

**Preface**

Article 44 of the “Directive Principles of State Policy” of the Constitution of India calls for the development of a Uniform Civil Code: "The state shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of the India." Even after sixty years of independence such a Unified code has not yet achieved in India. The personal law of different religious communities continues to exist in matters relating to marriage, divorce, maintenance, succession, adoption and so forth. Furthermore, diversity in personal laws reinforced gender inequality and injustice. There is no justification for these laws to continue today when criminal laws and some other aspects of civil laws are common to the country as a whole. The subject of reform of personal laws and establishment of a uniform civil code has been a strident question in recent years. It has been debated by scholars on the ground of constitutional validity and used by political parties (BJP even made the enactment of a Uniform Civil Code a tenet in its national election campaigns) to spike conservative agendas at election time. Meanwhile, personal law is being reformed everyday in the courts. The judiciary by their dynamic activism is doing justice to the parties by putting a gloss over the provisions of personal laws existing in India. Therefore, it is highly desirable that one single set of civil laws should govern all its citizens. The need and justification to have a uniform civil code as mandated in the Constitution can not be over emphasized.

The purpose of the present study is to examine the desirability of a Uniform Civil Code, the essential requirements for the enactment and implementation of the Uniform Civil Code in India and the opinion of the persons from various categories i.e. students, teachers, advocates, judges and representatives of various religious communities towards the constitutional obligation of the state to enact a Uniform Civil Code for the citizens of India. To summarize, it can be said that a secular India needs a Uniform Civil Code for the protection and promotion of national unity and solidarity for its citizens. The legislature will ultimately have to perform this onerous duty of compiling the code.