

Joint Action Committee on Transgender and LGBTIQ+ Rights, Kerala
queerrightskeralam@gmail.com

URGENT: Press Conference Regarding the Passage of the Transgender Persons Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha

Dear Human Rights Defenders, Allies, and Community Partners,

The **Joint Action Committee on Transgender and LGBTIQ+ Rights, Kerala**, in collaboration with national collectives, issues an urgent call for solidarity.

Following its introduction on March 13, 2026, the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 was passed in the Lok Sabha on March 24, 2026.**

This legislative development marks a "Legal Erasure and Human Crisis" for the Trans and LGBTIQ+ community. We are convening a press conference in **New Delhi** to address this regressive and unconstitutional move that threatens to dismantle years of progress toward equality and dignity.

The community is rising in opposition to several critical aspects of the Bill:

- **Removal of Self-Identification:** The Bill eliminates the fundamental right to self-identify one's gender, transferring that authority to state-appointed medical boards.
- **Medical Gatekeeping:** It introduces invasive certification processes and bureaucratic hurdles that violate principles of autonomy and privacy.
- **Narrowed Definitions:** By restricting the definition of a "transgender person," the Bill effectively erases trans men, non-binary, and gender-diverse individuals from legal recognition.
- **Criminalization of Support:** Vague provisions criminalizing "influencing someone to become transgender" pose a direct threat to activists, families, healthcare providers, and essential care networks.
- **Undermining Welfare:** Restricting identity recognition at the national level will undermine successful state-level welfare systems, such as the inclusive policy Kerala has maintained since 2015.

Press Conference Details

- **Date:** Thursday, 26th March
- **Time:** 3 - 6 PM
- **Venue:** Press Club of India, Near Central Secretariate
- **Key Speakers:** Representatives from the Joint Action Committee, Kerala, along with national human rights advocates.

We demand the immediate withdrawal of this Bill in its current form. We call for the restoration of the right to self-identification without mandatory medical validation and the implementation of substantive welfare measures, including reservations in education and employment.

For RSVPs or Media Inquiries, please contact:

Sanjo Steve - 8893526719

Ponnu Ima - 9599746997

Harshappi - 8075573177

Joint Action Committee on Transgender and LGBTIQ+ Rights, Kerala

Ph: 7012135994 | 9747811406 | 9885876622 | 7907805353 | 9061313482 | 9599746997

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