



## **2018-2019**

### Gender Equality Cell

Name of the Event – Discussion on Transgender Person's (Protection of Rights) Bill

Date of the Event – 12th February. 2019

On the 12th of February, Gender Equality Cell, Hansraj College, organised a general discussion on the Transgender Person's (Protection of Rights) Bill talking about both the "rights" which actually have been provided as well as the "flaws" which need to be sufficiently amended in the Bill. The discussion - at times taking the form of a debate - brought up the clauses of the bill as follows:

- The definition of a "Transgender" in chapter I of the bill is a disparity as it includes persons with "intersex variations" who may or may not identify as "Transgender".
- A certificate needs to be issued by a Screening committee including only one representative from the community, to recognize a person as a "Transgender". The issue in itself underwent a lot of deliberations as some claimed it to be "inhuman" while others suggested that it was a measure to prevent misuse of the Transgender Rights.
- The Bill further criminalises "begging or forced labour under compulsion or enticement" which takes away opportunities of livelihood we do not as yet have adequate provisions for education or healthy employment of members of the Transgender Community. This further tends to disrupt the age-old tradition of "Gharanas" which have been the base of social and cultural structure of the community, serving both the purpose of a shelter and an inclusive family.
- The punishment for criminal offences against a trans man or trans women has been kept remarkably low as compared to that for the cis-genders, which again violates their rights as individuals.
- Finally, the term "family" does not include the Gharanas which have been since the beginning of time, the only "family" that never closed their doors on a person for "who they were!"

The active and enthusiastic discussion of the members and participants alike, made this little attempt of ours remarkably successful.



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