



# All-India Feminist Alliance (ALIFA)



ALIFA

**National Alliance for Justice,  
Accountability & Rights (NAJAR)**  
*(associated with National Alliance of People's Movements -  
NAPM)*

NAJAR

Date: 26.03.2026

To,  
Smt. Draupadi Murmu,  
Hon'ble President of India,  
Rashtrapati Bhavan,  
New Delhi.

**Sub: Lawyers, Feminists & concerned citizens urge you to exercise powers under Article 111 of the Constitution to send the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill 2026 back to Parliament for reconsideration**

Respected Madam,

We, the undersigned lawyers, law students, feminists and social activists - members of the All-India Feminist Alliance (ALIFA) and National Alliance for Justice, Accountability and Rights (NAJAR) – pan India platforms associated with the National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) are extremely alarmed and distressed at the undue and unjustifiable haste with which the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have passed the deeply problematic and regressive Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 completely disregarding community concerns, opposition voices and in violation of established parliamentary procedures and multiple binding judgements of the Supreme Court.

We strongly urge you not to grant assent to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 and instead send it back to Parliament for reconsideration by exercising your power under Article 111 of the Constitution of India.

We provide the following grounds for you to withhold your assent:

## **Procedural infirmities in the manner in which the Bill was passed by Parliament**

1. Dr. Virendra Kumar, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), introduced the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill (hereinafter 'the Bill'), 2026 in Lok Sabha on 13 March 2026. The Bill was suddenly added to the agenda of the House through a supplementary list of business without affording MPs sufficient opportunity to read the Bill before its introduction.
2. Violating the mandate of the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy, 2014, the Government did not undertake any prior public and stakeholder consultation on the Bill before introducing it in Parliament.

3. The Bill was subsequently taken up by Lok Sabha and passed on 24 March 2026 despite severe opposition. Going against settled parliamentary conventions, the reply by Finance Minister to the debate on Finance Bill was postponed to suddenly take up the Bill.
4. In the Business Advisory Committee as well as on the floor of the House, several MPs requested the Government to send the Bill to a Standing or Select Committee for proper scrutiny, analysis and stakeholder consultation. However, the Government refused to send the Bill to a Committee without providing any cogent reason for the same.
5. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju also misled the House by claiming on the floor of Lok Sabha that extensive debate had happened on the Bill, when in fact, Government had not undertaken any consultation on the Bill.
6. The Bill was immediately taken up by Rajya Sabha the next day, i.e. on 25 March 2026. Again, several MPs moved motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee and demanded this during debate on the Bill as well, but the Government again refused to do so.
7. At no point of time has the Government explained the reason for the extraordinary rush with which the Bill was pushed through Parliament without proper scrutiny and stakeholder consultation when widespread protests have been ongoing against the Bill.
8. There was also no consultation even with the members of the National Council for Transgender Persons (NCTP) constituted under the 2019 Act, before bringing in these amendments. At the last minute the NCTP members were invited to Delhi, on 22nd March, 2026; but the Minister, MoSJE didn't meet the Council. As on date, it is reported that multiple members of NCTP have resigned, owing to severe democratic deficit in the entire process and the far-reaching effects this regressive Bill would have on transgender persons.

### **Constitutional violations through the provisions of the Bill**

1. In *National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India* (2014) 5 SCC 438 [“NALSA Judgement”], the Supreme Court held that the right to self-determination / self-identification of one’s gender is a fundamental right protected under Articles 14, 19, and 21 of the Constitution. The Bill omits Section 4(2) of the Principal Act, which guaranteed every person the right to self-perceived gender identity, thereby violating constitutional rights of citizens of India.
2. The Bill introduces a new “authority,” defined as a medical board, whose recommendation the District Magistrate is required to ‘examine’ before issuing a certificate of identity. The Supreme Court in *NALSA* judgment expressly rejected the requirement of medical evaluation as a pre-condition for recognizing gender identity. This also violates the right to bodily integrity and privacy protected under Article 21 (*Puttaswamy v. Union of India*).
3. While the Bill is presented as making implementation ‘more effective’ by reaching those who are “in actual need of protection” the amendments will in fact exclude a vast majority of the most marginalized - economically, culturally and socially - transgender people from accessing protections and rights, they are entitled to under law.
4. The new penal provisions under the substituted Section 18 criminalize compelling any person to “outwardly present a transgender identity.” Read alongside the substantially narrowed definition of “transgender person,” these provisions effectively treat self-determined transgender identity as an outcome of ‘coercion’ or ‘deception’ rather than

as a legitimate expression of personhood. They further risk being deployed against transgender communities and their support networks that have long functioned as informal safety nets, in the face of social and economic vulnerability and absence of state protection.

5. The Bill also severely violates the recent Judgement of the Supreme Court in *Jane Kaushik vs. Union of India (2025 INSC 1248)* - Judgement dated 17 Oct, 2025. The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee appointed by the Supreme Court in this case, Justice (Retd.) Asha Menon wrote an urgent letter to the Union Government (MoSJE) on 25-3-2026 to withdraw the Bill, but the Government still passed it in Parliament.

Therefore, in light of the above-mentioned concerns and constitutional violations, we the undersigned concerned citizens of India, urge you, as the guardian of the fundamental rights of citizens and custodian of constitutional values and morality, to:

1. **Withhold your assent** to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 as passed by both Houses of Parliament.
2. **Instead, by invoking your powers under Article 111 of the Constitution of India, refer the Bill back to the Parliament of India** with the recommendation that the Bill be referred to the relevant Standing Committee or a Select or Joint Parliament Committee for impartial and thorough scrutiny and extensive consultations with members of the transgender, intersex, non-binary and genderqueer communities, collectives and civil society, civil liberties groups on the operational and procedural aspects and limitations of the 2019 Act and the present Bill.

We are hopeful that you will stand with the citizens of India and exercise your constitutional powers and discharge your constitutional responsibility in advancing the rights of one of the most marginalized communities of India.

Your sincerely,

ALIFA Members	NAJAR Members
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meena Saraswathi Seshu, Sangram, Sangli, Maharashtra</li> <li>2. Suneetha A, Feminist Researcher, ALIFA, Hyderabad.</li> <li>3. Ravali P, Social Worker, Hyderabad, Telangana</li> <li>4. Saakshi Samant, Law Student, Mumbai, Maharashtra</li> <li>5. J Devika, Feminist Historian, Kerala.</li> <li>6. Ponnu Ima, Trans-Queer Person, Sahayatrika, Kerala</li> <li>7. Madhu Bhushan, Feminist Activist, Karnataka</li> <li>8. Ammu Abraham, Activist, Mumbai</li> <li>9. Adv Dr Shalu Nigam, Delhi NCR</li> <li>10. Neharika Mahajan, New Delhi.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gayatri Singh, Sr Advocate, Bombay High Court</li> <li>2. Muskan Tibrewala, Lawyer, Chennai</li> <li>3. Gatha, Thiruvananthapuram, Lawyer and Researcher, Keralam</li> <li>4. Pratik, Lawyer, Delhi NCR</li> <li>5. Avanti Deshpande, Lawyer, New Delhi</li> <li>6. Ishika Hazra, Law Student, West Bengal</li> <li>7. Auronisha Roy, Law Student, Kolkata</li> <li>8. Harsh Kinger, Advocate, Gujarat</li> <li>9. Ameya Deb, Law student, Bangalore</li> <li>10. Nikita Chavan, Law Student, Mumbai</li> <li>11. Khalil ur Rehaman, Advocate, Bombay High Court</li> </ol>

11. Laxmi Murthy, Bangalore	12. Shreya Panda, Law Student, Hyderabad
12. K. Sajaya, Women and Transgender Org Joint Action Committee, Telangana	13. Shafiujjma Ashraf, Law student, Punjab
13. V. Sandhya, WTJAC, Hyderabad	14. Diya Elizabeth Prakash, Law Student, Delhi
14. Bhanu Kalluri, Feminist Activist, Hyderabad	15. Samaa, Law Student, Kanker, Chhattisgarh
15. Jayasree Subramanian, Academic, Hyderabad	16. Shanthala Ramesh, Law student, Gurgaon, Haryana
16. Sharanya, Koraput, Odisha	17. Ameya Bokil, Legal Researcher, Bangalore
17. Shivani Taneja, Social Activist, Bhopal	18. Iswarya, Advocate, Chennai
18. Svati Shah, Academic, Mumbai	19. Parvathi Nair, Lawyer, Bangalore
19. Kalpana Karunakaran, Academic, Chennai	20. Dewangi, Legal Researcher, Delhi
20. Mamata Dash, New Delhi	21. Winona D'Souza, Lawyer, Ahmedabad
21. Moumita Alam, North Bengal	22. Madhura, Lawyer, Chennai
22. Arundhati Dhuru, Lucknow, NAPM	23. Lekshmi, Lawyer, Trivandrum
23. Prof. Rosemary Dzuwichu, Nagaland	24. Rishav, Lawyer, Dehradun
24. Shilpa Parthan, Researcher, Kerala	25. Ananya Aerra, Law student, Hyderabad
25. Arundhati Ghosh, Bangalore	26. Vishwas Tanwar, Lawyer, Delhi
26. Grace Banu, Trans Rights Now Collective, Tamil Nadu	27. Disha D, Lawyer, Surat, Gujarat
27. Nisha Gulur, Human rights activist, Bengaluru	28. Siddhi Shinde, Law Student, Mumbai
28. Ritu, Queers for Constitution Collective- New Delhi	29. Anushka Ojha, Advocate, New Delhi
29. Nikita, Researcher, Delhi/Haryana	30. Shraddha Halapnavar, Advocate, Karnataka
30. Smita Gupta, Economist and Activist, New Delhi	31. Katyayani Chandola, Advocate, New Delhi
31. Dr. Sanju, ALIFA Rajasthan	32. Raksha Awasya, Advocate, New Delhi
32. Nidhi, ALIFA	33. Sachin PS, Lawyer, Bangalore
33. Biraja Nandan Mishra, Odisha	34. Bhagyasha Kurane, Advocate, Bombay High Court
34. Ayan A, Queer Art and Action, Goa/Kolkata	35. Tanishqua Dhar, Advocate, Delhi
35. Kamal, Social activist, Vadodara, Gujarat	36. Geet, Advocate, New Delhi
36. Seema Azad, Social Activist, UP	37. Maansi V, Lawyer, Delhi
37. Ananya Iyer, Researcher, UP/Rajasthan	38. Hozefa Ujjaini, Advocate, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
38. Radhika Desai, Independent Researcher and Consultant, Gender and Livelihoods, Goa	39. Purbayan Chakraborty, Advocate Calcutta High Court, West Bengal
39. Aditi Maddali, Researcher, Mumbai	40. Sirishree Hotanahalli, Advocate, High Court of Karnataka, Dharwad Bench
	41. Ritesh Dhar Dubey, Lawyer, Delhi
	42. Varishtha Singh, Advocate, Delhi

<p>40. Arti Zodpe, MJSS, Parbhani</p> <p>41. Sagrika Rajora, Lawyer and Researcher, New Delhi.</p> <p>42. Yashna, Trans person, New Delhi</p> <p>43. Akanksha Mehta, researcher and educator</p> <p>44. Sagari Ramdas, Food Sovereignty Alliance</p> <p>45. P E Usha, Activist, Althia Women Collective, Kerala</p> <p>46. Chayanika Shah, Educator, Mumbai</p> <p>47. Geeta Seshu, Journalist, Mumbai</p> <p>48. Meera Sanghamitra, ALIFA Telangana</p> <p>49. Gabriele Dietrich, NAPM Tamil Nadu</p> <p>50. Bittu K R, scientist, Haryana</p> <p>51. Ritash, gender-fluid writer, Karnataka</p> <p>52. Nandini Rao Akkaraju, Social activist, New Delhi</p> <p>53. Don Hasar, Social Activist, Himachal</p> <p>54. N. Indira Rani, Independent Researcher &amp; MH Practitioner, Telangana</p> <p>55. Neha Saigal, Bangalore</p> <p>56. Renuka Kad, Researcher, Maharashtra</p> <p>57. Albertina Almeida, Advocate, Goa.</p> <p>58. Nikita Naidu, Climate Change and Regenerative Justice, Telangana</p> <p>59. Gouthami, Feminist, North Goa</p> <p>60. Rahee SG, PhD Student, New Delhi &amp; ALIYSA, ALIFA, NAPM</p> <p>61. Shiva, Feminist Researcher, New Delhi</p> <p>62. Tarini Manchanda, Independent Filmmaker, New Delhi</p> <p>63. Peehu Pardeshi, Academic, Mumbai</p> <p>64. Kavita Srivastava, President, PUCL India (Rajasthan)</p> <p>65. Faizan Khan, Independent Filmmaker, New Delhi</p> <p>66. Mukta Srivastava, Right to Food Campaign, Maharashtra</p> <p>67. Nikita Chatterjee, Feminist Activist, Bhopal</p> <p>68. Dr. Vandana Prasad, Public Health Activist, New Delhi</p>	<p>43. Ramani VM, Advocate, Madras High Court, Chennai</p> <p>44. Ranjit Vaghela, Lawyer, Ahmedabad Gujarat</p> <p>45. Vertika Mani, Advocate and Secretary PUCL Delhi</p> <p>46. Naveed Bukhtiyar, Advocate, J&amp;K High Court.</p> <p>47. Daniel Jose, Lawyer, Ernakulam, Kerala</p> <p>48. Shafaqat Badiger, Law student Dharwad, Karnataka</p> <p>49. Maharathi Madhu Kiran, Law student, Hubballi, Karnataka</p> <p>50. Bhargav Oza, Lawyer &amp; Labour researcher, Ahmedabad, Gujarat</p> <p>51. Farha Qureshi, Lawyer, Delhi</p> <p>52. Gowtham, Law Student, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu</p> <p>53. Anju Rao G. Lawyer, Hyderabad</p> <p>54. Bijoya Chanda, Advocate, West Bengal</p> <p>55. Sanjana Srikumar, Advocate, New Delhi</p> <p>56. Sabika, Lawyer, Lucknow</p> <p>57. Nisha Biswas, Law Researcher, Kolkata</p> <p>58. Somaya, Advocate, New Delhi</p> <p>59. Edgar Kaiser, Advocate, Tamil Nadu</p> <p>60. Akram, Advocate, Jammu</p> <p>61. Venkatraman, Advocate, Madurai, Tamil Nadu</p> <p>62. Shubham Kaushal, Law Researcher, Ahmedabad</p> <p>63. Sudha Bharadwaj, Advocate, Mumbai and Chhattisgarh</p> <p>64. Cassandra Nazareth, Lawyer, Goa</p> <p>65. Akhil Surya, Law Researcher, Hyderabad</p> <p>66. T Mohan, Advocate, Chennai, TN</p> <p>67. Ninni Susan Thomas, Advocate, New Delhi</p> <p>68. GK Anser, Advocate, Karnataka</p> <p>69. Kavin Castro, Advocate, Chennai</p>
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<p>69. Laxmi Murthy, Independent Journalist, Bengaluru</p> <p>70. Shewli, Academician, Mumbai</p>	<p>70. Nishita Sharma, Law Student, Hyderabad.</p> <p>71. Carina Singh, Lawyer, Delhi</p>
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