

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SOUMEN SEN
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SYAM KUMAR V.M.

Wednesday, the 16th day of September 2026 / 25th Bhadra, 1948
WP(PIL) NO. 182 OF 2026(S)

PETITIONER:

LADY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF WAYANAD (LAWA)
REPRESENTED BY ITS PRESIDENT, ADV. SHEEBA MATHEW, D/O MATHEW
AGED 61 YEARS, ROCKGARDENS, KALPETTA P.O., KALPETTA AMSOM, DESOM,
VYTHIRI TALUK, WAYANAD DISTRICT, PIN - 673 576.

RESPONDENTS:

1. UNION OF INDIA, THROUGH THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, NIRMAN BHAVAN, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 011.
2. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
3. THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ALLIED AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS (NCAHP) THROUGH ITS CHAIRPERSON NIHFW CAMPUS, 2ND FLOOR, BABA GANGNATH MARG, MUNIRKA, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 067.
4. KERALA STATE ALLIED AND HEALTH CARE COUNCIL, THROUGH ITS CHAIRPERSON, GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE CAMPUS, MEDICAL COLLEGE P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 011.
5. THE REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA (RCI), THROUGH ITS CHAIRMAN, B-22, QUTUB INSTITUTIONAL AREA, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 016.
6. THE NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION (NMC), THROUGH ITS SECRETARY, POCKET 14, SECTOR 8, DWARKA PHASE I, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 077.
7. THE CENTRAL MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (CMHA), MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 011.
8. THE STATE MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (SMHA) KERALA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
9. THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MEITY), GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ELECTRONICS NIKETHAN 6, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI – THROUGH ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, PIN - 110 003.
10. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, 'A' WING, SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI, THROUGH ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, PIN - 110 001.
11. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE & STATE POLICE CHIEF, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 010.
12. ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (CYBER OPERATIONS), POLICE HEADQUARTERS, TRIVANDRUM, PIN - 695 010.
13. ADVERTISING STANDARDS COUNCIL OF INDIA (ASCI), REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNORS, A-402, AURUS CHAMBERS, 4TH FLOOR, S.S. AMRUTWAR MARG, BEHIND MAHINDRA TOWERS WORLI, MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA, PIN - 400 013.

P.T.O.

14. INDIAN COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR), REPRESENTED BY ITS DIRECTOR, V. RAMALINGASWAMI BHAWAN, ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI, INDIA, PIN - 110 029.

Writ petition (Public Interest Litigation) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(PIL) the High Court be pleased to issue an ad-interim direction to Respondent No. 1, 3, 9 and 10 to ensure that: (a) no person is permitted to advertise or offer mental health counselling services in print or digital media without displaying their verifiable educational qualifications and (b) directing Respondents 2 and 4 to take all necessary steps to ensure that all existing online mental health platforms operating within the State of Kerala, within a period of thirty days, prominently display the educational qualifications and statutory registration numbers, wherever applicable, of every practitioner listed on their respective platforms.

This petition coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(PIL) and the court passed the following:

P.T.O.



WEDNESDAY, THE 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026

WP(PIL) No. 182 of 2026

LADY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF WAYANAD (LAWA)

VS

UNION OF INDIA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

SMT.A.PARVATHI MENON, SRI.P.SANJAY, SRI.PAUL VARGHESE
(PALLATH), SRI.KIRAN NARAYANAN, SHRI.RAHUL RAJ P.,
SHRI.MUHAMMED BILAL.V.A, SMT.SHAHALA NARGEES M. K.,
SMT.ZEBA MUJEEB

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

SHRI.AMAL PARTHASARADHY, CGC



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Soumen Sen, C.J. & Syam Kumar V.M., J.

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Dated this the 16th day of September, 2026

Appearance:

For the Petitioner : Ms. A. Parvathi Menon
For the Respondents : Mr.P.Sreekumar, ASGI
Mr.K.Jaju Babu, AG, assisted by
Ms.Rema, Spl.G.P.
Ms.Chandra, representing
Mr.R.V.Sreejith, Addl.SC, National
Medical Commission

Soumen Sen, C.J.

Admit.

2. Mr.P.Sreekumar, learned Additional Solicitor General for India appears on behalf of the Union of India. Mr.K.Jaju Babu, learned Advocate General appears for the State. Ms.Chandra, learned counsel representing Mr.R.V.Sreejith, learned Additional Standing Counsel appears for the sixth respondent.

3. The grievance of the petitioner in this Public Interest Litigation is that in spite of the Parliament having enacted the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021, which contemplates the regulation of



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various allied and healthcare professions and provides an enabling framework within which counselling professions may eventually be recognized and regulated, the relevant provisions have not yet been operationalised so as to establish a regulatory regime governing counsellors.

4. The learned ASGI is requested to take instructions with regard to the operationalisation of the said Act and the regulations and file an affidavit to the aforesaid effect on the adjourned date.

6. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the fourth respondent has been formed by the State Government, but is, in effect, non functional, as the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021, has not been fully implemented.

6. The matter stands adjourned to 7th October 2026.

Sd/-
Soumen Sen
Chief Justice

Sd/-
Syam Kumar V.M.
Judge

ds 16.09.2026