

Celebration of International Transgender Day of Visibility

Introduction

The International Transgender Day of Visibility was celebrated at the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim, Bluwakhani, on 31st March 2023, in collaboration with the Rainbow Hills Welfare Association. The event aimed at recognizing and uplifting the transgender community by fostering awareness, ensuring their electoral participation, and acknowledging their contributions to society.

Objective

The primary objectives of the celebration were:

- To honor and felicitate new members of the transgender community.
- To generate awareness regarding the facilitation provided by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for transgender voters.
- To encourage and assist transgender individuals in enrolling as voters in the state.
- To identify and reach out to potential transgender voters.
- To propose transgender icons for the state of Sikkim.

Event Highlights

1. Felicitation of Transgender Individuals

- New transgender individuals were recognized and felicitated for their courage and resilience.
- Their achievements and contributions to society were acknowledged and celebrated.

2. Awareness Session on Electoral Participation

- Officers from the Chief Electoral Office addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of voter registration among transgender individuals.
- Information was provided on the various facilitation measures available for transgender voters, ensuring their smooth participation in the electoral process.
- Queries from participants were addressed, and solutions were provided regarding voter enrollment procedures.

3. Encouragement for Voter Registration

- The event motivated transgender individuals to come forward and register themselves as voters.
- Assistance was provided to those who required help with the registration process.

4. Proposal for Nomination of Transgender State Icons

- A proposal was forwarded to the Election Commission of India (ECI) for the nomination of transgender state icons.
- Ms. Sajan Basnet and Mr. Yigyal Chettri were proposed as transgender icons for the state of Sikkim, recognizing their efforts in advocating for the community.

5. Identification of Unregistered Transgender Voters

- With the assistance of Rainbow Hills Welfare Association, efforts were made to identify potential and unheard transgender voters in the state.
- The initiative aimed at ensuring their voices are heard and that they exercise their right to vote.

Conclusion

The celebration of International Transgender Day of Visibility was a significant step towards inclusivity and empowerment of the transgender community in Sikkim. Through this initiative, the event successfully generated awareness, encouraged voter registration, and recognized the contributions of transgender individuals. The collaborative efforts with Rainbow Hills Welfare Association played a crucial role in reaching out to potential transgender voters and ensuring their active participation in the electoral process. Moving forward, continued support and awareness initiatives will further strengthen the representation and rights of the transgender community in the state.



