



CHENNAI RAINBOW PRIDE MARKS ITS TENTH YEAR IN JUNE 2018

PRESS MEET: June 1, 2018, 11 a.m. at the Press Club, Chepauk, Chennai

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Chennai's Tenth Rainbow Pride series begins on June 1, 2018. Events this month celebrate the visibility of alternative sexualities, gender identities and sex characteristics, and affirm the notion of self-respect as a key goal of the lesbian, gay, bi, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other (LGBTIQ+) movements.

Commemorating the tenth anniversary of Pride activities in Chennai, events will commence on June 1, 2018 and continue through July, 2018. They will include cultural performances, sensitization programmes on sexuality and gender-identity, health information talks, solidarity events, films, plays and other cultural programmes. The Chennai Rainbow (Self-Respect) march will be held on Sunday, 24 June 2018. Events of the Rainbow Pride are organized by the Tamil Nadu Rainbow Coalition (TNRC), an umbrella body of individuals, collectives and organizations working toward gender and sexual equality in all parts of the state.

Members of the TNRC have put forth the following demands for this Pride month:

1. We ask that the Supreme Court of India reverse the Koushal judgment of 11 December 2013. Developments such as the NALSA and Right to Privacy verdict, and numerous petitions by individuals directly affected by Section 377, clearly indicate that 377 is unconstitutional. The time for 377 to go is now.
2. We ask that the Central and State governments implement the Supreme Court's NALSA judgment of 15 April 2014 in its entirety, and that states roll out schemes in a manner that is inclusive of all transgender persons. We ask that the Third Gender Welfare Board in Tamil Nadu comply with all aspects of the NALSA verdict.
3. We oppose the Transgender (Rights of Bills) Persons Bill and seek a bill that complies with the key points of the landmark Supreme Court judgment in NALSA vs. Union of India, 2014, supports self-identification, does not criminalize begging, and that has strong components of reservation and affirmative action.
4. We seek access to stigma-free and quality healthcare for the LGBTIQ+ communities in Tamil Nadu, including mental health services, suicide hotlines, and gender-affirming procedures for transgender people.
5. We oppose attempts by healthcare professionals, quacks, religious groups, and families, to forcefully change sexual orientation or gender identity through medication, shock therapy, marriage, or other means.
6. We seek reservation for transgender people in educational institutions, and urge all schools, colleges and universities to provide LGBTIQ+ inclusive counselling services and enable support groups on campus.
7. We urge all private and public sector organizations to ensure workplace equality, end stigma and discrimination, and include sexual orientation and gender identity awareness in diversity training for staff and management.
8. We stand in solidarity with all those resisting oppression by majoritarian forces, and oppose human rights violations based on caste, class, language, diet, disability, religion and all other factors.

USEFUL LINKS

- The official event schedule is at chennaipride.net/events.
- On Facebook, check out <https://www.facebook.com/chennaipride/>
- Frequently Asked Questions about Chennai Pride March <http://chennaipride.net/faq>