

Equal Opportunity Centre/Women Cell St. Edmund's College

Minutes of the Meeting of Equal Opportunity Centre/Women Cell held on 9th April 2026

Time: 12:30 p.m. Venue: Board Room, adjacent to Vice Principal's Room

Ms. Finley E. J. Syngai (Head of Department of Sociology), **Convener of Equal Opportunity Centre/ Women Cell, St. Edmund's College**, at the beginning of the Meeting, **welcomed** and **thanked the members of the Cell, and the members of Gender Champions of St. Edmund's College**, for sparing their time **to attend the meeting**. She also wanted to **put on record**, that **the Cell** despite having only a few hours, to plan and prepare for an awareness programme, **was able to organise the Cyber Bullying and Cyber Crime Awareness Programme on 8th April 2026**. She expressed her gratitude to **Dr. Ibadahun Nonghuloo** (Faculty of the Department of Botany), **Ms. Pinky Paul** (Faculty of the Department of Commerce) **for being alongside her to attend the program, as other members were engaged in other activities**.

She went on to mention, that there were **two agendas** for the **Meeting**:

- 1. To fix the date to go for the follow-up inspection of the girls' toilets.**
- 2. Briefing on Gender Champions by the members of Gender Champions of St. Edmund's College.**

The **first agenda** was taken up, **to fix the date to go for the follow-up inspection of the girls' toilets**.

- An **inspection of the girls' toilets in St. Edmund's College**, had taken place on **5th March 2026 at 9 a.m.**
- **Ms. Finley E. J. Syngai, Convener of the Cell**, informed that **Mr. Thimus Khongrymmai was ready for the follow-up inspection**. She also mentioned, that **the two boys** from **Gender Champions Meidinggu Gangmei** (6th semester from BSW Department), and **Kenny Roger Phawa** (6th semester from BSW Department), were **excluded from the follow-up inspection**. For the **follow-up inspection**, the **members of the Cell**, were to be **accompanied by the female students of gender Champions Naphibansabet Byrsat** (6th semester from Department of Sociology), and **Deinamesha Hynniewta** (6th semester from Department of Economics).
- After a few proposals were put up on a date and time, it was finally **suggested by Ms. Inrilin Marwein** (Faculty of the Department of Education), **to conduct the follow-up inspection in the morning, before the toilets become crowded, preferably at 8:30 a.m.**
- Hence, it was decided that a **follow-up inspection of the girls' toilets, in St. Edmund's College**, will take place the following day, that is, on **10th April 2026, at 8:30. a.m.**

The **second agenda** was taken up, that is, the **briefing on Gender Champions by the members of Gender Champions of St. Edmund's College**.

- **Naphibansabet Byrsat** (6th semester from Department of Sociology) was first to brief the Cell, about Gender Champions. She said that, **Gender Champions was started to**

promote gender equality, and inclusivity in the College Campus. It does not cater only to male and female, but to the other gender as well. She mentioned that the then teachers in charge of the Cell, selected **two Gender Champions from St. Edmund's College, a female Gender Champion Deinamesha Hynniewta** (6th semester from Department of Economics), and **a male Gender Champion Vicky Lamare** who had graduated. The other applicants **Meidinggu Gangmei** (6th semester from BSW Department), and **Kenny Roger Phawa** (6th semester from BSW Department), **along with her and the two Gender Champions, were also selected as members of the Gender Champions Club.** She added that, it is **mandatory to have three Gender Champions a male, a female, and the other gender.**

- **Ms. Finley E. J. Syngai Convener of the Cell, inquired how does the election of Gender Champions go about? Deinamesha Hynniewta** (6th semester from Department of Economics) **responded** by saying that, **the guidelines for election are available in the UGC website, the application form is attached with the guidelines.** The **application forms were submitted to the email of the Cell, and screened by the then teachers in charge of the Cell, along with Late Sir Monotosh Chakravarty, the then Vice Principal (Administration) of St. Edmund's College. The current members of the Gender Champions Club were selected** when they were in their **2nd Semester.**
- **Meidinggu Gangmei** (6th semester from BSW Department) added by mentioning that, the **applicants also had to submit a recommendation letter from their respective Heads of Department.**
- **Ms. Finley E. J. Syngai, Convener of the Cell requested Deinamesha Hynniewta** (6th semester from Department of Economics), to **make the flyer to get applicants for Gender Champions. The names and contacts of three members of the Cell, were to be added to the flyer Dr. Ibadahun Nonghuloo** (Faculty of the Department of Botany) for **Science, Ms. Pinky Paul** (Faculty of the Department of Commerce) for **Commerce,** and **Ms. Inrilin Marwein** (Faculty of the Department of Education) for **Arts** for any queries that applicants may have and for submission. **Deinamesha Hynniewta** (6th semester from Department of Economics) mentioned that, the **guidelines regarding Gender Champions available in the UGC website, will help address the queries of the applicants.** She mentioned that, **she will send a pdf copy of the guidelines to Ms. Finley E. J. Syngai, Convener of the Cell. Dr. Ibadahun Nonghuloo** (Faculty of the Department of Botany), and **Ms. Lorraine Claudia Massar** (Faculty of the Department of Economics) mentioned that, **a list of the required documents, along with the application form to be submitted must be mentioned in the flyer.**
- **Deinamesha Hynniewta** (6th semester from Department of Economics) mentioned that, the **Gender Champions Club assists the Women Cell, in preparing and organising the International Women's Day Programme, and various awareness programs.** **Ms. Finley E. J. Syngai, Convener of the Cell** mentioned that, this was the **first time she heard about the Gender Champions Club.**
- **Kenny Roger Phawa** (6th semester from BSW Department) mentioned that, the **applicants had to write in 250 words about, 'Why should we choose you as the Gender Champion?'** He also mentioned that, in this way it will enable the third gender to be included.

- **Ms. Finley E. J. Syngai, Convener of the Cell**, mentioned that, **applications will be open to students from 2nd Semester and 4th Semester**. She also finalised **14th April 2026 upto 3:15 p.m.** as the last date to submit the application forms, and screening will be done on **16th April 2026**, to enable the **handing over**, during the **felicitation of the Gender Champions on 18th April 2026**.
- **Ms. Finley E. J. Syngai, Convener of the Cell**, inquired apart from assisting the Women Cell, in preparing and organising the International Women's Day Programme, **what else is the Gender Champions Club involved with?** **Deinamesha Hynniewta** (6th semester from Department of Economics), responded by mentioning that, they are involved in **assisting the Cell in organising various awareness programs** such as, **talks on government schemes on women and children**. **Gender Champions** also went to the **Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute** to **attend workshops**.
- **Ms. Finley E. J. Syngai, Convener of the Cell**, mentioned that the **resource person** of yesterday's **Cyber Bullying and Cyber Crime Awareness Programme**, **wants to conduct a workshop to cut across gender barriers**. She mentioned that, it can be **organised in the following semester**. She also mentioned that, the Cell would organise a **programme with Meghalaya State Commission for Women**, and **Mrs. Joy Grace Syiem** on the **legal aspect to domestic violence**. The **members present all agreed with her**.
- **Meidinggu Gangmei** (6th semester from BSW Department), and **Kenny Roger Phawa** (6th semester from BSW Department), also put forward an **idea to organise a panel discussion where all genders can come together, and give their views on a particular topic**.
- The **Cell appreciated all the valuable suggestions, and ideas put forward for programmes to be organised in the future**.
- **Ms. Lorraine Claudia Massar** (Faculty of the Department of Economics) inquired if a **meeting would be held regarding, the felicitation of the Gender Champions to be held on 18th April 2026**. **Ms. Finley E. J. Syngai, Convener of the Cell**, mentioned it is **not required**, as it is **just a handing over session** of the current to the newly elected Gender Champions. She also mentioned that, she had **already talked to Sir Rajesh Dutta, Director of Student Affairs of St. Edmunds's College**, regarding the **certificates to be given to the Gender Champions during the felicitation**. She also requested the **students to book the Vieyra Hall**.

The meeting concluded at 1 p.m.

