



mugil av <mugil.av09@gmail.com>

Re: 11th Annual Conference at NLSIU India; transgender rights and some self-advocacy

mugil av <mugil.av09@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 24, 2024 at 3:00 PM

To: doppenheimer@law.berkeley.edu, oxfordhumanrightshub@law.ox.ac.uk

Sir,

My name is Mugil. I am a transgender person currently involved in a year-long case against NLSIU, Bengaluru, pertaining to the absence of affirmative action for transgender persons and the wrongful denial of admission despite clearing the relevant entrance exams with favourable scores. After being provisionally admitted, towards which I paid the University 50000 INR, my admission has been held back due to my inability to pay the full fee of 3,25,000 INR, in one go, or secure any sponsors for the full three years.

The purpose of writing this email is not for you to take a stand in the matter. Discrimination is unfortunately the most commonplace situation in the world. And I must, like all citizens, await the resolution of the case. My purpose in writing this mail is two-pronged:

One of the claims against me is that I haven't taken enough efforts to raise funds. I don't know how to create resources without resources. As such, in the interest of transgender persons' right to education, I would like to advocate with you and the centres of education that you represent, for the setting up of a scholarship for transgender persons such as myself to complete our education here.

Amidst my effort for survival, and being outside academic networks, it was only recently that I got to know about the 11th Annual Conference on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination. I was once again made to realize the opportunity I have lost to participate in such a conference -- an opportunity I would have secured as a student of the University.

Towards advocating for rights of transgender persons, I have written a paper (attached herewith) titled "Eviscerative equality and (the need for) positive discrimination laws". Through this paper I have tried to provide a critique of comparative equality and anti-discrimination, centering the status of transgender persons in law and society. In this paper I have also provided a matrix for organizing positive discrimination (affirmative action) for transgender persons, and argued for a complete return to positive discrimination.

I would invite you to consider my paper, out of competition, and also consider exercising your good judgment and autonomy to make it possible for me to present/defend said paper and engage in critical debate on matters contained therein.

In 2022, I audited the course on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law, offered by your centre on the online learning platform edX. It was my hope that I could take forward my critical understanding of the matter by enrolling in and studying the law. This has not been possible so far.

Given the rising global anti-trans sentiment, and the many institutional hurdles in mobility, I am currently unable to pursue further education outside India. As such, seeking the establishment of a scholarship or sponsorship (one that local civil society organizations and the University are unable or unwilling to provide me) is the last option available to me. I am unaware as to why Universities would not initiate such processes, but I would urge you to consider assisting me and future dispossessed transgender persons in securing our basic rights, by asserting the value of investing in our education.

Since the matter is currently in the public domain, and pertains to a larger set of human rights, I felt it was essential to make this attempt as well and place it on record.

Attached herewith are word and pdf copies of the paper, a copy of the proposed matrix for a scholarship scheme, and a copy of my resume.

Thank you for your time and looking forward to a positive response.


Best,
Mugil A V

4 attachments

 **Transgender Matrix for Scholarships_June2024.pdf**
438K

 **Mugil_Eviscerative equality & Positive Discrimination_June 2024.docx**
63K

 **Mugil_Eviscerative equality & Positive Discrimination_June 2024.pdf**
877K

 **mugil_av_CV_2024.pdf**
60K