



# STUDENTS' FEDERATION OF INDIA



## CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Adarsh M Saji**  
(President)

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(General Secretary)

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### Press Release

#### **Hands off Trans Rights.**

#### **SFI Condemns the Exclusionary Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026**

The Students' Federation of India strongly condemns the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 79 of 2026) introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13 March 2026. The Bill represents a deeply regressive step that undermines the hard-won rights of transgender and gender-diverse people in India. The government pushing for amending a law without consulting the affected communities is unacceptable in a democracy. Instead of strengthening protections, the amendment attempts to narrow the definition of transgender identity, impose medical scrutiny, and strip away the principle of self-determination that lies at the heart of gender justice.

One of the most alarming aspects of the proposed amendment is the removal of the right to self-perceived gender identity by omitting the relevant provision of the 2019 Act. The existing law recognises the right of transgender persons to identify their gender without mandatory medical procedures or certification. This principle flows from the historic 2014 Supreme Court judgment in *NALSA v. Union of India*, which recognised self-identified gender as a fundamental right under the Constitution.

However, the new amendment replaces this with a system where the District Magistrate can issue identity certificates only after recommendations from a medical board, effectively subjecting transgender persons to bureaucratic and medical scrutiny.

This approach promotes transmedicalism, the idea that gender identity must be validated through medical or biological criteria, directly contradicting constitutional principles of dignity, privacy, and bodily autonomy.

The amendment also drastically narrows the definition of "transgender person." While the 2019 Act recognised a wide spectrum of identities, including trans men, trans women, gender-queer persons, and people with intersex variations irrespective of medical transition, the new proposal restricts recognition mainly to certain socio-cultural communities such as hijra, kinner, aravani, jogta, or persons with congenital intersex variations.

In doing so, the Bill excludes many gender identities, including trans men, non-binary persons, gender-fluid individuals, and others whose identities are based on self-determination rather than biological markers. This exclusionary framework denies recognition to large sections of the transgender and gender-diverse community and effectively erases their lived realities.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons accompanying the Bill further reveals its regressive intent by claiming that the law should not protect "each and every class of persons with various gender identities or self-perceived identities." This framing attempts to delegitimise gender diversity and reduces transgender identity to a narrowly defined biological condition. Such an approach pathologises gender identity, ignores contemporary understandings of gender, and disregards decades of struggles led by transgender movements across the country.



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It is also extremely concerning that this move mirrors the anti-trans acts that the imperialist war monger Donald Trump has been pushing in the United States, oppressing the transgender community there. India's secular and progressive ethos has always upheld the right of transgender community to self-determine and live without fear. This move by the government is detrimental for this ethos.

SFI believes that gender identity is a matter of personal autonomy and self-determination, not something to be validated by medical boards, bureaucrats, or the state. The proposed amendment undermines constitutional guarantees of equality, dignity, and freedom under Articles 14, 19, and 21, and violates the spirit of the NALSA judgment that recognised the right of transgender persons to determine their own gender identity.

At a time when educational institutions and society must move towards greater inclusion and equality, this Bill instead pushes transgender persons back into a regime of surveillance, exclusion, and state control over their identities. Such legislation threatens to institutionalise discrimination and deny access to rights, welfare schemes, and legal recognition for many gender-diverse individuals.

The Students' Federation of India, stands firmly in solidarity with the transgender community and all gender-diverse people in their struggle for dignity, equality, and self-determination. We demand the immediate withdrawal of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 and call upon democratic and progressive forces to unite against this regressive attempt to roll back fundamental rights.

Released by,  
Adarsh M Saji (President, SFI)  
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