Event Report on Panel Discussion on "Transgender Persons' Law and Lived Experiences"

Date: Monday, 12 October 2026

Venue: Seminar Hall, Department of Law

The panel discussion titled "Transgender Persons' Law and Lived Experiences" was held on Monday, 12 October 2026, with the objective of exploring the legal framework concerning transgender persons in India and understanding their lived experiences, challenges, and concerns. The panel featured Ms Mahisha Riti, G. Varmitha, and Dr. Sangeetha Sriraam as panel members. Prof. Vijayalakshmi, Dr. Visalakshmi and Prof. Chandramouli P V S S R attended as special guests.



Figure 1: Felicitation by Special Guests

The event commenced with the introduction of the panel members, followed by their felicitation by Prof. P. Sakthivel and Dr. Sangeetha Sriraam. The special guests, Prof. Vijayalakshmi and Dr. Visalakshmi, also felicitated the panel members. Subsequently, Ms. Malavika Anil, Research Scholar, Department of Law, delivered the welcome address. She introduced the central theme and agenda of the discussion and invited the panel members to share their insights on the legal and social challenges faced by transgender persons.



Figure 2: **Welcome address**

G. Varmitha initiated the discussion by sharing her experiences as a transgender person and reflecting on the hardships she had encountered in her life. She highlighted the family-related challenges faced by transgender persons, including a lack of acceptance, rejection, and difficulties in finding support within their families. She also spoke about the challenges associated with rehabilitation and the need for adequate support systems to help transgender persons to live with dignity and independence.

Following this, Ms. Mahisha Riti opened her session by engaging the audience with questions about who transgender persons are and the distinction between sex and sexuality. Through this interactive approach, she encouraged the audience to reflect on gender identity and the misconceptions surrounding transgender persons. She also invited the audience to share their negative experiences and reflect on instances of stigma, discrimination, and stereotypes they had encountered. This interactive approach fostered an open discussion and encouraged the audience to critically examine societal attitudes and prejudices surrounding gender identity. She then elaborated on the difficulties transgender persons encounter in their everyday lives, drawing upon her own experiences of stigma, stereotypes, and discrimination while pursuing her career.



Figure 3: **Panel Discussion**

Ms. Riti also discussed concerns arising from the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026, particularly the implications of the amendments for the recognition and rights of transgender persons. She highlighted concerns regarding the exclusion of trans men from the definition of transgender persons under the amended legislation and emphasised the importance of ensuring that legal frameworks adequately recognise and protect the diverse experiences and identities within the transgender community.



Figure 4: **Glimpse of the appreciation of special guests to panel members.**

Dr Sangeetha Sriraam further enriched the discussion with questions for Ms Riti on the 2026 amendment, the difficulties of obtaining identity cards, and the remuneration of transgender persons in workplaces. These questions brought attention to the practical challenges that arise in implementing legal protections and ensuring equal opportunities, dignity, and inclusion in professional environments.

The session provided an opportunity for the audience to engage with both the legal dimensions of transgender persons' rights and the lived realities of transgender persons. By bringing together personal narratives and critical discussions on legislation, the panel highlighted the importance of examining laws not only through their formal provisions but also through their impact on the everyday lives of the communities they seek to protect.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Sangeetha Sriraam, who expressed her gratitude to the Central University of Tamil Nadu and the Department of Law for their support in organising the programme. She extended her sincere thanks to the panel members, Ms. Mahisha Riti and G. Varmitha, for sharing their valuable insights and lived experiences. She also acknowledged the contributions of the faculty members, research scholars, students, and all others who contributed to the successful conduct of the event. The panel discussion titled “Transgender Persons: Law and Lived Experiences” was organised by Prof. P. Sakthivel and Dr. Sangeetha Sriraam, whose efforts facilitated a meaningful discussion on transgender rights, legal recognition, and social inclusion.