



How can you help?

VOLUNTEER

QAMRA is sustained by individuals and well wishers. Write to us to explore volunteering opportunities.

SUPPORT

To contribute financially please visit us at qamra.in. We greatly appreciate any amount that you can provide. All contributions are tax exempt.

SHARE

If you have material (photos, videos, letters, diaries, etc.) relating to queer lives and issues and would like to add to our collection, please email us.



Contact

QAMRA Archival Project at NLSIU, Bengaluru
Sri Narayan Rao Melgiri Memorial
National Law Library
National Law School of India University
P.B. No. 7201
Nagarbhavi
Bengaluru - 560242

qamraarchive@qamra.in
<https://qamra.in>



Images sources from:
QAMRA and Marc Ohrem-Leclef @marcohrem



QAMRA Archival Project at NLSIU, Bengaluru



What is QAMRA?

The Queer Archive for Memory Reflection and Activism is a multimedia archival project which aims to chronicle and preserve the stories of communities marginalised on the basis of gender and sexuality in India. We hope to aid efforts in queer rights advocacy through archival activism, acting as a resource base for activists, students, educators, artists, and scholars working in the area of gender and sexuality. As a repository of narratives, we engage in conversations around the history, present and future of the Indian LGBTQIA+ community.

QAMRA found its initial momentum in the sustained work of documentary filmmaker T. Jayashree. Her repository of unedited video footage from meetings, protest marches, and Pride parades, gathered over close to twenty years of filming, is one of the founding collections of the archive.

Criminalising gay sex harms families as well, parents tell SC

Ashish Tripathi

NEW DELHI: A group of 19 parents who were allowed by the apex court to make their stand before it on the vexed homosexuality issue felt that criminalising sex among the consenting adults of same sex leaves their children open to social racism, besides making them vulnerable to police abuse, extortion and blackmail.

Those who approached the Supreme Court for getting an opportunity to be heard as parents of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) are a motley group drawn from a cross section of society in the country.

Two of them are retired teachers, one is an advocate, some are home-makers and social activists in the group. Noted among them is filmmaker, writer and activist Chitra Palekar. They said that the Delhi High Court judgment passed in July 2009 had provided the much-needed



LGBT persons form an integral part of the Indian family.

respite from constant fears of police harassment, extortion, blackmail and arrests to lakhs of LGBT persons in India.

Their petition said challenging the judgment and criminalising the consensual homosexual activity hindered their role as parents as a source of support and could lead to further alienation and separation of LGBT from their families.

Among the petitioners, a large chunk (of 13) do not want themselves to be identified in the media in an indication of a phenomenon that disclosing names would lead to unne-

sary ridicule and stigma to them as well as to their children.

Activist and journalist Vikram Doctor said not all the parents are comfortable with their names and details being made public.

"It is true that by submitting the petitions in the court their details have, to some extent, become public, but there is a difference between it appearing in court and in the media, and several parents are keen to avoid the latter," he said.

They submitted that they wanted to have support space not easily accessible as bringing up such children has been a lonely and isolating experience. Section 377 of the IPC, they felt, curtailed the free and frank discussion of their sexuality.

"The parents, siblings and other members of the family of a LGBT person harbour similar fears of disclosure, public ridicule and social exclusion, which stems from an erroneous and misguided understanding

of homosexuality as an unnatural curable disease alien to Indian culture," the petition said.

The private consensual intimate relationships between people of the same sex do not upset any public morality or harm the interests of others but Section 377 instead invaded the sanctity of the family and allowed unlawful attacks on the honour and reputation of parents and LGBT persons, they contended.

The parents said that the penal provision had failed to recognise homosexuality as a natural phenomenon and attributed it to bad parentage or genetic defects. "LGBT persons form an integral part of the Indian family and there is no contradiction between being an LGBT person and being a loving and caring member of the Indian family," they said, pleading to view the question from the perspective of science and rationality.

DH News Service

Why a Queer Archive?

Over the last decade or so, the Indian queer rights movement has been engaged with several pressing issues, including the fallout of the NALSA judgment of 2014, the drafting of the controversial Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, the legal battle against Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, and the simultaneous mission to document all acts of violence committed against the queer community. Action—in the form of advocacy, activism, and protest has been the need of the hour.

The need for a queer archive stems from a need to pause and take stock. As we throw ourselves into the task of building new cultures, discourses and practices around gender, sexuality, and identity, we must ask—in what ways can learning about our history inform the way we fight for our futures? What are the various strands of thought and ideology that have given meaning to the movement? What are the experiences, both individual and collective, that the movement has brought to the surface? What are the stories that we have yet to excavate? What forms do these stories take, and how best can they be told, preserved, and retold? We, at QAMRA, believe that there is a growing need to invest organised effort in the process of remembering, collating, archiving, and learning.

The Collection so far

At present, QAMRA is housed as an archival project at the Sri Narayan Rao Melgiri Memorial National Law Library, NLSIU Bengaluru.

Our current collection consists of over a decade's worth of newspaper and magazine clippings in multiple languages, donated by local NGOs and individuals; notes and official documents from various legal battles, all donated by queer rights lawyers; documentation of crisis intervention efforts; diaries and personal memorabilia; books and reports produced on the subject of queer life and rights; as well as photographs and raw footage that are visual testaments to the many moments of rage, sorrow, joy and determination that have defined the queer rights movement in India.



One of the participants at the rally of sexual minorities danced her way amusing the passersby in city this morning. The rallyists will present a cultural programme at Town Hall at 3 pm today.

Mysore, Dec. 9 (RR&BRS) - A rally by nearly 300 activists identifying themselves as Sexual Minorities, was taken out in city today to mark the Human Rights Day.

They marched from Town Hall and after covering KR Circle, D. Devaraj Urs Road, Narayana Shastri Road, Irwin Road and Ashoka Road, the rallyists returned to the Town Hall for a public meeting. It will be followed by a cultural programme at 3 pm. The rally was organised by a Bangalore-based NGO Sangama with its branch in Mysore. (See HURAS on page 4)