

One Day International Seminar
on
**SOCIO-LEGAL PERSPECTIVES ON
GENDER DIVERSITY AND
TRANSPERSONS' RIGHTS IN ASIA**

12th November, 2025

Organized by
Centre for Trans Studies (RAINBOW)
University Institute of Legal Studies
Panjab University, Chandigarh

in collaboration with
Fakultas Hukum, Universitas Airlangga
Surabaya, Indonesia

&

Transgender Protection Cell
Department of Social Welfare, Women
& Child Development
Chandigarh Administration

KNOWLEDGE & MEDIA PARTNERS



ASSOCIATES



Saksham
PRAKRITI WELFARE SOCIETY
CHANDIGARH



Transgender Welfare Equity & Empowerment Trust



About Panjab University

First established in Lahore in 1882, Panjab University (PU) stands as one of India's oldest universities, with a distinguished legacy of excellence in teaching and research across diverse disciplines. It is situated on a sprawling 550-acre campus in Chandigarh. According to NIRF Ranking 2025, Panjab University is ranked 35th among the Indian Universities, in addition the University holds an A++ accreditation grade as per NAAC Gradation. Upholding its glorious tradition of 142 years, the university continues to inspire academic excellence and innovation among its faculty and Students. The University's motto, "Lead us from darkness to light," reflects its commitment to knowledge, equity, and empowerment. It continues to play a pivotal role in shaping education and research in Northern India.

About University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS)

The University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS), established in 2004–05, has emerged as one of India's premier centres for legal education. In a short span of time, it has garnered a distinguished reputation for academic excellence and experiential learning, laying strong foundations in legal research, drafting, and advocacy. UILS seamlessly integrates theory with practice, offering students mandatory internships with esteemed judges, seasoned legal practitioners, and reputed organizations, providing critical exposure to the legal system in operation, guided by its philosophy of "law in action". The institute features modern infrastructure, including a well-equipped library, a fully functional moot court hall, and an advanced computer lab. Its academic environment is further enriched by two research journals and a dynamic placement and alumni cell. UILS is a thriving intellectual and professional hub where legal scholarship intersects with real-world application and it continues to shape confident, ethical, and socially responsible legal professionals poised to lead on both national and global stages.

About Centre for Trans Studies- RAINBOW

The Centre for Trans Studies – Rainbow was established in 2024 with a vision to foster unity, empowerment, and inclusivity while celebrating the full spectrum of gender identities and sexualities. The Centre represents a significant step forward in advancing gender diversity, equity, and sensitization, embodying a steadfast commitment to transcending traditional gender boundaries and challenging the societal stigma faced by transgender individuals. With a vision to promote greater acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ community, the Centre provides comprehensive support services and functions as a dynamic platform for impactful activism. Through a robust programme of seminars, guest lectures, workshops, and dialogues, it serves as a catalyst for social change and a beacon for building a more inclusive, empathetic, and humane society: one that affirms the dignity and rights of all individuals, regardless of gender.

About Universitas Airlangga

The Faculty of Law at Universitas Airlangga, founded in 1952, is one of Indonesia's oldest and most respected legal education institutions. With a rich legacy spanning over seven decades, it has consistently upheld a reputation for academic excellence, ethical integrity, and societal impact. The faculty comprises a single department that oversees four study programs: one undergraduate (S1), two master's (S2), and one doctoral (S3). In 2016, the undergraduate program received international accreditation from the ASEAN University Network Quality Assurance (AUN-QA), affirming its commitment to global standards in legal education.

About Transgender Protection Cell Chandigarh

The Transgender Protection Cell, Chandigarh, established in 2022 under the Department of Social Welfare, Women and Child Development, Chandigarh Administration, functions under the scheme launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. It serves as a dedicated mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020, safeguarding the rights and dignity of transgender persons.

A Transgender Welfare Board was reconstituted in 2023 (vide Notification No. Trans.cell/2023/1329 dated 20 February 2023) under the Chairmanship of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, UT Chandigarh, comprising 24 members, including two non-official members. Since its reconstitution, the Board has held eight meetings to promote inter-departmental coordination and policy implementation for the welfare of the transgender community.

The Cell aims to provide legal recognition, social inclusion, and equal opportunities to transgender persons by facilitating access to education, healthcare, employment, and welfare schemes. It also works to raise public awareness, reduce stigma, and promote dignity and respect for gender diversity. Through its continued efforts, the Cell embodies the Chandigarh Administration's commitment to creating an inclusive and equitable society where every individual, regardless of gender identity, can live with dignity, equality, and pride.

SCC Online- Knowledge Partner

SCC Online is India's most trusted legal research platform, renowned for its precision, depth, and technological innovation. Published by Eastern Book Company, SCC (Supreme Court Cases) has been the authoritative source of Indian case law for over five decades, cited more frequently than any other law report in the country. SCC Online brings this legacy into the digital age, offering seamless access to over 400 databases and millions of documents, including judgments, statutes, commentaries, and international legal materials, all curated with editorial rigour and updated daily.

SCC Times- Media Partner

SCC TIMES, brought to you by Eastern Book Company, began its journey in 2014 with the promise to bring the best analytical legal news. This platform sought to fill the void for timely and accurate reporting of legal news. Since then, SCC Times has grown exponentially by venturing into a domain which the mainstream media always shied away from. SCC Times is refining rather redefining the Analytical Legal Reporting Standards by emphasizing on qualitative reporting as against obsessing for breaking the news first. The Blogs mantra- No Hushed Jobs, No Speculation and No Rumour-Mongering! We are known for our integrity & values. SCC Times ranked among top 200 Global Law Blogs 2023 by Practice Source/ House of Butter "Global Law Blogs" Directory.

Theme of the Seminar

The transgender community continues to face widespread stigma and marginalization, enduring significant challenges in areas such as healthcare, employment, education, and social acceptance. Despite their longstanding historical presence in India and across Asia, transgender individuals still struggle for full recognition and equal rights. The issue of transgender rights remains a contentious topic in society, with transphobia and systemic discrimination emerging as critical concerns that demand urgent attention. The legal reforms and policy interventions have certainly moved us forward, but societal attitudes still lag behind. True inclusion isn't achieved through laws alone; it also demands a deeper cultural shift rooted in empathy, dignity, and respect.

The Centre for Trans Studies - Rainbow is organising an international seminar on the theme **"Socio-Legal Perspectives on Gender Diversity and Transpersons' Rights in Asia."** The seminar's main thrust areas are social inclusion, transphobia and the evolution of transgender rights in Asia (India and Indonesia in particular), from marginalisation to socio-legal recognition. It will focus on progress within laws and policies while analysing significant socio-legal movements. This seminar also intends to address ongoing challenges and gaps in legal protection, reflecting on how socio-legal frameworks can evolve to fully safeguard the rights of transgender individuals.

In Asian societies, transgender marginalisation is influenced by a complex interplay of systemic barriers. Many transgender persons continue to face violence, unemployment, homelessness, and denial of healthcare and education. The event is expected to fathom and explore legislative lacunae and spearhead the challenges ahead. By delving into the complexities of gender identity and sexuality, this seminar stands to influence societal attitudes, policy frameworks, and academic research in significant ways. It aims to educate students, legal professionals and society at large about the transgender community through dynamic and insightful discussions. This seminar will explore the intersection of social change and legal reform to promote inclusive policymaking and meaningful change.

Sub-Themes

I. BREAKING BINARY BARRIERS: ADVANCES IN GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION

- Gender as a social construct
- Historical Perspective of Trans Identity in Asia
- Trans Community and Issues of Sexuality
- Transmisogyny and Gender-Based Violence
- Understanding Trans Womanhood in Society
- Gender-Neutral Terminology and Its Role in Visibility and Respect
- Strategies to Deal with Transphobia in Society
- International Perspectives on Trans-Exclusion and Expression
- Exploring the Multifaceted Challenges faced by Trans-Community
- Political Regimes and Socio-Legal Status of Trans-Community

II. HEALTHCARE, BODILY AUTONOMY, AND WELL-BEING

- Access to gender-affirming healthcare
- Intersectional health disparities
- Mental health challenges and support systems
- HIV in Trans-Persons
- MTF vs FTM: Comparative Socio- Economic Analysis
- Substance abuse, coping mechanisms, and community support systems
- Training of healthcare professionals in gender care
- Inclusion of transgender persons in Health insurance
- International comparison of transgender rights in healthcare

III. REPRESENTATION IN CULTURE, MEDIA AND POLITICS

- Representation of the Trans Community in Media and Literature
- Stereotyping in films, TV, and social media
- Cultural recognition of indigenous third-gender communities
- Digital activism: campaigns, hashtags, and community mobilisation
- Transpersons' in Politics
- Impact of media representation on social attitudes
- The role of literature, theatre, and performing art in shaping societal attitudes
- Public perception and its influence on law and policy reforms
- Inclusion of transgender voices in policymaking and media production
- International comparison of transgender representation in culture and media narratives

Sub-Themes

IV. SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE, AND ACCESS TO BASIC RIGHTS

- Access to social security and welfare schemes
- Housing insecurity and lack of shelter among transgender persons
- Urban vs. Rural disparities in access to rights and services
- Family acceptance and community integration
- Socio-Economic Barriers in education and employment
- Community-based rehabilitation
- Role of NGOs and civil society in bridging welfare gaps
- Workplace Inclusion of the Trans Community
- International comparison of transgender rights in social inclusion

V. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND POLICY EVOLUTION

- Violence against transgender individuals
- Evolution of transgender rights movements
- Vision for comprehensive social and legal inclusion
- Strategies for effective advocacy and policy change
- Analysis of key legal milestones (NALSA judgment, The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019) till date.
- Implementation challenges and policy gaps
- Comparative analysis with international legal standards
- Legal Advocacy and Activism: Success and Ongoing Struggles
- Understanding Trans Womanhood in Law

***Any other topic related to the theme of the seminar**

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The abstract must not exceed 150 words and 3-4 keywords with the author's affiliation (name, designation, institution and contact details)

The abstract must be submitted to: seminarrainbow@gmail.com

The length of the full paper should be between 3000-5000 words.

The submission should be in MS Word (.doc/.docx) format with the following specifications:

Font: Times New Roman

Line Spacing: 1.5

Font Size: Title - 16, Sub-Title - 14, Text - 12.

Citation Method:

Social Sciences: APA (7th Edition)

Law: OSCOLA (4th Edition)

Note- Selected papers will be considered for publication in an edited book or a special issue of the RAINBOW Centre's upcoming journal. All rights related to the acceptance/rejection of research papers are reserved by the coordinators.

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

REGISTRATION FEES

- Teachers/Academicians/Professionals: ₹2000, plus Co-Author: ₹ 500 (each)
- Research Scholars: ₹ 750, plus Co-Author: ₹250 (each)
- Students: ₹ 300, plus Co-Author: ₹ 100 (each)

Note: Fee will be applicable to each participant.

PAYMENT DETAILS

- Account Holder Name: DIRECTOR, UILS, PU, CHD
- Bank Name: State Bank of India, Panjab University, Chandigarh
- Account Number: 10444979993
- IFSC Code: SBIN0000742

REGISTRATION LINK

<https://forms.gle/w3hKdB7sNNLeb9nx5>

Important Dates

- Last date for Registration, Abstract/ Full Paper Submission: **10th November, 2025**
- Date of the Seminar: **12th November, 2025**

Venue of the Seminar

University Institute of Legal Studies Panjab
University, Sector 14 Chandigarh, 160014.

Contact Us



seminarrainbow@gmail.com



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Presidential Address by Our Chief Guest



Ms. Anuradha S. Chagti,
IAS,CSS
Secretary, Social Welfare
Chandigarh Administration

Keynote Speaker



Mx. Dhananjay Chauhan
President, Saksham Prakriti Welfare Trust
Member, Chandigarh Transgender Welfare Board
Member, Anti discrimination Cell for Transgender
PU, Chandigarh

Distinguished Speakers



Dr. Riza Alifianto Kurniawan
Universitas Airlangga
Indonesia



Dr. Amira Paripurna
Universitas Airlangga
Indonesia

Guest Speakers



Prof. (Dr.) Rattan Singh
Vice Chancellor, Jagat Guru
Nanak Dev Punjab State
Open University, Patiala



Sr. Siji Issac
Principal
St. Anne's Convent School,
Sector-32 Chandigarh

GUEST OF HONOUR

Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig
Vice-Chancellor
Panjab University

Dr. Palika Arora
PCS, Director, Social Welfare,
Women and Child
Development, Chandigarh

Prof. (Dr.) Yojna Rawat
Dean of University Instruction
Panjab University

Mr. Yajvender Pal Verma
Registrar
Panjab University

Mr. Jagat Bhushan
Controller of Examination
Panjab University

Dr. Ravi Inder Singh
Dean of the College
Development Council
(DCDC)
Panjab University

Prof. (Dr.) Amit Chauhan
Dean of Student Welfare
Panjab University

Prof. (Dr.) Namita Gupta
Dean of Student Welfare
(Women)
Panjab University

Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Kaur
Dean, Faculty of Law
Panjab University

Prof. (Dr.) Madhurima Verma
Dean, Faculty of Arts
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Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Arora
Chairperson, Department of
Laws
Panjab University

Prof. Harsh Gandhar
Director, CDOE
Panjab University

Prof. (Dr.) Monica Munjal
Chairperson, Centre for
Social Work
Panjab University

Dr. Upneet Mangat
Chairperson, Centre for
Human Rights and Duties
Panjab University

Shri Ram Singh
Chandigarh Transgender
Welfare Board

OUR ORGANISERS

PATRON IN CHIEF



Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig
Vice-Chancellor
Panjab University

SEMINAR CHAIRPERSON



Prof. (Dr.) Shruti Bedi
Director, UILS
Panjab University

SEMINAR COORDINATORS



Prof. (Dr.) Gulshan Kumar



Prof. (Dr.) Navneet Arora



Dr. Supreet Gill

FACULTY ORGANISING TEAM



Dr. Harvinder Singh



Dr. Shafali



Dr. Abha Sethi

STUDENT ORGANISERS



Himanshi Dhingra



Veni Arora



Sohurm Singla



Aakanksha Dronacharya

Glimpses of Our Past Events by CTS RAINBOW



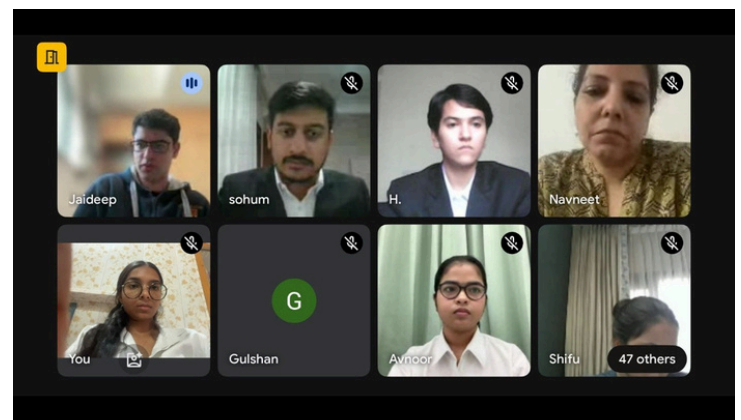
**Poster Making Competition
(12th September, 2024)**



**Ansuni Aawaaz- A Talk Show on
Legal Framework Concerning Trans
Persons
(24th October, 2024)**



**Nukkad Naatak on
Garvotsav 2025
(23rd March, 2025)**



**Online Lectures on Inheritance Rights of
Transgenders
(5th October, 2025)**



**Samanway- An Open Discussion on
Trans Athletes in Sports
(14th October, 2025)**



**Workshop on Research
Paper Writing
(30th November, 2025)**

Glimpses of Campus



GANDHI BHAWAN



**STATUE OF LADY JUSTICE
UILS, PU, CHD**



**WALL OF FAME OF
DISTINGUISHED ALUMINI OF UILS**



UILS BUILDING



FAKULTAS HUKUM, UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA, SURBAYA, INDONESIA