## PUTHIYA PATHAIYIL THIRUNANGAIGAL

## **TRANS OLYMPIC – 2020**

| Date       | : | 14.03.2020                                      |
|------------|---|---|
| Time       | : | 10.30 AM - 04                                   |
| Venue      | : | Lawrence Sundaram Hall, Loyola College, Chennai |
| Organisers | : | Loyola Community FM, Sahodaran,                 |
| -          |   | Indian Transgender Initiative & Thozhi          |



In view of bringing out the skills and talents of Transgender community to the mainstream, *Puthiya Pathaiyil Thirunangaigal, Trans Olympic 2020* was organised by Loyola FM in collaboration with Sahodaran, ITI, & Thozhi. They programme was held on 14<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020 in Lawrence Sundaram Hall, Loyola College, Chennai.

The inaugural session was begun with Tamil Anthem. Followed by a welcome dance by Ms.Vanitha & Ms.Vaishali. As light symbolises the source of goodness, Rev. Fr. Thomas SJ, the Principal of Loyola College, Mr. Sivakumar, the Programme Officer of TANSAC, Mr. G. Anandababu, the Police Inspector of Choolaimedu, along with some representatives from various transgender communities lighted the Kuthuvilakku.

Rev.Fr. A. Irudhayaraj, the director of Loyola Community FM, delivered the welcome address and explained the aim and purpose of *Trans Olympic 2020*. In his welcome address, he emphasised on unrecognised skills and potentials of transgenders. He stated that these unrecognised skills must be brought to lime light through programmes like *Trans Olympic 2020*. The programme would also enable the transgenders to gain new social identity, respect and equal human dignity. He also said that the Loyola College

would always stand for the empowerment of the transgenders to bring transformation in their life.

A symbolic Olympic torch was carried by five transgenders and handed over to Fr. Thomas SJ and Mr. Anandababu. Mr. Anandabau appreciated the initiatives taken by the Loyola College. He said that the police had adopted a befriending approach towards the transgender communities. Therefore, the transgenders must get rid of having animosity towards police officials.

International Photographer, Dr. L. Ramachandran said that he personally learned the art of emotional expressions from one of his transgender friends. Transgenders had unparalleled ways of expressing human emotions. He advised the participants to choose a model and to become models in photography industry.

The presence of Fr. Thomas SJ enthused participants. He said that from now onwards the transgender communities had begun new transformative journey. He was happy that their journey towards transformation had begun from Loyola Campus. He stressed upon availability of various opportunities for the transgenders in term of education and employment in Loyola College. He suggested that they had to utilise the opportunities to its full extent to excel in their future life. He assured that the Loyola College would introduce a special sports events for the transgenders from the next academic year onwards.

Mr. Sivakumar, the Programme Manager of TANSAC, appreciated all the endeavours taken by the Loyola College for the social transformation of transgenders. He also appreciated the police advocacy for understanding issues faced by transgenders.

Dr. L. Chinnappan, Head of the Department of VISCOM, expressed that the Loyola FM would continue to sensitise the public to understand the transgenders through various awareness campaigns. It would also render material and economical help to the transgenders.

First transgender councillor, Ms. Ria, encouraged the audience by sharing her political experiences. She mentioned that the rural people were to be sensitised to accept and recognise the transgenders. She also suggested that every transgender must strive for opportunities to improve their social status.

Vote of thanks was delivered by, Kalaimamani, Ms.Sudha, she extoled that Loyola had taken timely initiative for the transgenders to overcome many hurdles and to make differences in the societies.

Loyola Student, Ms.Swathi, read a poem written by Ms. Leka, Bangalore.

வணக்கம், மகளிர் தினத்திற்கே உரிய மங்கைகள் யார் தெரியுமா எனது அருமை திருநங்கை சகோதரிகளே அன்று பெண்மையை பேணாத கவிஞனே இல்லை அச்சம் மடம் நாணம் பயிர்ப்பு வெட்கம் நளினம் என்றெல்லாம் கவிஞர்கள் வர்ணிப்பார்கள் ஆனால் இன்று இவை அனைத்தையும் ஒரு சேர கொண்டவள் நீதானோ என்று தெரிகிறது எனக்கு

எல்லா பெண்களும் அட நான் ஒரு நாளாவது ஆணாக பிறந்திறக்கு கூடாதா என்<u>று</u> நினைப்பார்கள் ஆணுக்குப் பெண் நிகர் என்று பெண்மைக்கு புது வேடம் பூண்டு பல இடங்களில் பெண்கள் தங்களை ஆணகவே சித்தரித்து வாழ்கிறார்கள் ஆனால் பெண்மையை நேசிப்பவள் நீ சுவாசிப்பவள் நீ அதை அணு அணுவாக அனுபவிப்பவளும் நீதான் உனக்கு உதிக்கும் ஒவ்வொரு தினமும் மகளிர் தினமே தலைவாற நேரம் இல்லாமல் தலைவிரித்தான் கோலம் பூண்டு அலைகிறோம் நாங்கள் ஆனால் அழகாய் தலைவாரி நெற்றியில் திலகமிட்டு ஒரு திருநங்கை சகோதரி சொல்லக் கேட்டேன் நான் காலை உணவே இல்லாமல் கூட இருந்துவிடுவேன் ஆனால் என் தலையில் மல்லிகைப் பூ மட்டும் இல்லாமல் இருக்கமாட்டேன் என்<u>ற</u>ு என்ன நேர்த்தியான சேலைக்கட்டு உன்னுடையது எத்தனை அழகான மடிப்புக்கள் அதிலுண்டு அது எப்படி எல்லாவித சேலைகளும் சொல் பேச்சிக் கேட்கிறது உன்னிடம் உன் பெண்மையை உணர்த்த நீ படும் பாடு புரிகிறது சமுதாயமே சந்நு பரிந்துகொள் பிறப்பை துறக்கின்றாள் குடும்பத்தை துறக்கின்றாள் சமூகத்தை துறக்கின்றாள் அன்பைத் துறக்கின்றாள் அரவணைப்பைத் துறக்கின்றாள் எல்லாம் எதற்காக தன்னை பெண் என்று அடையாளப்படுத்திக்கொள்ள மட்டும் தானே. உள் ஒன்று வைத்து வெளியொன்று நடிக்கத் தெரியாத பேதைகள் அவர்கள் பெற்றோர்களே அன்பிற்கு அடிமைகள் அவர்கள் பிறப்பினுடைய முழு பொறுப்பும் உங்களுடையதே இடையில் எங்கோ க<u>ற்றுவந்து</u> ஏமாற்றவில்லை உம்மை உம் விளையாட்டு இறைவன் விளையாட்டால் ஏமாற்றம் கண்ட ஏமாளிகள் அவர்கள் தவறை நீங்கள் உணர்ந்து பொறுப்பை கையில் எடுங்கள் சரித்திரத்தில் உங்கள் பெயரை கொண்டுபோய் சேர்க்கும் உங்கள் பிள்ளை இதை நான் சத்தியமிட்டு சொல்லுகிறேன் அந்த பெண்மையை போற்றுவோம் வணங்குவோம் வாழவிடுவோம் முடிந்தால் வாழவைப்போம் சிறகை விரித்து பறக்கத்துடிக்கும் அவர்களை சிறகொடித்து நிற்கவிடாதீர்கள் எனது அனைத்து திருநங்கை சகோதரிகளுக்கும் மங்கையர் தின நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள் என்றென்றும் அன்புடன் பேச்சாளர் லேகா, பெங்களுர்

After a short tea break, there was debate on **Social Acceptance of Transgenders.** The entire debate programme was run by transgenders. Kalaimamani, Ms. Sudha, moderated the session. Ms. Malavika, Ms. Bara Bhabi, and Ms Karthika spoke for the social acceptance of the transgender by the public. Ms. Vaishnavi, Ms. Priya, and Ms.

Sangari spoke against the social acceptance of the transgender by the public. The debate was ended with the strong note that the transgenders were not still accepted by the other members of societies.

There was an interactive session between the students and the transgenders on the dais in the afternoon. Students asked their doubts and clarified their understanding of transgenders. They asked whether there was any imitative to prevent beggary and prostitution. The answer was that there would be gradual change. Once the social stigmatisation was eradicated, the social status of the transgenders would also improve. Transgenders ended up in beggary and prostitution because of social deprivation of employment and other livelihood supports. There was a question on understanding the problem of gender identity. The problem of gender identity was still unexplored. The gender identity crisis was a painful experience that every transgender underwent during their childhood. They experienced a lot of humiliation, gender discrimination and social isolation. They were rejected by their own family members during their childhood. The society had to understand the transgender with wider scientific perspective, especially the role of sex chromosome in determining one's gender identity. The interactions were very informative and effective in bringing changes among the students' perspective of transgenders.

In the final session Hon. Judge. K. Rajasekar, member of State Legal Services Authority of Tamil Nadu, explained about the free legal help, rendered by State Legal Services Authority. Last year, the State Legal Services had received 7000 petitions from transgenders. Among them 1500 petitions were for change of names. 120 petitioners were granted patta. 255 petitioners were given vocational training. He insisted on more public awareness to recognise transgenders as third gender.

Mr. Manimaran, Project Officer of TANSACS, said that there were 7 projects run by transgenders. The transgenders were being helped in terms obtaining official Government documents such as Aadhar, Ration card, and insurance. They were also supported by various HIV prevention programmes and skill development programmes.

The Loyola College handed over some requests for the welfare of transgenders to Dr. J. Radhakrishnan I.A.S., the Chief Secretary, State Relief and Revenue Commissioner and Ms. Madhumathi, State Social Welfare Secretary. The requests were as followed,

- 1. Reservation for transgender in education and employment.
- 2. Monthly pension for transgenders aged over 35 years instead of 40 years.
- 3. Availing livelihood support for transgenders in their neighbourhood and native environment.
- 4. Training interested transgenders to participate in Olympic games.

Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, I.A.S, stated that the Tamil Nadu Government had been pioneering in undertaking so many initiatives for the welfare of the transgender communities in national level. He assured that all the above requests would be discussed in respective official forums and they would be fulfilled. He requested all the audience to be aware the Corona Disease. He insisted on practicing personal hygiene especially hand wash would prevent 80% chance for the spread of the disease.

Ms. Mathumathi, I.A.S., State Social Welfare Secretary, shared that ther was a consistent fear and stigmatisation in the society regarding transgenders. She appreciated all their efforts to strive for achieving in life. The Tamil Nadu Government always prioritised UN sustainable development goal, "Leave no one behind". The State Government had issued 4000 Government ID proofs for transgenders. It had undertaken a census for transgenders. After completion of the census, the State Government would formulate new schemes for the welfare and empowerment of transgenders. She advised that transgender groups must be formed. Through groups skill development and residential training would be given.

Prizes were distributed for Rangoli and Drawing Competitions. In Rangoli competition, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize went to Ms. Ponni, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize went to Ms. Kamali and 1<sup>st</sup> prize went to Ms. Durgashree. In Drawing Competition, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize went to Ms. Priyanka, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize went to Ms. Anjali and 1<sup>st</sup> prize went to Ms. Kanjana.

Actor Mr. R. Parthiban introduced Ms. Maya, a trans actress in his future movie. He said that there was a need for collective responsibility for the upliftment of transgender communities.

The Chennai Police donated two street food stalls for Ms. Ruba Kala and Ms. Mohana Prabha.

Finally, the elders of transgender communities, namely Ms. Sundari, Ms. Anbu, Ms. Sailaja, Ms.Kokila, Ms. Jothi, Ms. Dhanam, and Ms. Uma, were gratefully remembered and honoured. Ms. Jaya delivered the Vote of Thanks, followed by National Anthem.