushi Mahajan, a student of the National Law University, Delhi helped in preparing the table on the status of the Law Commission recommendations from 1985-2015, that accompanies the online issue. The table gives a bird’s eye view of the recommendations made by successive Commissions and their fate.

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<sup>1</sup> Rukmini Sen taught Sociology, Disability and Law, Law, Culture and Pluralism at NUJS from 2002 to 2009 and Saptarshi Mandal completed his undergraduate degree in law there in 2009.

Discussions on this *Special Issue* happened constantly with various individuals over the entire process from conceptualizing the issue to its publication and we would like to remember their intellectual and affective contributions in making this possible — Indu Agnihotri, Nandan Nawn, Pratiksha Baxi, Ruchira Goswami and Jhuma Sen.

Saptarshi would like to thank the students in his Law and Social Transformation course for engaging with the literature on law reform, and Aditya Prasad, for impeccable research assistance.

Finally, our gratitude to the contributors for re-creating an interest in Law Commission of India and the reports through their research. We have been fortunate to have contributions from scholars trained in different disciplines which only reaffirms our belief that legal studies is an interdisciplinary space, and feminist legal studies even more so.

Much more work needs to be done on the Law Commission reports. Interaction with members of the Law Commission is necessary to understand the insider narratives of the Commission's functioning, its possibilities and limitations as an entity. We hope that this *Special Issue* which remembers Lotika Sarkar's untiring efforts to engage with the law – through her teaching, research and activism – will generate an interest in Law Commission reports as socio-legal texts. All limitations of this volume are ours.