

Transgender place where he has given his

[Art & Culture](#), [Artists](#)



Transgender is a parasol expression, used to describe people with a gender identity and /or gender expression different to their sex assigned at birth.

Transgender individuals have a gender distinctiveness or gender appearance that differs from their assigned sex.

Across the ages transgenders are known with different names viz., Hijras, eunuchs, Kothis, Aravanis, Jogappas, Shiv-Shakthis etc., The first time in India the population of third gender was counted in Census 2011. As per that census the third gender population was 4.9 lakhs, predominantly this number may not be accurate as most of the parents not willing to accept that their children belong third gender. History The word transgender dates back to the age of Ramayana, also we have witnessed the importance of the transgenders in Mahabharata. In a different version of Ramayan when Lord Rama is sent on exile a large crowd of people have followed him into the deep forest due to their utter devotion towards him, being concerned on their well-being Lord Rama had requested stating " all men and women please return to your homes in Ayodhya", however to his astonishment he found all Hijras (transgenders) have not relocated from the place where he has given his last speech, deeply touched by their dedication Lord Rama granted a boon that " The Hijras would be able to give blessings to public during auspicious and inaugural occasions, such as childbirth and marriage", which is still continuing in the modern world.

In Mahabharata we can see Shikhandi whose sole purpose in the story was to end the life of Bheeshma Pitamaha. Lord Krishna showed that ancient India was much more broadminded than today by supporting Shikhandi, a transgender. Lord Krishna was the first person, who supported Shikhandi's

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identity in front of Pitamaha Bheeshma in the midst of Kurukshetra Battlefield. Apart from this, Krishna himself incarnated as Mayamohini, Lord Shiva seen as Ardhanarishwara where both considered to be represent the transgenders. Kalki Subramaniam – Shobha Warrior “ You should never prove people for your right or wrong and should never defeat or demolish them, just take a stand on your part, do your Karma’s, focus on your path and help people who are falling and you will see that the God will be helping you by raising your level and status in the society and blessing you in all your work – Bhagwad Geeta Kalki Subramaniam is a writer, journalist, activist and actor, holds two masters: in Journalism & Mass Communication and International Relations and now, she is an entrepreneur. She is also a transgender, in her own words this makes her” India’s first transgender entrepreneur”.

Kalki is the first transgender actress in the world to perform in a conventional movie in which she portrays the life of a transgender dancer in the movie, Narthaki. On the professional front, Kalki involves herself in web based projects. She was invited by many organizations and colleges to deliver lectures in different regions of the country, further she was also a specially invited by the governments of Bangkok and United States for the human rights activism which she gained extraordinary foothold and helped her reach incredible levels of success. Kalki is the first transsexual foreigner to be invited by United States Government to attend a sixteen days International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) held in Washington DC. Kalki has busted the status quo for transgenders and has made a revolution of sorts to help the transgenders through the world by starting a foundation for

the transgenders called " Sahodari" which aims for the economic, political and social upliftment of transgenders. Sahodari Foundation - Together, we will make a difference Sahodari Foundation is one of the ground-breaking society in India which has been working for the welfare of the transgender community since 2007. The foundation is a movement, a family, and a team of young transsexual people, friends and volunteers.

Foundation work is sustained through crowd funding, small donations from friends and well-wishers with which they have done tremendous work with the available fund resources. Kalki held an art show with intent to raise funds to help the eligible backed by Fuel A Dream, a Bengaluru-based crowd funding platform, she proposes to raise about Rupees two lakh through the crowd funding platform and has planned to rope the funds for their higher studies. Sahodari Foundation does not fit itself into a regular organization structure; it works more like a family of volunteers and members. From 2012, the foundation focused on getting legal recognition and canvassed around multiple places in India among the Judiciary for legal recognition, whereas in 2016 it has emphasized on education and jobs for transgenders and in 2017 it concentrated on arts & literature and media for transgender people in the country. The Foundation's main objectives are

- To promote social, political, and economic equity and campaign for civil and legal rights of Transgender and intersex people.
- To work for establishing social, economic, and environmental justice for Transgenders, intersex and gender non-confirming people and to eliminate oppression and exclusion based on such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, class, religion, legal status, sexual orientation, age, and disability.
- To prohibit

discrimination based on “ gender identity or expression” and ensure that the entire range of transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming people are protected.

Following are transgender issues which are worked up by the

foundation· Discrimination· Employment· Education· Homelessness· HIV Care· Depression· Hormone Pill Abuse· Tobacco & Alcohol Abuse· Penectomy· Marriage And Adoption· Documentation· Aging· Female To Male TGSSocial

Activism TRANS/HEARTS is about transgender people creating images and artworks that reflect their lives. TRANS/HEARTS brings art to the transgender community and inspires them to exercise their inventiveness in a free and profuse environment. The project offers opportunities to non-binary, genderless, gender non-conforming, transgender people and gender queer to take part in art and creativity workshops. Trans-people are invited to explore the beautiful process of crafting images and illustrate their tales in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

These workshops are conducted completely free of cost. Then the artworks are collated and displayed in traveling exhibitions and the proceeds from sales will go to the artists. Recognizing the gifted artists among the community, encouraging them to practice art, finance their talent, make them as professional artists and changing their lives is one of the objectives of TRANS/HEARTS. WALLS OF KINDNESS is a futurist project from Sahodari Foundation. Transgender artist's team visits very remote rural and tribal villages, refurbish the walls of the schools and angawadis with their artworks,

paintings and murals. The objective of the project is (a) to break the stereotype thought process of the people against the transgenders and establish them as positive contributors to the society, (b) involving, interacting and working along with students will break the Trans Phobia and also develops understanding and acceptance of transgenders among the young and (c) conversion of unpleasant looking walls into beautiful art works will create high value, boosts the self-esteem and morale among the transgenders. Conclusion Finally after all these years of educating and campaigning vigorously throughout state of the Tamilnadu and pan India have brought positive results in thinking of government and society, gradually there is a wide acceptance for transgenders across all walks of life.

Tamilnadu government has introduced " Transgender Welfare Board" which is one of kind initiative for transgender people in India. There is a special category for admissions to studies for transgender women in the state government co-education colleges and some universities have come forward to even offer free admissions for transgender people. The state government of Tamilnadu has allocated free housing and has formed a panel of doctors to provide health care and Sex Reassignment Surgery for transgenders. This is not the end for Sahodari Foundation but a beautiful beginning and the foundation is working continuously in order to reach the less fortunate.