

53<sup>th</sup> Session (28 September 2018)

# MORALITY AND MORAL CONTROVERSIES

FIFTH EDITION



Name of the Book: *Morality and Moral Controversies: Readings in Moral, Social and Political Philosophy*  
Author: John Arthur  
Presenter: Sonam Tshering, JSW Law

## Synopsis of the Book

The book on *'Morality and Moral Controversies: Readings in Moral, Social and Political Philosophy'* by John Arthur provides tools to understand the philosophical ideas that shape the world today. This book is a comprehensive anthology that has classic and contemporary readings in moral theory most current applied ethics debate. The book gives philosophical discussions that Justices of the courts must have. The book challenges the reader to critically assess the leading controversies in social, moral and political philosophy.

### Profile of the Author



John Arthur was a Professor at Binghamton University. He was a teacher, and mentor to faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students in his early years at Binghamton. He wrote books like *'Reading in the Philosophy of Law'*, *'Justice and Economic Distribution'*, the *'Urban Landscape'*, among many other books.



### Profile of the Presenter

Sonam Tshering is a Lecturer at the Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (JSW School of Law). He studied Law in India and the U.S. Previously, he worked at the Bhutan Narcotics Control Authority.

## Discourse

The book is about the morality and law in shaping today's legal thinking. He succinctly presented on the version of law on one side and morality on the other. While many issues, which may be legal as per the existing laws, may not be moral. The juxtaposition of morality with law hinges on few principles. Although, morality stands as a source of law, the two ideas may collide in some instances. In many instances laws are a result

of human thinking, while morality is a practice carried over years, which is accepted by the community. Morality has a binding force in many communities. He gave different examples on how law and morals conflict. In some instances, abortion can be legal in some countries, while at the same time; social morale may prohibit it as morally wrong and sinful. These may pose serious dilemmas over which is right?

The main take away from the book is:

- a) Understand philosophical ideas that are shaping our world today;
- b) Confront conflicts faced when given the choice of morality;
- c) Apply various philosophical ideas to politics, religion, economics, relationships, and medicine; and
- d) Discuss basic philosophical arguments.

Among the participants were High Court Justice Lungten Dubgyur, Justice Pema Wangchuk, Justice Kinley Dorji; Paro Judge Rinchen Penjor, Thimphu Judge Pasang Wangmo and officials of the Institute.

