

Monthly Activity Report

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Month: February 2026

Focus Areas: Transgender Rights, Community Mobilisation, Livelihood Promotion, Policy Advocacy, Capacity Building, Awareness and Networking

1. Mobilisation of Transgender Self-Help Groups

Date: 6 February 2026



On 6 February 2026, two groups of transgender women were mobilised and guided through the process of forming **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**. The initiative focused on providing them with clarity regarding the **documentation, eligibility requirements, and formal procedures necessary for SHG registration.**



The groups were connected with local officials from the **Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA)**, a Government of Andhra Pradesh urban poverty alleviation programme that supports vulnerable communities through SHGs, financial inclusion, and

livelihood opportunities.

Background

Transgender communities in many parts of India face **systemic exclusion from formal financial systems**, including banking services, loans, and government livelihood schemes. SHGs have proven to be an effective mechanism for empowering marginalized communities by enabling collective savings, access to credit, and economic self-reliance.

Role of Partner Organisation

MEPMA works closely with urban poor communities by facilitating SHG formation, providing skill development opportunities, and linking groups to government welfare schemes. By connecting the transgender groups with MEPMA communication officers and local administration, the process of inclusion into government structures was initiated.

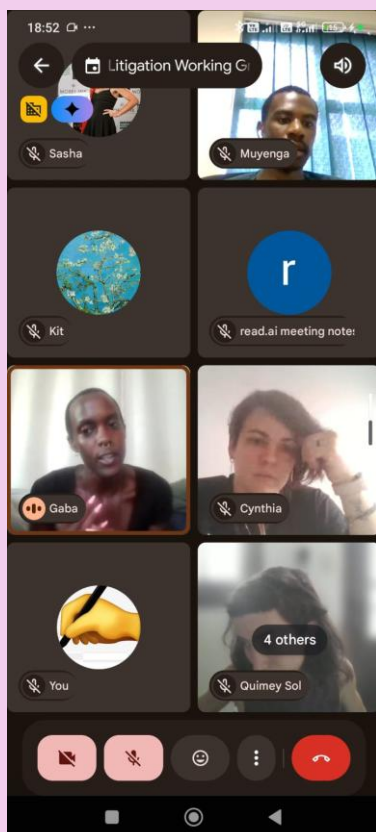
Ground-Level Impact

- Two transgender groups were guided toward formal SHG registration.
- Community members were introduced to financial inclusion mechanisms.
- The process strengthened trust between transgender communities and local governance institutions.

This initiative contributes to **economic empowerment and community self-governance**.

2. Participation in International Dialogue on Abortion Rights

Date: 12 February 2026



On 12 February 2026, participation took place in an online meeting organised by the **Transgender International Civil Liberties Organisations Collective**, focusing on **abortion rights and reproductive justice**.

Background

Reproductive rights discussions often overlook transgender individuals and gender-diverse people who may require access to reproductive healthcare services. Global conversations on abortion rights increasingly recognise the need to adopt **inclusive frameworks that acknowledge transgender and non-binary experiences**.

Purpose of Participation

The meeting provided a platform to:

- Share perspectives from South Asian transgender communities.

- Understand global advocacy frameworks on reproductive justice.
- Strengthen international solidarity among transgender rights advocates.

Impact

- Strengthened global networking with transgender rights organisations.
- Contributed regional perspectives to international discussions on reproductive rights.
- Enhanced understanding of intersectional health and legal issues affecting transgender people.

3. Preliminary Discussion on Biopic of Harshini Mekala

Date: 13 February 2026

Participated in preliminary discussions regarding the development of a **biographical film on Harshini Mekala**, a Dalit transgender woman and **Miss Asia 2024 title holder**.

The meeting involved discussions with **Ramesh** and his creative team.

Background



Harshini Mekala represents an inspiring journey of resilience, breaking barriers of caste, gender identity, and social stigma. Media representation plays a crucial role in shaping public perception of transgender individuals.

Purpose

The proposed biopic aims to:

- Highlight intersectional struggles faced by Dalit transgender women.
- Promote positive representation in mainstream cinema.
- Inspire younger transgender individuals.

Expected Impact

- Increased visibility of transgender stories in mainstream media.
- Challenging stereotypes through authentic storytelling.
- Encouraging inclusive narratives within the film industry.

4. Panel Discussion on Queer Stories in Mainstream Cinema

Date: 14 February 2026

Participated as a panelist in a discussion titled **“Queer Stories in Mainstream Movies”**, organised by **EKAM**, a collective of emerging filmmakers and technicians.

Co-Panelists



- Dr Nanditha Raj
- Dr Ahmad Laddoo
- Thota Aparna

Background

Mainstream cinema historically portrays LGBTQIA+ characters through stereotypes or limited narratives. Increasing representation in films can reshape societal attitudes and create greater acceptance.

Key Discussion Points

- Authentic storytelling in cinema
- Ethical

representation of queer lives

- Challenges faced by queer creators in the film industry

- Opportunities for inclusive storytelling

Impact

- Encouraged young filmmakers to adopt inclusive narratives.
- Strengthened dialogue between activists and film professionals.
- Promoted positive representation of transgender identities in cinema.

5. Participation in Discussions on Queer Love and Transgender Communities

Date: 14 February 2026

Participated in discussions organised by the **Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies** during the event **“Love Like Love”**, curated by **Arvind Narrain**.

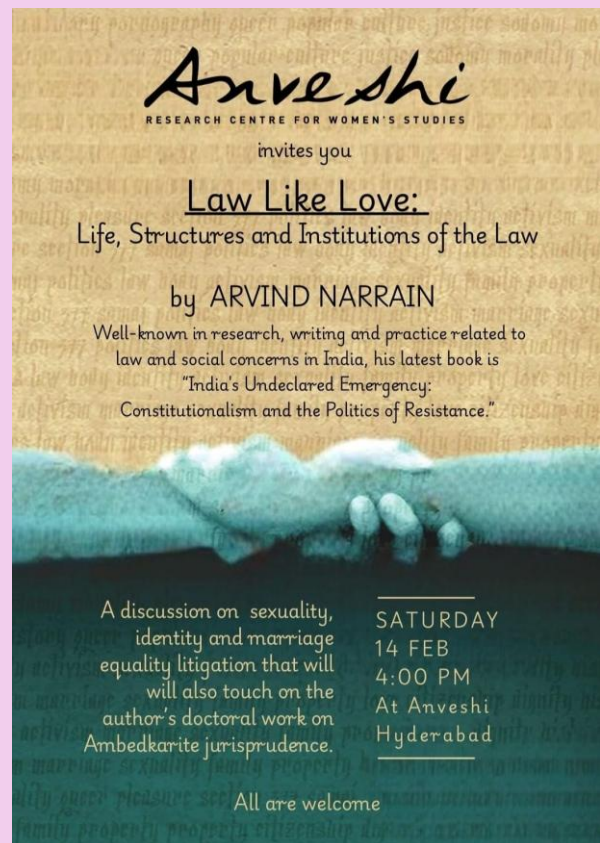
The discussions addressed themes such as:

- Queer love and relationships
- Social stigma faced by LGBTQIA+ individuals
- Intersectionality between transgender communities and sex workers

Later in the evening, attended a cultural programme at the **Queer Trans Wellness Centre**, featuring a performance titled **“Santhimmi’s”** by **Dr DU Saraswati** exploring queer love narratives.

Impact

- Strengthened intellectual engagement around queer social issues.
- Promoted inclusive dialogue on relationships and identity.
- Encouraged artistic and academic collaboration on LGBTQIA+ themes.



6. Felicitation of Dr Anuradha – Founder of Rainbow Homes

Date: 16 February 2026

Participated in the felicitation ceremony of **Dr Anuradha** organised by the **Telangana**



State Women and Transgender Organisations Joint Action Committee.

Background

Rainbow Homes Programme works with vulnerable children, particularly those from families of sex workers, providing housing, education, and social support.

Impact

- Recognised leadership within the social sector.
- Strengthened collaboration among women's and transgender organisations.
- Reinforced networks for collective advocacy.

7. HIV/AIDS Awareness Session for Theology Students

Date: 22 February 2026

Conducted an interactive session on **HIV/AIDS** at the **Andhra Christian College of Theology** for around **100 theology students**.

Background

Faith leaders often influence public attitudes toward health, gender, and sexuality. Sensitising theological students can contribute to reducing stigma in religious communities.



Key Topics Covered

- HIV transmission and prevention
- Stigma faced by LGBTQIA+ individuals
- Role of faith leaders in promoting compassionate responses

Impact

- Increased awareness among future religious leaders.
- Encouraged faith-based inclusion and support for people living with HIV.

8. Alternative Livelihood Promotion through Market Access

Date: 25 February 2026



Mobilised four transgender volunteers to showcase and sell products such as **jute bags and handmade jewellery** at a corporate event organised by the **Youngistan Foundation** at the **Synchrony Financial** office.

Background

Many transgender individuals rely on informal livelihoods due to discrimination in formal employment. Creating access to markets helps them transition toward sustainable income sources.

Impact

- Provided market exposure for transgender entrepreneurs.
- Encouraged alternative livelihood options beyond traditional survival occupations.
- Strengthened corporate-community partnerships.

9. Skill Training for Transgender Volunteers

Dates: 26–28 February 2026



Coordinated a **paper plate manufacturing training programme** for **10 transgender volunteers from Mancherial, Telangana** in collaboration with **JMJ Social Service Society** in Guntur.

Background

Skill training programmes help transgender individuals build sustainable livelihoods and reduce economic vulnerability.

Impact

- Participants gained practical skills for small-scale enterprise.
- Strengthened community-based income generation initiatives.

10. Sensitisation Training on Transgender Act, 2019

Dates: 17, 22 and 27 February 2026

Conducted training sessions on the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019** for various government officials:

- **33 District Circle Inspectors** at the **Dr MCR HRD Institute of Telangana (APPA Academy)**
- **72 MEPMA communication officers and administrative staff** from 24 districts





Background

Despite the enactment of the law, implementation gaps remain due to limited awareness among officials.

Key Topics

- Legal rights of transgender persons
- Implementation guidelines
- Anti-discrimination provisions
- Sensitisation toward LGBTQIA+ issues

Impact

- Improved awareness among law enforcement and administrative staff.
- Strengthened institutional support for transgender rights.

11. Saksham 3.0 Skill Development Programme

Throughout February, continued coordination of the **Gaurav Foundation Saksham 3.0 training programme.**

Details

- **50 transgender and hijra women enrolled**
- Training areas:
 - Beautician skills
 - Tailoring
 - Jute bag making
- Training location: Suraram



Impact

- Promoted vocational training and economic independence.
- Created pathways for long-term livelihood security.

12. Andhra Transgender Leaders State Consultation



Date: 28 February 2026

Mobilised and coordinated the **Andhra Transgender Leaders State Consultation** with support from **JMJ Social Service Society**.

Participants

- Transgender leaders from various districts
- Government departments including:
 - District Legal Services Authority
 - Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas
 - National Bank for Agriculture

and Rural Development

- Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society

Objectives

- Discuss pressing issues affecting transgender communities.
- Strengthen coordination between community leaders and government agencies.
- Identify policy gaps and opportunities for collaboration.

Impact

- Strengthened state-level advocacy networks.
- Facilitated dialogue between government departments and transgender leaders.

- Created a roadmap for future interventions supporting transgender rights and welfare.

Conclusion

The activities undertaken during **February 2026** demonstrate a comprehensive approach toward **transgender empowerment**, combining **community mobilisation, policy advocacy, skill development, livelihood promotion, cultural engagement, and institutional sensitisation**.

Through collaborations with government departments, civil society organisations, educational institutions, and international networks, these initiatives contributed to:

- Strengthening transgender leadership
- Expanding livelihood opportunities
- Increasing awareness of legal rights
- Promoting inclusive social narratives
- Building partnerships between communities and institutions

These efforts collectively contribute to **long-term social inclusion, dignity, and empowerment of transgender communities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**.