

Kalki Subramaniam

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To,
The Hon'ble Dr. Virendra Kumar,
Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment,
Government of India,
Room No. 201, C-Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi - 110001.

Date: 15.03.2026

Dear Dr. Virendra Kumar, ji

I am writing to you in my capacity as a member of the National Council for Transgender Persons to express my strong opposition to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026.

While the bill introduces harsher punishments for forced begging and exploitation, it fails to provide any support system for transgender persons who are abandoned by their biological families. Without such a support structure—safe housing, financial assistance, healthcare, and rehabilitation—the amendment has no real meaning. Protection must go hand in hand with empowerment.

The amendment also gravely harms the community by removing the right to self-perceived gender identity and imposing medical gatekeeping. It excludes trans men, intersex persons, genderqueer and non-binary individuals from the scope of protection, leaving many vulnerable people outside the law. This is a direct violation of constitutional guarantees and the Supreme Court's NALSA judgment.

Furthermore, the existing Act prescribes only up to two years' imprisonment for those who harass, abuse, or harm transgender persons. This punishment is far too lenient given the severity of crimes faced by our community. The amendment should have increased these penalties to reflect the gravity of such offences.

(Ctnd..)



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The National Council for Transgender Persons, of which I am a member, was not informed or consulted about this amendment. This exclusion undermines the very purpose of the Council, which is to ensure that the voices of the community are represented in policymaking.

I state this bravely and with conviction: if this amendment becomes law in its current form, I will resign from my position as a member of the National Council for Transgender Persons. I cannot continue to serve in a body that is sidelined in such critical decisions and that endorses legislation which harms the very community it is meant to protect.

I urge you to reconsider the provisions of this amendment, restore the principle of self-identification, strengthen punishments for crimes against transgender persons, create a robust support system for abandoned transgender persons, and ensure meaningful consultation with the transgender community before moving forward.

With respect,

Kalki Subramaniam

Kalki Subramaniam,
Member and Southern Region Representative
National Council For Trans Persons (NCTP)

