

COLLECTIVE STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE TAMIL NADU STATE TRANSGENDER WELFARE BOARD

22 March, 2026

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill **must be withdrawn immediately!**

We, the members of the Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board, under the Tamilnadu State Social Welfare department stand united in strong opposition to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13 March 2026.

The amendment violates the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India and contradicts the historic Supreme Court judgment **NALSA vs Union of India (2014)**, as well as internationally recognised healthcare standards. The **NALSA judgment** affirmed the right to self-identification, recognising that every person has the right to determine and declare their own gender identity with dignity and autonomy.

The proposed amendment removes the right to self-identification and shifts this power to government-appointed medical boards and district magistrates forcing transgender persons to prove their identity through medical scrutiny and bureaucratic approval. This process violates privacy, bodily autonomy, dignity and disproportionately harms already marginalised transgender communities.

The bill removes identities such as trans women, trans men and genderqueer persons from the definition of transgender persons. This effectively excludes communities including Thirunangai, Thirunambi, Trans Masculine and Non-binary persons from legal recognition and protection.

It also makes hormone treatment, medical procedures and surgeries mandatory for recognition, while enabling surveillance over private medical records by requiring them to be submitted to district authorities.

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The amendment risks criminalising Trans community structures, transgender families, activists, NGOs and allies by reviving harmful stereotypes that transgender persons “force” others to become transgender. These provisions can easily be misused to harass community leaders, support networks, organisations and individuals who assist transgender persons in living with dignity.

The bill therefore empowers police, courts, district authorities and medical boards, while disempowering transgender persons themselves. It does not benefit any community under the transgender umbrella— including trans men, trans women, guru-chela systems, intersex persons, non-binary persons, kothis and genderqueer persons.

Instead of rolling back rights, the government must address the real demands of transgender communities, including:

- Horizontal reservations
- Age relaxations and mark concessions
- Access to education and public employment
- Housing schemes
- Public transport concessions
- Accessible and quality healthcare
- Pensions and social security
- Shelter homes and support for elderly transgender persons

Our Appeal to the Union Ministry!

We, the Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board, strongly urge the Union Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment to:

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Reject the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026.
Implement fully the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, ensuring the constitutional right to self-identification and protecting the dignity, autonomy, and rights of transgender persons.

We declare, collectively, that the fight for transgender rights is a fight for justice, equality, and human dignity. Any attempt to undermine these rights will be met with united resistance from our communities.

With regards

Members of the Tamilnadu State Transgender Welfare Board

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