



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by "ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization - Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature), a non- governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 January 2025]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Telangana Leads the Way with Historic Recruitment of Transgender Traffic Troops**

The United Nations has progressively recognized and consistently advocated for the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, emphasizing the principles of equality, dignity, and non-discrimination as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The journey of LGBTQ+ advocacy within the UN has been marked by significant milestones and challenges, reflecting the diverse views of its member states.

The LGBTQ+ movement in India has seen significant progress over the years, evolving from a deeply marginalized and tabooed issue to greater social, legal, and political recognition. However, challenges remain in achieving full equality and acceptance.

In a bold and groundbreaking step toward inclusivity and empowerment, the Telangana government has made history by recruiting transgender individuals as traffic assistants in Hyderabad. This visionary initiative, spearheaded by Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy, is the first of its kind in India and the world. It simultaneously addresses employment challenges faced by the transgender community and improves traffic management in the bustling city.

### **From Marginalization to Empowerment**

For decades, transgender individuals in India have faced social and economic alienation, often being relegated to begging or ceremonial roles for survival. The Hyderabad Traffic Police's recruitment of 44 transgender traffic assistants is a transformative leap from this past. These individuals now stand as symbols of resilience and determination, earning respect and breaking barriers in a society that once shunned them.

### **For a Just and Equal Society**

The recruitment of transgender individuals into the Telangana Police has been a life-changing experience for many, filling them with pride, dignity, and a sense of belonging. For the first time, they felt truly recognized and valued as equal contributors to society. This opportunity provided them with stable livelihoods, breaking the cycle of marginalization and offering a platform to serve the community. It also inspired hope among others in the transgender community, signaling a shift toward acceptance and inclusion. Their presence in the police force challenges societal biases, fostering greater understanding and paving the way for a more equitable future.

### **The Recruitment Drive: A Thoughtful Initiative**

This initiative began when CM Reddy directed officials to explore ways to utilize the services of transgender individuals in traffic management. With an emphasis on inclusion, the recruitment process was meticulously planned.

### **Employment as a Cornerstone of Empowerment**

To be eligible, candidates were required to be Indian citizens, local residents, and possess a minimum qualification of 10th standard. They underwent rigorous physical fitness tests, including an 800-meter run, long jump, and shot put. Out of the many who applied, 44 individuals were selected after meeting the stringent criteria, successfully completed the intensive training program. On December 22, 2024, these recruits proudly donned their uniforms, stepping into their new roles with a sense of pride and determination.

For these traffic assistants, the job is more than just a source of income—it's a path to dignity and stability. Financial independence allows them to plan for their future, access healthcare, and pursue further education or skill development. Their visible presence on the roads of Hyderabad challenges deep-rooted biases, fostering acceptance and respect.

## Telangana: A Trailblazer in LGBTQ+ Inclusivity

This initiative is part of Telangana's broader efforts to champion LGBTQ+ rights and welfare. Other measures include:

1. Transgender Welfare Board: Addressing housing, healthcare, and education needs.
2. Skill Development Programs: Offering employable skills to broaden career opportunities.
3. Public Awareness Campaigns: Sensitizing society to transgender issues.
4. Healthcare Access: Providing specialized services, including mental health support and gender affirmation surgeries.

## A Ripple Effect of Change

The impact of this program extends beyond the lives of the recruits. It sends a powerful message of inclusivity and equality to society at large, inspiring hope within the transgender community. This initiative demonstrates that with the right support, marginalized individuals can thrive and contribute meaningfully to society.

## Challenges and the Way Forward

Despite its success, challenges remain. Societal acceptance is a gradual process, and some recruits may face prejudice in their roles. Continuous public sensitization and robust support systems are essential to their success. Expanding such programs to other sectors is crucial for sustainable inclusion, ensuring opportunities for transgender individuals in education, healthcare, and corporate roles.

## Conclusion

Telangana's recruitment of transgender traffic assistants is a beacon of hope and a testament to the transformative power of inclusive policies. By addressing employment and social discrimination, the state has set an inspiring example for the world to follow.

For the transgender individuals who once faced rejection, managing traffic on the same roads they once begged on is a profound victory. It symbolizes resilience, equality, and the promise of a brighter, more inclusive future. Telangana has shown the world that true progress lies in embracing diversity and empowering all sections of society.

"ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization - Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature) commends the progressive step of recruiting transgender individuals into the Telangana Police, recognizing it as a transformative milestone for inclusivity and equality. This initiative not only empowers the transgender community but also sets a precedent for breaking societal stereotypes. Economically, it offers stable livelihoods, fostering financial independence and contributing to the state's workforce. Socially, it enhances acceptance and mutual respect, strengthening relationships between communities. Civilly and politically, it reinforces the democratic principles of equality and representation, inspiring confidence in governance and law enforcement. This move paves the way for a more inclusive, harmonious, and equitable society.

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Gramin Kshetra, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

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