

# Mental health and wellbeing of transgenders in India

## Understanding how resilience is built



Transgenders and mental health: The transgender community in India is highly vulnerable to mental and physical illness, in large part due to limited economic opportunities, forcing many of them to engage in sex work and begging. Traditionally they were having special powers which conferred religious authority to transwomen and their blessings were sought at weddings and births. However, over time, the stigmatization, prejudice, and mistreatment of transgenders has increased. The situation is further exacerbated by the law, which makes it almost impossible for them to vote, own property, or obtain official identification and documentation, such as a passport or driver's license. Until recently the colonial law in India (Section 377 of the Penal Code) had criminalized homosexuality; it was decriminalized in 2018 and the Transgender Protection of Rights Bill was finally passed by parliament in 2019. Despite these political shifts, social stigmatization against them continues to be pervasive in Indian society and they are subject to a great deal of prejudice, social exclusion, violence and hatred.

## AGENDA

29th October 2021, 12pm to 2pm IST

### Welcome



Dr Santosh Giri  
Executive Director  
Kolkata Rista  
(Moderator)

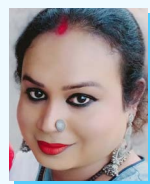


Dr Y.K. Sandhya  
Senior Research Fellow  
The George Institute for Global Health, India  
(Moderator)

### Speakers



Jashodhara Dasgupta  
Independent feminist researcher



Ms Heena  
Counsellor  
Kolkata Rista



Dr Debanuj Dasgupta  
Assistant Professor, Department of Feminist Studies  
University of California, Santa Barbara

### Open discussion

### Response from panellists and experts

### Conclusion

We request you to register here

[georgehub.zoom.us/join/91234567890](https://georgehub.zoom.us/join/91234567890)