

CHRISTIANS AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS MEET SUNDAY JAN 5, 12 PM AT SAHODARAN, CHENNAI

Christians Against Homophobia, a Chennai-based collective of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual Christians, register our opposition to those who use our religion to spread bigotry and prejudice against those of different sexual orientations and gender identities.

We are of Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Church of South India, Assembly of God and other denominations. We believe, in the words of Lutheran Theologian Professor George Zachariah, that the Church of Christ is a Church without walls extending its fellowship to all those who are beloved by God in Christ Jesus.

We draw your attention to the message to Indian Christian communities by participants of the Theological Roundtable on Sexuality held in Dec 2009 in Kolkata, "We appeal to the Christian community to sojourn with sexual minorities and their families without prejudice and discrimination, to provide them ministries of love, compassionate care, and justice".

While labels such as "gay", "bisexual", "lesbian" and "transgender" (LGBT) may have originated in the English language and in non-Indian contexts, same-sex love and desire are as old as the history of the Indian sub-continent, and as human civilization itself. We refer our sceptics to scholarly writings by Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai, unearthing same-sex love and practices in our culture, literature and history.

In the words of Reverend Zachariah, "we can either continue to remain as an inhospitable religious club—a hostile community as the rapists of Sodom in Genesis 19, committing violence against the sexual minorities, or we can become a just and inclusive rainbow community celebrating our God given diversities by welcoming those who are different from us into our midst to experience Christian fellowship in a deeper way."

We call up our fellow Christians not to reject their children, siblings, and other family members who may be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

We believe, as Rev. Zachariah states, that differences should not be occasions for domination but for recognizing and validating variations within a richly diverse humanity.

VENUE OF PRESS MEET

Sahodaran

No. 27. New no.75, 3rd St Extn, Railway colony, Aminjikarai, Chennai 600029

For Directions, call Jaya 09381016129