

**(2022) 08 PAT CK 0031**

**Patna High Court**

**Case No:** Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No. 5627 Of 2020

Veera Yada

APPELLANT

Vs

Chief Secretary, Government Of  
Bihar

RESPONDENT

---

**Date of Decision:** Aug. 17, 2022

**Acts Referred:**

- Constitution Of India, 1950 - Article 14, 15, 15(2), 15(3), 15(4), 16, 16(2), 16(4), 19, 21, 51
- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020 - Rule 7
- Indian Penal Code, 1860 - Section 377
- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 - Section 2, 8, 10, 22

**Hon'ble Judges:** Sanjay Karol, CJ; S. Kumar, J

**Bench:** Division Bench

**Advocate:** Akash Keshav, Deepak Kumar, Dr. K. N. Singh, Ratnesh Kumar, Lalit Kishore, Ajay, Pratik Kr. Sinha, Sanjay Pandey, Binod Kr. Mishra, Vivek Anand Amritesh

**Final Decision:** Disposed Of

---

**Judgement**

'''

1. Following questions arise for consideration:-'''

(i) What is the nature of the duty cast upon the State to assimilate the members of the transgender community into the main stream of society and,"'''

reduce progressively, and eliminate discrimination against such a community?"'''

(ii) Does not the State owe positive duty to create avenues of employment for transgender persons in a manner that they are enabled in becoming, in,"'''

true sense citizens of the country as recognized by the Constitution?'''

2. The present writ petition highlights the extremely difficult conditions faced by the transgender community within the State of Bihar during the period,,,

of the Pandemic (COVID-19). The Petitioner drew our attention to various incidents such as denial of rations to certain persons belonging to the,,,

Transgender Community as also asking the Government to provide 25kg rations to all members of such community; monetary assistance of Rs. 5000/-,,,

; Rs. 2000/- for rent for a period of at least six months; set up of a speedy grievance redressal system; and establish facilitation centre; etc.,,,

3. This Court, appreciating effort taken to highlight the sorry condition in which people of the transgender community (hereinafter referred to as TGC),,,

were living within the State of Bihar, vide order dated 01.05.2020 noted that as per the 2011 census more than 40 thousand people, of TGC living",,,

within the State were facing certain issues. Reference was made to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 (hereinafter referred to",,,

as the Act) to underline the responsibility of the State to undertake welfare measures for people of the community. Relevant portion of the order dated,,,

01.05.2020 is quoted hereunder:-,,,

“The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) was enacted to provide for protection of",,,

rights of transgender persons and their welfare and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.,,,

As per the Act, no person or establishment shall discriminate against a transgender in the matter of education, employment, occupation, health",,,

enjoyment of goods, accommodation, services, facilities etc. In fact, by virtue of the provisions contained in Chapter III thereof, identity of the",,,

transgender persons stands recognized with a right to have proper record maintained by the authorities. Section 8 mandates the appropriate authority",,,

which in the instant case, as per definition (Section 2) would be the State, is required to take certain welfare measures. For ready reference Section 8",,,

reads as under:-,,,

“8. (1) The appropriate Government shall take steps to secure full and effective participation of transgender persons and their inclusion in society.,,,

(2) The appropriate Government shall take such welfare measures as may be prescribed to protect the rights and interests of transgender persons, and",,,

facilitate their access to welfare schemes framed by that Government.,,,

(3) The appropriate Government shall formulate welfare schemes and programmes which are transgender sensitive, nonstigmatising and non-discriminatory.,,,

(4) The appropriate Government shall take steps for the rescue, protection and rehabilitation of transgender persons to address the needs of such persons.,,,

(5) The appropriate Government shall take appropriate measures to promote and protect the right of transgender persons to participate in cultural and recreational activities.â€¸,,  
â€¸,,

Also the State shall consider providing a Facilitation Centre a one Point Centre dealing with all problems- for the members of the community at the,,  
grass root level, which can be similar to the Anganwari system prevalent in the State of Bihar.â€¸,,

4. Further, vide order dated 27.08.2020, the Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Government of Bihar, as well as Government of India",,,  
were directed to file an affidavit with respect to compliance of the provisions of the Act as also the directions issued by Honâ€™ble the Apex Court,,  
in National,,

Legal Services Authority v. Union of India, (2014) 5 SCC 438 and in particular para 135 thereof which reads as under:-",,,

â€¸135. We, therefore, declare:",,,

135.1. Hijras, eunuchs, apart from binary genders, be treated as â€œthird genderâ€¸ for the purpose of safeguarding their rights under Part III of our",,,

Constitution and the laws made by Parliament and the State Legislature.,,,

135.2. Transgender persons' right to decide their self-identified gender is also upheld and the Centre and State Governments are directed to grant legal,,  
recognition of their gender identity such as male, female or as third gender.",,,

135.3. We direct the Centre and the State Governments to take steps to treat them as Socially and Educationally Backward Classes of citizens and,,

extend all kinds of reservation in cases of admission in educational institutions and for public appointments.,,,

135. 4. The Centre and State Governments are directed to operate separate HIV serosurveillance centres since hijras/transgenders face several,,, sexual health issues.,,,

135.5. The Centre and State Governments should seriously address the problems being faced by hijras/transgenders such as fear, shame, gender" ,,,

dysphoria, social pressure, depression, suicidal tendencies, social stigma, etc. and any insistence for SRS for declaring one's gender is immoral and" ,,,

illegal.,,,

135.6. The Centre and State Governments should take proper measures to provide medical care to TGs in the hospitals and also provide them,,,

separate public toilets and other facilities.,,,

135.7. The Centre and State Governments should also take steps for framing various social welfare schemes for their betterment.,,,

S.No., "Direction of the

Honâ€™ble Court

passed in NLSA Vs UoI

Case", "Steps taken by the

State in the

Compliance of the

Case", Status

1., "Hijras, Eunuchs, apart

from binary gender, be

treated as â€œthird

genderâ€ for the purpose

of safeguarding their rights

under Part III of our

Constitution and the laws

made by the Parliament

and the State

Legislature.", "GAD resolution number

12722 dated

12.09.2014 declares

Hijras, Eunuchs and

those apart from binary

gender as "third

gender".", "Complied

2., "Transgender persons"

right to decide their self-

identified gender is also

upheld and the Centre and

State Governments are

directed to grant legal

recognition of their gender

identity such as male,

female or as third

gender", "GAD resolution number

12722 dated

12.09.2014 declares

Hijras, Eunuchs and

those apart from binary

gender as "third

gender".", "Complied

3., "We direct the Centre and

the State Governments to

take steps to treat them

socially and

educationally backward  
classes of citizens and  
extend all kinds of  
reservation in cases of  
admission in  
educational institutions and  
for public appointments.", "GAD resolution number  
12722 dated  
12.09.2014 declares  
"third gender" shall  
get the beneficial  
treatment as backward  
class in cases of  
admission in Universities  
and for appointments to  
State Governments  
services. District Council,  
Municipal Council, semi-  
government services  
and public enterprises.", "Complied  
4.", "Centre and State  
Governments are directed  
to operate separate HIV  
Sero - surveillance Centre  
since Hijras/Transgender  
face  
several sexual health  
issues.", "Letter No. 501 dated

27.02.2019 sent from

SWD to Health Dept.

about proposal outline

prepared regarding.

(i) to operate sep- arate

HIV Sero - surveillance

Centres since Hijras/

Trans- gender face

several sexual health

issues.

(ii) To address several

psychological problems", "Partly

complied,

remaining

under process

'''

'''

5., "Centre and State

Governments should

seriously address the

problems being faced by

Hijras/ Transgender such

as fear, shame, gender

dysphasia, social pressure,

depression, suicidal

tendencies, social stigma,

etc and any insistence for

SRS for declaring

one's gender is  
immoral and  
illegal.", "faced by Transgender.

(iii) To provide proper  
measure for medical care  
to Trans- gender.

In continuation of earlier  
letters sent to Heath  
Dept. through letter 123  
dated

17.01.2018, letter 889

dated 17.04.2018,

letter 56 dated

08.01.2019 and letter

852 dated 15.05.2020

requesting compliance.

>> Sensitization and  
awareness training of the  
plight of such persons  
has been done in SWD  
through meeting and  
Video Conferencing for  
all officials/ workforce of  
SWD and its 4  
directorates (DSW,  
ICDS, DSS, DDE) as  
well as State Disability  
Commission office. For



remaining State

government officials and

other officers a letter No.

1352 dated 21.05.2019

from

SWD has been sent.",

6., "Centre and State

Governments should take

proper measures to

provide medical care to

TGs in the hospitals and

also provide them separate

public toilets and other

facilities.",,

7., "Centre and State

Governments should also

take steps for framing

various social welfare

schemes for their

betterment.", "Bihar Rajya Kalyan

Board Rules, 2015

(notification 1378

dated 22.07.2015) covers

this. According to the

decision taken in Bihar

Kalyan Board meeting

dated 21.03.2018 for the

purposes of

recommendations and  
suggestions for  
transgender welfare, two  
committees have been  
formed by SWD order  
1320 dated

08.06.2018. viz (i)

Executive Committee

and (ii) Advisory

Committee." "Complied  
ongoing.

8.,"Centre and State

Governments should take

steps to create public

awareness so that TGs

will feel that they are also

part and parcel of the

social life and be not

treated as untouchables." "Sensitization and

awareness training of the

plight of such persons in

the light of the

observations contained in

W P (Criminal) 76/2016

(before Honâ€™ble

Supreme Court) has been

done in SWD through

meeting and Video

Conferencing for all  
officials/workforce of  
SWD and its 4  
directorates (DSW,  
ICDS, DSS, DDE) as  
well as State Disability  
Commission office.

For remaining State  
government officials and  
other officers a letter No.  
1352 dated 21.05.2019  
from

SWD has been sent. For  
Police Officials :

>>Letter no. 2385  
dated 02.05.2019  
from Deputy Inspector  
General of Police  
(Personnel) sent to SWD  
annexing copy of Letter  
no. 5811/400655/X.L.

dated 10.12.2018  
which was sent by  
Inspector General of  
Police (Provision) to apar  
P olic e Mahanideshak  
(aparadh anusandhan  
dept), all Prashetriya

Police Mahanirikshak,, all  
Shetriya Police Up-  
mahanirikshak, all variya  
police adhikshak, all  
variya police adhikshak (  
Rail Sahit) requesting  
them to ensure  
compliance with the SC  
directions in  
WP(Criminal) 76/2016.", "Complied  
ongoing.

9., "Centre and the State  
Governments should also  
take measures to regain  
their respect and place in  
the society which once  
they enjoyed in our cultural  
and social life.", "GAD resolution number  
12722 dated  
12.09.2014 declares  
"third gender" shall  
get the beneficial  
treatment as backward  
class in cases of  
admission in Universities  
and for appointments to  
S t a t e Government  
services, District Council,

Municipal Council, semi government services and public enterprises.

<< Sensitization and awareness training of the plight such persons has been conducted as stated above.", "Complied ongoing.

10., "An Expert Committee has already been constituted to make an in-depth study of the problems faced by the Transgender community and suggest measures that can be taken by the Government to ameliorate their problems and to submit its report with recommendations within three months of its constitution .

Let the recommendations be examined based on the legal declaration made in this Judgment and implemented within six

months.", "Steps taken as above.

Reply from SWD to

Ministry of Social Justice

and

Empowerment, UOI by

Gyapank 1789

dated 05.07.2019 to

Letter F.No. P.

13011/7(3)/2019-DP- III

dated 03.06.2019

from GOI. [This letter

also referred to D.O. No.

17-08-2013-DP-II

(Vol. II) dated

21.07.2014 sent from the

Ministry of Social Justice

and

Empowerment to all CS

which provides in its â€

Annexure IIâ€™™ a

summary of

conclusions and

recommendations of the

Expert

Committee.", "State part

complied, rest

on going

An affidavit filed by the State does indicate grant of benefit of reservation for certain posts, as a class to the Transgenders, in the category of OBC. If",,,

that were so, then how can such a benefit accorded, unless a person applies and not precluded from applying for the post.",,,

It appears that either the officers are working at cross purposes; without co-ordination; or not adequately sensitized, both of law as also the welfare",,, measures undertaken by the State.â€",,,

9. Pursuant to the above quoted observations, the State Government appreciably with a notification dated 14th January, 2021 took a decision to",,,

implement reservation to the position of Constable/Sub-Inspector for people of TGC-one post per five hundred.,,,

10. Vide order dated 03.02.2021, this Court took note of affidavit filed by Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, relevant portion of which",,,

is reproduced hereinunder:-,,,

â€œ3. It is further submitted that as stated above, the total population of transgender community in the State is very low i.e. 0.039% of total population",,,

of the State. Possibility of eligible candidate of transgender community for appointment of constable and sub inspector of Police would also very low.,,,

In above situation, it is considered practical to create a separate unit of Transgender Police Personnel named as Special Unit (Transgender) at the",,,

District Level under the District S.P. Initially, the structure of this unit will be 1-4(One officer-4 Constable/Havildar). As and when during the course",,,

of time the recruited number of transgender personnel increases, the number of units will be increased and converted into a squad strength comprising",,,

of 2-8, and subsequently into a platoon strength of 6-24.â€",,,

(Emphasis supplied),,,

11. It was in the light of this affidavit, the process of selection by Central Selection Board of Constables was allowed to continue in terms of the",,,

advertisement. Keeping in view the reformative nature of this inclusive selection process, this Court suggested that the lowest possible application fee",,,

may be charged from applicants from the reserved category.,,,

12. Vide order dated 09.03.2021, the Court noted that the issue to be considered is whether provisions of the Act would apply to people of TGC",,,

seeking appointment within the State. Such benefits stood accorded for recruitment of Constables/Inspectors. In addition to this, the Court suggested",,,

that benefit may also be extended to other Departments within the State considering the small population numbers as also have an overall positive,,, impact on the community. The relevant portion of the order dated 09.03.2021 is quoted hereinunder:,,,

“Perhaps, the limited issue which arises for consideration is as to whether benefit of the provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of”,,,

Rights) Act, 2019 would be applying to the transgenders for seeking appointment in the State of Bihar. We are informed that such benefit stands”,,,

accorded for recruitment of Constables/Inspectors, Home Department. In fact, considering the total population of the transgender community in Bihar,”,,,

which is 0.039% (Approximately 39,000 and odd), perhaps, the Government may consider conferring similar benefit with respect to other”,,,

Departments.,,,

A decision in the affirmative would not only uplift the lifestyle and education of the persons, but also going to be a correct step in bringing them into the”,,,

mainstream. Perhaps, at this point in time, there may not be very many persons to be even eligible to apply. But then, such benefit would only inspire”,,,

persons from such community to undertake education and to become eligible for appointment to such posts. May be, reservation on regular basis can”,,,

be confined upto O.B.C. category for transgenders. But then, that is a decision which the Government has to take.”,,,

13. The State is under constitutional as well as statutory obligation to protect the transgender community from the pervasive discrimination that they,,,

are facing. As citizens of India, they not only have all rights under the golden triangle of the Indian Constitution, i.e. Articles 14, 19 and 21, as”,,,

recognized by Honâ€™ble the Supreme Court in National Legal Services Authority Judgment (supra), but also, such obligation imposed by an”,,,

enactment of statute as well as International Instruments to which, India as a Nation is a signatory. Provisions which necessitate taking of steps for”,,,

welfare of this community are reproduced hereinbelow for emphasis.,,,

RELEVANT PROVISIONS,,,

14. After the recognition of transgender persons by Honâ€™ble the Supreme Court in the celebrated National Legal Services Authority Judgment,,,



(supra), the Union Government has enacted certain laws for the welfare of this hitherto neglected community, the same are being reproduced for",,,

effect:-,,,

The Transgender Persons(Protection of Rights) Act 2019.,,,

15. The object and reasons of clause of this Act reads-,,,

â€˜An Act to provide for protection of rights of transgender persons and their welfare and for matters connected therewith and incidental,,,

theretoâ€™.,,,

16. Under Chapter IV of the Act titled as â€œWelfare Measures By Governmentâ€, the Government is obligated to initiate welfare measures for",,,

persons of the transgender community.,,,

17. Section 8 obligates the appropriate Government to take steps to secure full and effective participation of transgender persons and their inclusion in,,,

society; (2) such welfare measures as may be prescribed to protect the rights and interests of transgender persons, and facilitate their access to",,,

welfare schemes framed by that Government; (3) formulate welfare schemes and programmes which are transgender sensitive, non-stigmatising and",,,

non-discriminatory; (4) take steps for the rescue, protection and rehabilitation of transgender persons to address the needs of such persons; (5) take",,,

appropriate measures to promote and protect the right of transgender persons to participate in cultural and recreational activities.,,,

18. Under Section 22, the Government is empowered to make rules for carrying out the provisions of the Act.",,,

19. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules were notified in 2020. Rule 7 thereof provides for Welfare measures, education, social",,,

security and health of transgender persons by appropriate Government; notifying the general category transgender persons in 'other backward classes',,,

so as to enable them to avail the benefits of vertical reservation provided for the other backward classes; review all existing educational, social",,,

security and health schemes and welfare measures to include transgender persons so as to protect their rights and interests and facilitate their access,,,

to such schemes and welfare measures; formulate educational, social security and health schemes and welfare schemes and programmes in a manner",,,

so as to be transgender sensitive, non-stigmatising and non-discriminatory to transgender persons; review Acts, rules, regulations, codes, bye-laws, and",,,  
such statutes for the rescue, protection and rehabilitation of transgender persons to address their needs; create facilities such as separate persons to",,,  
participate in cultural activities; carry out awareness campaigns to enlighten and facilitate transgender persons to avail benefits of welfare schemes as,,,  
well as to other stakeholders in developing appropriate change in behavior towards transgender persons.,,,

20. In *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India*, (2018) 10 SCC 1, Honâ€™ble the Supreme Court held as under:-",,,

â€œ181. The observation made in *Suresh Koushal* [*Suresh Kumar Koushal v. Naz Foundation*, (2014) 1 SCC 1 : (2013) 4 SCC (Cri) 1] that gays,",,

lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders constitute a very minuscule part of the population is perverse due to the very reason that such an approach would",,,

be violative of the equality principle enshrined under Article 14 of the Constitution. The mere fact that the percentage of population whose,,,

fundamental right to privacy is being abridged by the existence of Section 377 in its present form is low does not impose a limitation upon this Court,,,

from protecting the fundamental rights of those who are so affected by the present Section 377 IPC.,,,

182. The Constitution Framers could have never intended that the protection of fundamental rights was only for the majority population. If such had,,,

been the intention, then all provisions in Part III of the Constitution would have contained qualifying words such as â€œmajority personsâ€ or",,,

â€œmajority citizensâ€. Instead, the provisions have employed the words â€œany personâ€ and â€œany citizenâ€ making it manifest that the",,,

constitutional courts are under an obligation to protect the fundamental rights of every single citizen without waiting for the catastrophic situation when,,,

the fundamental rights of the majority of citizens get violated.,,,

183. Such a view is well supported on two counts, namely, one that the constitutional courts have to embody in their approach a telescopic vision",,,

wherein they inculcate the ability to be futuristic and do not procrastinate till the day when the number of citizens whose fundamental rights are,,,

affected and violated grow in figures. In the case at hand, whatever be the percentage of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders, this Court is not",,,

concerned with the number of persons belonging to the LGBT community. What matters is whether this community is entitled to certain fundamental",,,

rights which they claim and whether such fundamental rights are being violated due to the presence of a law in the statute book. If the answer to both",,,

these questions is in the affirmative, then the constitutional courts must not display an iota of doubt and must not hesitate in striking down such",,,

provision of law on the account of it being violative of the fundamental rights of certain citizens, however minuscule their percentage may be.â€",,,

21. In National Legal Services Authority (supra), Honâ€™ble the Supreme Court held as under:-",,,

â€66. Articles 15 and 16 sought to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, recognising that sex discrimination is a historical fact and needs to be",,,

addressed. The Constitution-makers, it can be gathered, gave emphasis to the fundamental right against sex discrimination so as to prevent the direct",,,

or indirect attitude to treat people differently, for the reason of not being in conformity with stereotypical generalisations of binary genders. Both",,,

gender and biological attributes constitute distinct components of sex. The biological characteristics, of course, include genitals, chromosomes and",,,

secondary sexual features, but gender attributes include one's self-image, the deep psychological or emotional sense of sexual identity and character."",,,

The discrimination on the ground of â€sexâ€ under Articles 15 and 16, therefore, includes discrimination on the ground of gender identity. The",,,

expression â€sexâ€ used in Articles 15 and 16 is not just limited to biological sex of male or female, but intended to include people who consider",,,

themselves to be neither male nor female.,,,

67. TGs have been systematically denied the rights under Article 15(2), that is, not to be subjected to any disability, liability, restriction or condition in",,,

regard to access to public places. TGs have also not been afforded special provisions envisaged under Article 15(4) for the advancement of the",,,

socially and educationally backward classes (SEBC) of citizens, which they are, and hence legally entitled and eligible to get the benefits of SEBC."",,,

State is bound to take some affirmative action for their advancement so that the injustice done to them for centuries could be remedied. TGs are also,,,

entitled to enjoy economic, social, cultural and political rights without discrimination, because forms of discrimination on the ground of gender are",,,

violative of fundamental freedoms and human rights. TGs have also been denied rights under Article 16(2) and discriminated against in respect of,,,

employment or office under the State on the ground of sex. TGs are also entitled to reservation in the matter of appointment, as envisaged under",,,

Article 16(4) of the Constitution. State is bound to take affirmative action to give them due representation in public services.,,,

68. Articles 15(2) to (4) and Article 16(4) read with the directive principles of State policy and various international instruments to which India is a,,,

party, call for social equality, which TGs could realise, only if facilities and opportunities are extended to them so that they can also live with dignity",,,

and equal status with other genders.,,,

74. The recognition of one's gender identity lies at the heart of the fundamental right to dignity. Gender, as already indicated, constitutes the core of",,,

one's sense of being as well as an integral part of a person's identity. Legal recognition of gender identity is, therefore, part of the right to dignity and",,,

freedom guaranteed under our Constitution.,,,

75. Article 21, as already indicated, guarantees the protection of "personal autonomy" of an individual. In *Anuj Garg v. Hotel Assn. of India*",,,

[(2008) 3 SCC 1] (SCC p. 15, paras 34-35), this Court held that personal autonomy includes both the negative right of not to be subject to interference",,,

by others and the positive right of individuals to make decisions about their life, to express themselves and to choose which activities to take part in.",,,

Self-determination of gender is an integral part of personal autonomy and self-expression and falls within the realm of personal liberty guaranteed,,,

under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.,,,

80. Article 21, as already indicated, protects one's right of self-determination of the gender to which a person belongs. Determination of gender to",,,

which a person belongs is to be decided by the person concerned. In other words, gender identity is integral to the dignity of an individual and is at the",,,

core of "personal autonomy" and "self-determination". Hijras/eunuchs, therefore, have to be considered as Third Gender, over and above",,,

binary genders under our Constitution and the laws.,,,

81. Articles 14, 15, 16, 19 and 21, above discussion, would indicate, do not exclude hijras/transgenders from their ambit, but the Indian law on the",,,

whole recognise the paradigm of binary genders of male and female, based on one's biological sex. As already indicated, we cannot accept the",,,

Corbett Principle of "biological test", rather we prefer to follow the psyche of the person in determining sex and gender and prefer the",,,

"psychological test" instead of "biological test". Binary notion of gender reflects in the Penal Code, 1860 for example, Section 8, 10, etc. and",,,

also in the laws related to marriage, adoption, divorce, inheritance, succession and other welfare legislations like NREGA, 2005, etc. Non-recognition",,,

of the identity of hijras/transgenders in the various legislations denies them equal protection of law and they face widespread discrimination.,,,

82. Article 14 has used the expression "person" and Article 15 has used the expression "citizen" and "sex" so also Article 16. Article 19,,,

has also used the expression "citizen". Article 21 has used the expression "person". All these expressions, which are "gender neutral",,,

evidently refer to human beings. Hence, they take within their sweep hijras/transgenders and are not as such limited to male or female gender. Gender",,,

identity as already indicated forms the core of one's personal self, based on self-identification, not on surgical or medical procedure. Gender identity, in",,,

our view, is an integral part of sex and no citizen can be discriminated on the ground of gender identity, including those who identify as third gender.",,,

100. Speaking for the vision of our Founding Fathers, in State of Karnataka v. Ranganatha Reddy [(1977) 4 SCC 471 : AIR 1978 SC 215] , this Court",,,

speaking through Krishna Iyer, J. observed : (SCC p. 496, paras 44-45)",,,

"44. The social philosophy of the Constitution shapes creative judicial vision and orientation. Our nation has, as its dynamic doctrine, economic",,,

democracy sans which political democracy is chimerical. We say so because our Constitution, in Parts III and IV and elsewhere, ensouls such a value",,,

system, and the debate in this case puts precisely this soul in peril.",,,

45. "Our thesis is that the dialectics of social justice should not be missed if the synthesis of Part III and Part IV is to influence State action and court pronouncements. Constitutional problems cannot be studied in a socio-economic vacuum, since socio-cultural changes are the source of the new values, and sloughing off old legal thought is part of the process of the new equity-loaded legality. A Judge is a social scientist in his role as constitutional invigilator and fails functionally if he forgets this dimension in his complex duties."

(emphasis in original),

105. The concepts of justice social, economic and political, equality of status and of opportunity and of assuring dignity of the individual incorporated in the Preamble, clearly recognise the right of one and all amongst the citizens of these basic essentials designed to flower the citizen's personality to its fullest. The concept of equality helps the citizens in reaching their highest potential. Thus, the emphasis is on the development of an individual in all respects.

106. The basic principle of the dignity and freedom of the individual is common to all nations, particularly those having democratic set-up. Democracy requires us to respect and develop the free spirit of human being which is responsible for all progress in human history. Democracy is also a method by which we attempt to raise the living standard of the people and to give opportunities to every person to develop his/her personality. It is founded on peaceful co-existence and cooperative living. If democracy is based on the recognition of the individuality and dignity of man, as a fortiori we have to recognise the right of a human being to choose his sex/gender identity which is integral to his/her personality and is one of the most basic aspect of self-determination, dignity and freedom. In fact, there is a growing recognition that the true measure of development of a nation is not economic growth; it is human dignity.

#### OBLIGATION UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW,

22. In keeping with Article 51 of the Constitution of India which relates to fostering respect for international law and treaties, it is pertinent to mention in light of the expanded scope of the petition vide order dated 20.05.2020, that we must also obligations of the state under international law, which will

serve as a markers of the direction in which our efforts, collectively as institutions of a democracy, should proceed.",,,

23. Article 4 (1) of the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights to which India is a signatory, imposes an obligation upon the State, even in",,,

times of emergency, to not discriminate. The text of the Article is reproduced hereunder-",,,

â€œIn time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation and the existence of which is officially proclaimed, the States Parties to the",,,

present Covenant may take measures derogating from their obligations under the present Covenant to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of",,,

the situation, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with their other obligations under international law and do not involve discrimination",,,

solely on the ground of race, colour, sex, language, religion or social origin.â€",,,

24. Article 26 of International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights reads as under:-",,,

â€œAll persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall",,,

prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex,",,,

language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.â€",,,

25. This has been echoed by Hon'ble the Apex Court in Navtej Singh Johar (supra).,,,

26. Article 2(2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reads as under:-",,,

â€œThe States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without",,,

discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.â€",,,

27. Article 11 of this Covenant recognizes that everyone has a right of an adequate standard of living, in the following terms-",,,

â€œ1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family,",,,

including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to",,,

ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international cooperation based on free consent.",,,

2. The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and",,,

through international co-operation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are neededâ€¦â€¦",,,

28. The UN Fact Sheet on â€œInternational Human Rights Law and Sexual Orientation & Gender Identityâ€™ puts it succinctly and directly as-,,,

â€œThe equality and non-discrimination guarantee provided by international human rights law applies to all people, regardless of sex, sexual orientation",,,

and gender identity or â€œother status.â€ There is no fine print, no hidden exemption clause, in any of our human rights treaties that might allow a",,,

State to guarantee full rights to some but withhold them from others purely on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.â€,,,

29. From the holding and observations of Honâ€™ble the Supreme Court in the above judgments as also the statutory as well as the International,,,

obligations referred to above, the duty of the State cannot be given further emphasis to. As a welfare State, it is first and foremost responsibility of the",,,

State to ensure the well being of all citizens. In case of the transgender community, not only were the eyes of the State shut, but also the prejudices so",,,

engrained were continued without thought.,,,

30. Significantly now, since the institution of this public interest litigation, the State has taken a number of appreciable steps which will/are having a",,,

positive impact on the community. It is hope which we hereby express, that the State will continue making efforts and breaking new ground in",,,

realization of all rights to the TGC as they are entitled under the Constitution of India.,,,

31. Beneficial treatment to members of TGC stands granted in compliance of directions of the Honâ€™ble Supreme Court in National Legal Services,,,

Authority (supra) as per the chart reproduced above. However, systemic discrimination shall not be cured only by employment opportunities. Other",,,

than welfare measures directed at TGC, the State must take steps to root out discrimination from within the general public. That may include",,,



awareness, sensitization programmes; educational reforms, training for educators; etc." ,,,

32. Apart from the steps that already stands taken, we direct that the steps labelled as pending in the chart referred to above, if still continue in the" ,,,  
same status, be expedited." ,,,

33. Considering that much time has passed since the last order of the Court, we further direct the Additional Chief Secretary, Social Welfare" ,,,

Department, Government of Bihar to convene a meeting, seek updates on the welfare measures and issue appropriate directions to ensure that" ,,,

further, all possible steps are taken for benefit of this community without any further delay." ,,,

34. Issues are answered accordingly.,,,

35. This petition as also the associated interlocutory applications stand disposed of with the above observations and directions.,,,