

BARRIERS  
EXPERIENCED  
BY LGBTQ  
PEOPLE IN  
ACCESSING

# PUBLIC SPACES



## STREETS AND PARKS

### Criminalization of means of livelihood

Criminal laws in India leave sex workers and beggars vulnerable to police action and institutionalization. This creates a major barrier in accessing streets and parks for transgender persons who do sex work or begging for a living.

### Selective application of laws

Transgender and gender non-binary persons are often stereotyped as sex workers or beggars, making them vulnerable to police action under sex work and beggary laws, and laws that criminalize public nuisance and obscenity.

## PUBLIC TOILETS

### Gendered infrastructure

Transgender persons have particular difficulties in accessing public sanitation facilities as they are denied access to toilets corresponding to their gender identity.

### Impact of gendered toilets on health

Inaccessibility of toilets compels LGBTQ persons to avoid drinking water, and to hold urine for long periods of time.

### Violence and harassment

LGBTQ persons are vulnerable to gender-based violence and harassment by both State (especially police) and non-state actors in public spaces such as streets and parks, public toilets, and transport. As a result, LGBTQ persons often experience a general feeling of insecurity in public spaces.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Entry to public transport facilities is usually regulated through security screening, which involves frisking in gendered queues. Often, transgender persons are expected to justify their presence in one queue or the other, leading to a public negotiation around their gender identity.

## PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC SPACES

### Discrimination in access

There is discrimination in access to privately-owned places that are generally open to the public, such as shopping malls, hotels, restaurants, privately owned transport and other private businesses.

### Denial of entry

### Refusal to provide services

### Invasive surveillance



RIGHT TO  
FREEDOM  
OF  
MOVEMENT



RIGHT TO  
LIBERTY AND  
SECURITY OF  
PERSON



RIGHT TO EQUALITY  
AND NON-  
DISCRIMINATION



RIGHT TO  
SAFE  
DRINKING  
WATER AND  
SANITATION



RIGHT TO TAKE  
PART IN  
CULTURAL LIFE