

City AhmedabadMirror Friday, September 7, 2018 6

FREEDOM, AT LAST!

As the SC struck down the ban on gay sex in a landmark verdict, the LGBTQ community came out on the streets to celebrate. While this freedom has come after a decade-long campaign, LGBTQ activists feel that it is NOW that the actual work for equal rights begins


Shrut Brahmbhatt
ACTIVIST
 WE are very happy as it comes to this verdict. But we still have a long way to go. We need to bring changes accordingly to family and marriage laws. Earlier LGBTQ people got married against will but to be recognised, we need to lobby for a bill. We need to educate the society through our initiatives, colleges, friends, kids and people in general.

Hemendra Singh Gohil
THURSDAY
 I was one of the organisers of the landmark verdict. It was for us to be recognised as citizens with equal rights. We had a candle procession and people sharing their experiences. The verdict was a great step. We have to bring about public awareness through our initiatives and make the society aware of this. While organising the march for one of the universities, I did anticipate this verdict. I did not expect it to be so soon. This verdict will be considered as a step of freedom and we will be considered as citizens. We still need a lot of advocacy, we need to remove misconceptions about the community. It is a verdict that needs to be changed.

Rahul Upadhyay
PREZ, IIT-GN GENDER & SEXUALITY CLUB
 WE are very happy as it comes to this verdict. But we still have a long way to go. We need to bring changes accordingly to family and marriage laws. Earlier LGBTQ people got married against will but to be recognised, we need to lobby for a bill. We need to educate the society through our initiatives, colleges, friends, kids and people in general.

Urvi Shah
LEGALISATION
 It is a great first step which will give us the right to marry. We need to bring about public awareness through our initiatives and make the society aware of this. While organising the march for one of the universities, I did anticipate this verdict. I did not expect it to be so soon. This verdict will be considered as a step of freedom and we will be considered as citizens. We still need a lot of advocacy, we need to remove misconceptions about the community. It is a verdict that needs to be changed.

Manali Randeopadhyay
PREZ, RANGELANDS PRINCIPALS OF MIA
 I was one of the organisers of the landmark verdict. It was for us to be recognised as citizens with equal rights. We had a candle procession and people sharing their experiences. The verdict was a great step. We have to bring about public awareness through our initiatives and make the society aware of this. While organising the march for one of the universities, I did anticipate this verdict. I did not expect it to be so soon. This verdict will be considered as a step of freedom and we will be considered as citizens. We still need a lot of advocacy, we need to remove misconceptions about the community. It is a verdict that needs to be changed.



Rahul Upadhyay
PREZ, IIT-GN GENDER & SEXUALITY CLUB

WE are very happy as we are part of the IIT associated petitioners at Pravritti that had moved the court along with 380 other members. Scrapping Section 377 is the first step but social acceptance is going to take time. The queer community members were earlier harassed when they went to the cops as the law was not with them and now all that has changed. Change in the society will come slowly and surely and people need to be educated about homosexuality."

Title: Freedom, at last! (Opinion Story)
Source: Ahmedabad Mirror (Pg. No. 6)
Date: 07-09-2018