PREFACE

The laws applicable to Christians in India have been criticised as discriminatory for more than a century. Apparently, there was discrimination and confusion all around. The complex mass of law consisting of customary law shrouded in history, canon law entangled in obscure religious practices and statute law bereft of any scientific basis made the confusion confounded. Therefore, it was proposed to undertake a research into the matter in the context of history, constitution and the statutory framework so as to identify the areas of gender discriminatory aspects in the law of marriage, divorce and succession- the most vital areas of family law relating to Christians in India.

While proceeding with the programme, I got unflinching support, encouragement and valuable and constructive criticism from my Guide, Professor K.N. Chandrasekharan Pillai, but for whose paternal care and guidance, it would not have been possible for me to complete this task within the prescribed time limit.

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Ernakulam and the Law Library, Government Secretariat, Trivandrum deserve special mention. Further, my fellow research students and my brother also took special interest in collecting research materials from other Indian States.

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With gratitude to one and all and especially to my Teacher, I submit this thesis on the firm belief that it would be of some use to the legal fraternity.

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