

TRANS FORM

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
TRANSGENDER RIGHTS AND THE LAW

13-14
SEPT 2019

BANGALORE
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
(NEW BUILDING)

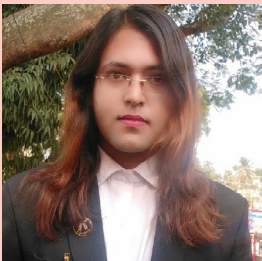
SPEAKER
BIOS



Pushpa Achanta is the Associate Director of Solidarity Foundation, which is a non-governmental organisation based in Bangalore that supports sex workers and sexual minorities. Pushpa moved from writing software code for 14 years to writing about people's stories for the last decade. Pushpa identifies as asexual and gender fluid.



Grace Banu is a Dalit and transrights activist who was also the first transgender person to be admitted to an engineering college in Tamil Nadu. She now works in Delhi as a Future Technologist with project Mukti and is also the Founder and Director of Trans Rights Now Collective. Grace writes extensively on the issues concerning the transgender community and has authored a book 'Thoughts of Transwoman Grace Banu'. She has recently filed a public interest litigation seeking horizontal reservations for transgender and intersex persons in education and public employment in Tamil Nadu, which is currently pending before the Madras High Court.



Swati Bidhan Baruah is an advocate practising in the Guwahati High Court. Swati is a transgender rights activist from Assam and is a founder of the All Assam Transgender Association. She is the first transgender person in India to be appointed as a judge to the Lok Adalat in Guwahati. Swati filed one of the first cases in India seeking permission from the court to undergo sex re-assignment surgery. She also filed an intervention application in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the biased nature of the National Register of Citizens. Moreover, she also filed an intervention application in the matter of setting up a Human Rights Court in the Indian Supreme Court. She has filed several petitions before the Guwahati High Court and also in the Supreme Court seeking implementation of the directions of the Supreme Court in NALSA v. Union of India and for protection of rights of transgender persons in Assam and the North-East. She also filed a PIL at Guwahati High Court challenging the Ayushman Bharat for accommodating transgenders under the said scheme.



Anindya Hajra is a transfeminist, transgender rights and social justice activist based in Calcutta, India whose relationship with activism has spanned about two decades. In 1998 she co-founded the Pratyay Gender Trust, one of the earliest community led collectives in India that became a support space for gender non-conforming and transgender persons facing harassment, stigma and violence for their gender identity / expression. Pratyay focuses on issues surrounding Transgender Persons' Right to Work, Economic Justice and Inclusion. She has been deeply involved with sexualities, gender, anti-homophobic/transphobic violence and transfeminist movements in India. She serves on the board of various South Asia and India level initiatives. A significant part of her work is focussed on collectivization of transgender persons across India, advocating with policy makers and building synergies across other human rights movements.



Nandan Kamath is the Principal Lawyer at LawNK, based in Bangalore, India. His practice specialises in sports, technology and media laws, with clients ranging from international and national sports federations, to leagues, teams, sponsors and athletes. Nandan graduated with a B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) from the National Law School of India University, B.C.L. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of Oxford (on a Rhodes Scholarship) and an LL.M. from Harvard Law School. He acts as Managing Trustee of GoSports Foundation, a non-profit that provides scholarships and support to junior Indian athletes.



Ricki Kgositau is the Executive Director of Accountability International, an international NGO with an African focus which holds leaders accountable for human rights, international and continental human rights law, policy and developmental commitments; as way to increase accountability towards marginalized, excluded and most underserved communities. As a seasoned human rights advocate and trans feminist who has over 11 years advocated for the rights, inclusion and dignity of sexual and gender minorities, Ricki continues to push legal and policy reform across the continent using accountability tools and mechanisms. She is passionate about using strategic impact litigation to advance the rights, equality and inclusion of various minority and marginalized communities. She was a chief litigant on a constitutional matter seeking legal gender recognition before the High Courts in Botswana that was successful in 2017. Ricki is the former Executive Director of Gender DynamiX; the first regional transgender focused NGO in Africa and the former Program Director for the KP-REACH (Key Populations Research, Evidence & Advocacy for Change in Health) regional program that strengthened the capacity of regional movements and organisations to meaningfully lobby and advocate for inclusion of sexual and gender minorities in the regional HIV response. She is also the co-founder of the Southern Africa Trans Forum (shortly known as the SATF); a sub-regional collective of over 15 trans-led and focused organisations. Ricki is also a 2016 Mandela-Washington Fellow and holds a degree in International Relations (with a specialty in International Human Rights Law & Diplomacy) and Criminology from Monash University.



Santa Khurai is the founder of the All Manipur Nupi Maanbi Association (AMANA). She has been actively involved on issues concerning gender and sexual minorities in North-East India for the last 15 years. Santa Khurai was a Committee Member for the North-East at the South-East Asian Human Rights Association on Gender and Sexual Minorities (SAHRA) from 2013-17. She has also presented before the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women on indigenous trans cultures, politics and challenges. She has helped form the Transgender Welfare Board, Manipur and works closely with the Manipur State Legal Services Authority to provide free legal aid to the trans communities of Manipur. Santa has conducted extensive research on Nupa Amaibi and Meeteilon / Manipuri language. She has also made a film 'The Unheard Voice' on Nupa Amaibi of Manipur.



Jayna Kothari is the Executive Director of the Centre for Law & Policy Research, Bangalore. She is a Senior Advocate and practises in the Karnataka High Court and the Supreme Court. She received her B.A. LL.B. degree from Bangalore University and read the BCL at Oxford University. Jayna has been awarded the Wrangler D.C. Pavate Fellowship in Cambridge University. Jayna's research and practice interests include constitutional law, gender and the law, disability rights and equality. She has appeared and argued before the Supreme Court in the constitutional challenge to Section 377 of the IPC on behalf of three transgender activists.



Daniel Mendonca is the first Indian intersex person to represent India in the United Nations in 2014. Daniel is also the first Indian Intersex TEDx Speaker from India. Daniel holds the Vidyarthi Bharti Ratne Award for excellence in Academics and a silver medal in Bachelor of Social Work. Daniel has spoken extensively on LGBTIQ+ rights on several national and international fora like The Economist Time Event (Hongkong), Salzburg Conference (Nepal), Amplify 18 (Taiwan). Daniel aims to create inclusive and safe spaces for all genders, to achieve the goal of equal world with equal opportunities.



Dr. Payoshni Mitra is an Athlete's Rights advocate and scholar to whom Ms. Dutee Chand first turned to for support when she was suspended for 'too much' natural testosterone in 2014. Dr. Mitra set out the appeal strategy and persuaded the Government of India (GoI) to support it. She has the unique experience of working very closely with hyperandrogenic athletes in Asia and also Africa. With her research and advocacy work, she has been able to help athletes win legal cases on complex gender issues on more than one occasion. The breadth of her work is substantial, enabling her to form effective alliances with athletes, government officials, advocates, scholars, scientists, lawyers, ethicists and media figures across the world. Her advocacy work has led to policy changes in sports in India and important social, institutional and structural changes internationally. Her work with the media in India has largely helped bolster public opinion in favour of athletes who are discriminated on the basis of hyperandrogenism. She has successfully led a research project on sport, sexual harassment and gender discrimination at the Jadavpur University with support from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GoI under the Human Resources Development in Sports Scheme. Mitra has previously worked as a consultant with Sports Authority of India in 2014-2015, and as a consultant with the Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GoI in 2012-2013. She was the government appointed Advisor-cum-Mediator in Dutee Chand's case that resulted in the suspension of the controversial Hyperandrogenism Regulations in the Rio and PyeongChang Olympics. Mitra is currently teaching as an Associate Lecturer of Sport in Society at Birkbeck College, University of London. Mitra was part of the 10-member expert group who testified for Ms. Caster Semenya in the recently concluded case at Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne.



Vyjayanti Vasanta Mogli: As a transgender person, Vyjayanti has actively been involved in advocacy efforts in the domain of gender to expand the rights of transgender people and women. Along with her other transgender friends, she is one of the founding members of the Telangana Hijra Intersex Transgender Samiti (THITS), an unfunded and an unregistered people's collective and network of hijra and transgender people. Vyjayanti works extensively with the transgender community for their rights, the legal fraternity and the state and its agencies to foster a legal framework that decriminalises the existence and livelihoods of the transgender community.



Arvind Narrain is a lawyer and activist who was involved with the challenge to Section 377 through its long journey till the culmination in Navtej Singh Johar. He is the co-author of "Breathing Life into the Constitution: Human Rights Lawyering in India" and co-editor of "Law like Love: Queer Perspectives on Law" and "Nothing to Fix: Medicalisation of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity". He is currently Director of Research and Practice with Arc International.



Kiran Nayak is an activist based in Chikkaballapura, Karnataka whose focus is on disability rights and sexuality issues. Kiran is the founder of Karnataka Vikalachethanara Samasthe, which is a community based organisation for persons with disabilities. He has previously worked for different non-governmental organisations in Karnataka such as Sangama, Aneka on transgender rights issues. At present, he is a Fellow with the Solidarity Foundation. His efforts have been recognised by the Government of Karnataka and he was conferred with the Rajya Prasasthi Award, Uttama Samaja Sevakaru Award by the State Government and the Good Crisis Manager Award from the District Legal Services Authority, Chikkaballapura.



Dr. Akkai Padmashali is a transwoman and social activist. In 2012, she became the first male to female transgender woman in Karnataka to complete her sex reassignment surgery. In 2014, she co-founded Ondede, an organization of feminists, activists, thinkers, and academics who recognized the need to converge the interests of three movements in the country – children's rights, women's rights, and the rights of sexual minorities. Dr. Padmashali has conducted many workshops on sexuality and gender at colleges across the country and she has held seminars on sexual minorities for government officials. Dr. Padmashali was a member of the Karnataka Sex Worker Status Committee, Government of Karnataka, and also a member of the Drafting Committee which drafted the Policy for Transgender Persons in Karnataka and is a member of the Planning Committee for Karnataka's Commission for Transgender Persons, which is the first government commission of its kind in India. In 2016, Dr. Padmashali visited the White House in the United States to raise issues about transgender persons and sexual minorities. Padmashali is the first transwoman in the world who received Ashoka Global Fellowship to fight for the rights of transgender persons and sexual minorities.



Boni Paul is an intersex Indian footballer who played for the women's team of the State of West Bengal and led the team to victory in the National Football Championships, 1994. In 1998 Boni was denied permission to travel and represent the Indian women's football team in the 1998 Asian Games due to a sex test conducted prior to the tournament. Thereafter Boni transitioned as male. He is married and lives with his wife Sathi Sarkar in West Bengal.



Pinki Pramanik is an Indian athlete who has competed in sprint and middle distance events. She was part of the 4x400 relay team that won silver at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, gold at the 2006 Asian Games in Doha and gold at the 2005 Asian Indoor Games in Bangkok. She won three gold medals at the 2006 South Asian Games, winning the 400m and 800m events, as well as the relay. At the age of 17, she won two bronze medals at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships and had the rare opportunity to represent Asia at the IAAF World Cup in Athens in 2006. All of Pinki's big achievements in the track came when she was still a teenager. Unfortunately, she had to stop competing in 2007 after being informally asked to quit by Athletics Federation of India. She returned to the track in 2015 after Dutee Chand won her case and the Hyperandrogenism Regulations were suspended. She is an employee of the Eastern Railways, and she lives and trains in Kolkata. She has been outspoken about the rights of people from sexual minority groups.



Dr. L. Ramakrishnan is a public health professional currently with the non-governmental organization SAATHII in Chennai, and an advocate for LGBTIQ+ equality and gender justice. For the past 17 years, he has been leading programs that promote access to health, legal and social services for populations marginalized on account of HIV, gender and sexuality in India. He has been a part of advocacy efforts for implementation of the Supreme Court's ruling on transgender rights at a state level in Odisha, Gujarat, Manipur and other North-Eastern states, in partnership with SAATHII state teams and community groups such as AMANA, ETA and Vikalp (Women's Group). This work has enabled over 250 transgender people to obtain name-gender change affidavits, contributed to formation of transmen-inclusive transgender welfare boards in Manipur and Gujarat. He was part of the MSJE committee that drafted recommendations for transgender inclusion prior to the NALSA verdict in 2014. More recently, he was on the multi-disciplinary committee constituted by the Department of Medical Education and National Health Mission in Tamil Nadu that recommended banning of non-essential sex assignment surgeries for intersex infants in the state, following the *Arunkumar and Sreeja v. Inspector General of Registration and Ors.* verdict.



Jeff Redding is a Senior Research Fellow at Melbourne Law School and a New Generation Network scholar at the Australia India Institute at the University of Melbourne. Jeff's research interests are in the areas of comparative law and religion, Islamic law, legal pluralism, family law, and law & sexuality. He has lectured widely on these topics in North America, South Asia, and Europe, including recently being a Visiting Professor at l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, a Visiting Fellow at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg Centre for Advanced Study of Law as Culture (Recht Als Kultur) in Germany, and Visiting Faculty at the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law at the Lahore University of Management Sciences in Pakistan.



Carmeliza Rosário is currently a Doctoral candidate at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen, Norway. She has a Master of Philosophy in Development Anthropology from the same university, where she studied the impact of the 2004 Mozambican family law on polygamous relationships. As part of her doctoral studies she is conducting research on memory of women with power and authority in Zambezia, Mozambique. Her research region is Mozambique and her areas of interest include poverty and inequality, health, reproductive rights, women and vulnerable group's rights. Since 2016, she is part of the research team on the projects on Sexual & Reproductive Rights Lawfare & Political determinants of sexual and reproductive health, at the Christian Michelsen Institute in Norway.



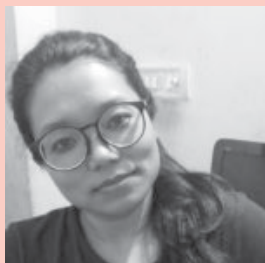
Vqueeram Aditya Sahai is an independent researcher on issues of gender and sexuality, writer and queer activist. S/he studied discrimination against non-normative gender and sexuality at the Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, TISS Bombay. S/he lives and loves in Delhi.



Justice G.R. Swaminathan is a Judge of the Madras High Court. Justice Swaminathan was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court in 2017. He completed his B.L. from Central Law College, Salem and Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Pondicherry in 1990. He had a wide-ranging practicing before the Madras High Court and appeared a standing counsel for several public sector undertakings. In 2014, Justice Swaminathan was appointed as the Assistant Solicitor General of India for the Madurai Bench and held this position until his elevation to the Madras High Court in 2017. Recently Justice Swaminathan passed a judgement in *Arun Kumar & Anr. v. Inspector General of Registration & Ors.* upholding the right to marry for transgender persons and declaring that no intersex surgeries should be held.



Dr. Siddharth Swaminathan is a Professor at the Azim Premji University, Bangalore. He teaches courses on Politics in India, Welfare Rights, and Empirical Policy Analysis. He received an MA and Ph.D in Political Science from the Claremont Graduate University. His research focuses on political demography, voter behaviour, citizenship and urban governance in India. Prior to joining Azim Premji University, he held faculty positions at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, La Sierra University and California State University.



Rubani Yumkhaibam is a research scholar who has researched on the Nupi Maanbi community in Manipur. Her doctoral thesis 'Queer Womanhood: An Ethnography of Manipur Nupi Sabi / Nupi Maanbis' in the Department of Sociology, University of Delhi traces the emergence of Nupi Maanbi subjects in contemporary Manipur. She has been closely associated with the projects of the All Manipur Nupi Maanbi Association since 2012.



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