

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**

07-May-2015 15:47 IST

Transgender as Third Gender

An Expert Committee was constituted in the Ministry to make an in-depth study of the problems being faced by the Transgender community and suggest suitable measures to ameliorate their problems. The Committee submitted its report on 27th January, 2014. One of the recommendations of the Committee is to declare transgender as 'third gender' and for indicating the gender on official documents.

On 15th April, 2014, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a Writ Petition (civil) No. 400/2012 filed by National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) has delivered its judgement on the issues of transgender persons, directing the Central and State Governments to take various steps for the welfare of transgender community. The Court has also directed that the recommendations of the Expert Committee be examined based on the legal declaration made in the above judgement and implemented. The Court has further directed that that Hijras, Eunuchs, apart from binary gender, be treated as "third gender" for the purpose of safeguarding their rights under Part III of our Constitution and the laws made by the Parliament and the State Legislature.

The University Grant Commission (UGC) has written a letter to all the universities requesting them to include a column for transgender category in all application forms/academic testimonials and all other relevant documents processed by them and as well as by their affiliated colleges.

UGC has also informed that it has issued directions to all its bureaus to ensure that the forms/ proformas of all the schemes being operated by it have a column for the transgender in gender category.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Vijay Sampla in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha here today.

RTS/ASB