

What goes wrong with transgender persons



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GUWAHATI: December 15 will witness a 'Delhi Chalo' protest against the centre's decision to ignore all civil society inputs and table the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill of August 2016 in the winter session of the [Parliament](#).

This decision is being seen as a stunning reversal and letdown by the Government of [India](#) after more than a year's dialogue with transgender and intersex community groups on how to improve the Bill and make it more inclusive and respectful of gender diversity.

A series of events and other forms of protest have been lined up or already started by the transgender and intersex communities and their allies across the country in the run-up to the December 15 gathering in the capital.

These include protest marches in several cities, an online signature campaign initiated by Sampoorna [India](#), a postcard campaign started by community groups in Bengal and other states to flood the Prime Minister's Office, twitter and other social media campaigns, and media interfaces demanding that the Bill not be tabled in its current form.

Dialogue with [MPs](#) and MLAs of different political dispensations is also on the cards to create pressure on the government to drop its plans to table the Bill.

It is learnt that [Social](#) Justice Minister Thawaar Chand Gehlot of the Union Ministry of [Social](#) Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) have rejected all the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Transgender Bill.

The Bill if tabled in its current form, does not uphold the right to self-identify gender, proposes physical screenings by District Screening Committees to be used to certify trans, gender variant, and intersex people as transgender, offers token measures in the name of anti-discrimination, and refuses to recognize the distinct, even though sometimes overlapping, concerns of trans and gender variant individuals from intersex persons.

The Bill also criminalises begging, proposing six months to two years imprisonment with fine. This puts vulnerable trans and intersex women who beg on the streets of [India](#), due to lack of any other livelihood options, at grave risk of further police and State violence.

In fact, the Bill in its current form is a grave violation of the 2014 Indian Supreme Court's NALSA judgment on trans, gender non-conforming individuals' and intersex [rights](#) and is not in consonance with international precedents either that honour human [rights](#).

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