



Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal's
Pravin Gandhi College of Law
8th Floor, Mithibai College Campus Vile Parle (W), Mumbai- 400056,
mcs.svkm@gmail.com



MOOT COURT SOCIETY

FRESHER'S MOOT PROPOSITION 2025

1. The Democratic Republic of Veloria attained independence from British rule in 1947, and the British made, Veloria Penal Code, 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1861, and the Evidence Act, 1872 continue in force post-independence. At the time of its independence, Veloria exhibited a deeply patriarchal social structure, which was reflected in its demographic and educational indicators. The national sex ratio stood at merely 850 females for every 1,000 males, underscoring the prevailing gender disparity. Female literacy rates were alarmingly low, recorded at 4.87% in rural areas and 22.33% in urban regions, with an overall average of 8.86%. In contrast, male literacy rates were significantly higher, at 19.02% in rural areas, 45.6% in urban regions, and a combined average of 28.05%. These figures collectively highlight the entrenched gender inequality that characterized Velorian society in the immediate post-independence period.
2. The government being cognizant of these stark gender disparities had undertaken several initiatives aimed at promoting women's education and socio-economic upliftment. Through targeted policies, awareness campaigns, and institutional reforms, efforts were made to enhance women's access to education, increase their participation in the workforce, and improve their overall status within the Velorian society. Further, in 2023, the Parliament of Veloria, enacted the Veloria Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 ("VNS"), the Veloria Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 ("VNSS"), and the Veloria Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 ("VSA"), repealing the archaic British laws. The said enactments came into force on 1st July 2024 vide appropriate notification by the government.
3. In a census conducted in 2024, the Government of Veloria reported a remarkable transformation in the country's gender and literacy indicators. The national sex ratio showed a positive reversal, with 1,001 females for every 1,000 males, reflecting a near elimination of the historical gender imbalance. Literacy rates too witnessed substantial progress; female literacy rose to 83.4% in rural areas and 95.2% in urban regions, bringing the overall female literacy rate to 89.3%. Male literacy stood at 88.9% in rural areas and 96.1% in urban regions, with a combined average of 92.4%. These statistics illustrate a significant narrowing of the gender gap, particularly in urban areas where women's literacy levels are now nearly at par with, and in some regions even surpassing, those of men..

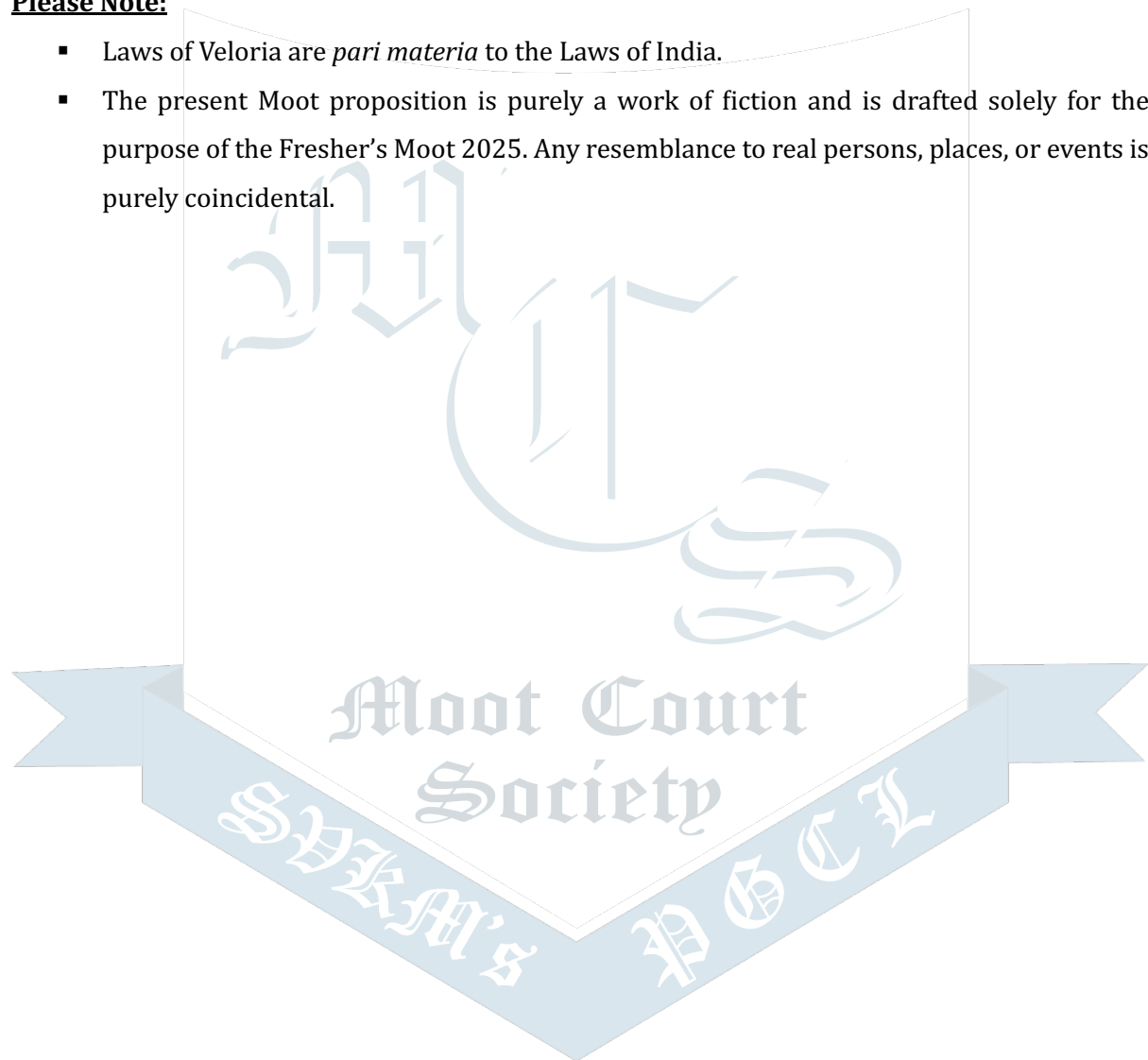
4. In 2025, soon after Veloria enacted its new criminal code, including Section 69 VNS, noted director Ronit Retty released a short film, “*Secret love*” which was loosely based on a true story starring Kashwariya Kai and Shallu Shan as affluent, educated partners in a modern relationship. The film’s plot is basically where the woman files a complaint under Section 69 of VNS and the narrative later reveals ambiguities around intent, consent, and alleged suppression of identity which sparked a nationwide debate on whether Section 69 of VNS can be misapplied in intimate, consensual relationships.
5. Inspired by the widespread publicity surrounding the film “*Secret Love*”, the State witnessed a sharp increase in the registration of First Information Reports invoking Section 69 of the VNS, many of which were alleged to have been instituted as instruments of harassment following the breakdown of consensual relationships. This led to several ensuing prosecutions taking place in various sessions courts of Veloria against men in live-in-relationships.
6. Consequently, several men’s rights organisations and affected individuals approached various High Courts across Veloria challenging the constitutional validity of Section 69 of VNS, *inter alia* on grounds of arbitrariness and violation of fundamental rights. Among these were a Public Interest Litigation filed by a registered non-governmental organisation before the Kattar Pradesh High Court, and a writ petition instituted by an individual accused in a similar “false promise to marry” case before the Indrapur High Court.
7. Certain women’s rights organisations also criticised the provision as patriarchal and regressive, contending that it portrays women as devoid of sexual autonomy, perpetuating gender stereotypes wherein, the law is implicitly viewing women as naive and gullible victims who cannot make independent, informed decisions about their sexual relationships and the law can be seen as undermining a woman’s agency and rational decision-making.
8. Meanwhile, the State defended the provision, stating it acts as a deterrent against sexual deceit. Further, the purpose of the provision is to protect women from exploitation and fraud, asserting its proportionality, societal necessity, and harmony with settled jurisprudence.
9. Given the multiplicity of challenges, the Supreme Court of Veloria *suo-motu* exercised its powers under the Constitution to transfer and consolidate these cases. All petitions challenging the provision have now been clubbed together and are pending before the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court for final hearing (*Women Concern for Governance Trust & Ors. v. Union of Veloria*).

After hearing the parties, the Supreme Court has framed the following issues for determination in the present case:

1. Whether Section 69 of the VNS is violative of Article 14 and Article 15 of the Constitution of Veloria?
2. Whether Section 69 of the VNS is violative of Articles 19 and Article 21 of the Constitution of Veloria?

Please Note:

- Laws of Veloria are *pari materia* to the Laws of India.
- The present Moot proposition is purely a work of fiction and is drafted solely for the purpose of the Fresher's Moot 2025. Any resemblance to real persons, places, or events is purely coincidental.



This Moot Proposition has been drafted by Mr. Anas Dhorajiwala and Mr. Ansh Sharma.

final-year students of SVKM's Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai.