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We strongly oppose the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, as it undermines the fundamental right to self-determination of gender identity. This right was unequivocally affirmed by the Supreme Court in the landmark NALSA vs. Union of India (2014) judgment, which recognized transgender persons as equal citizens entitled to dignity, autonomy, and constitutional protections. The existing Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 upholds this principle by allowing individuals to identify their gender without intrusive or coercive procedures.

The proposed amendment represents a regressive shift by attempting to dilute these hard-won rights, potentially reintroducing gatekeeping mechanisms that subject individuals to medical, bureaucratic, or social scrutiny. Such measures violate the principles of equality, privacy, and personal liberty enshrined in the Constitution. They also contradict India's commitments to human rights and inclusion.

Transgender persons already face systemic discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, and housing. Instead of strengthening protections and ensuring effective implementation of existing safeguards, this amendment risks deepening marginalization and exclusion. It sends a harmful message that the identities and lived realities of transgender people are subject to state control.

We call upon policymakers to reject this amendment and uphold the constitutional values of justice, dignity, and equality. Any legislative reform must be rooted in consultation with transgender communities and aimed at expanding rights—not curtailing them.



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