

*“Equality means more than passing laws. The struggle is really won in the hearts and minds of the community, where it really counts.”*

*– Barbara Gittings*

# THEM!

**A PRIDE MONTH SPECIAL BY CENTRE FOR SOCIAL  
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## Issue 03

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# where the law meets the reality

## LEGAL STATUS OF LGBTQIA++ COMMUNITY IN INDIA

"HISTORY OWES APOLOGY TO THE LGBT COMMUNITY  
FOR THEIR SUFFERINGS."

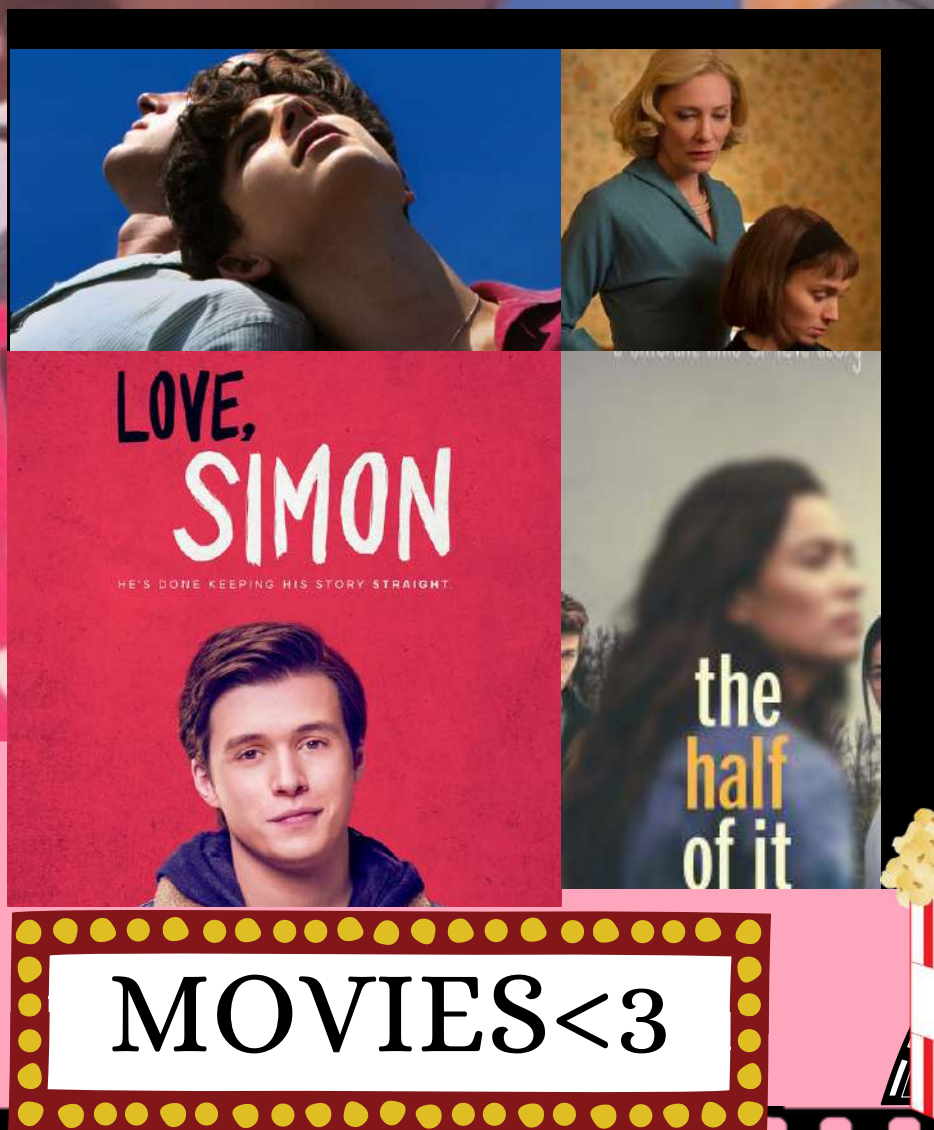
- HON'BLE MRS JUSTICE INDU MALHOTRA

On September 6, 2018, India's Supreme Court ruled that consensual homosexual acts would no longer constitute a crime. The historic move reversed Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code which was a legacy from British colonial rule. The change was welcome by Indian and global LGBTQ+ communities as a step towards acceptance and equal rights.

The Supreme Court in its judgment only held that consensual homosexual sex could not be a crime under the Indian Constitutional scheme. The judgment was therefore limited in its scope. Of course, the signalling by the Court that it was on the side of the queer community had a positive force in the discourse about sexuality in public spaces. The statement of legal principles - that a queer person is entitled to the full protection of the laws without any discrimination by the state - has also helped lay the foundation for future challenges to other discriminatory laws. There is, however, a very long way to go. The Parliament has passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 which is very problematic as it does not allow for self-determination of transgender status. The Act also does not offer the reservations in public employment and education as had been directed by an earlier Supreme Court judgment. The Act has been challenged in the Supreme Court and there is an urgent need to remedy its more draconian provisions.

India does not have a comprehensive anti-discrimination code. While the Constitution prohibits discrimination, that injunction only applies to the government and its instrumentalities. The private sector thus can discriminate with impunity in matters of employment, housing, health and education among other areas. While there is a discussion about the need for such a law, there appears to be very little political consensus towards the enactment of such a law. Even the courts have not yet woken to this problem which materially affects the lives of the queer community.

Read more at - [https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/the-state-of-lgbtq-rights-india-does-not-have-anti-discrimination-code-120071200179\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/the-state-of-lgbtq-rights-india-does-not-have-anti-discrimination-code-120071200179_1.html)



1. DESERT HEARTS [1985]

2. WADIA'S BOMGAY [1996] [ACKNOWLEDGED AS INDIA'S FIRST GAY FILM]

3. GULABI AAINA [2003] [DISTINCTION OF BEING INDIA'S FIRST KOTHI FILM]

4. MOONLIGHT [2006]

5. THE IMITATION GAME [2014] (NETFLIX)

6. MARGARITA WITH A STRAW [2014] (NETFLIX)

7. SCHITT'S CREEK [2015] (SERIES, NETFLIX)

8. CAROL [2015]



9. CALL ME BY YOUR NAME [2017]
10. GOD'S OWN COUNTRY [2017]
11. ALEX STRANGELOVE (2018) [NETFLIX]
12. LOVE SIMON (2018) [NETFLIX]
13. EK LADKI KO DEKHA TO AISA LAGA (2019) [NETFLIX]
14. DISCLOSE (NETFLIX) [2020]
15. SHUBH MANGAL JYDA SAVDHAAN [2020]
16. THE HALF OF IT [2020]

“

## 3 Generations

As teenage Ray begins his transition from female to male, his mom and grandma are dealing with their own difficulties. His mom has to find his biological father to get parental consent, and Ray's lesbian grandmother has a tough time accepting Ray's true identity. This raw depiction of the impact transition can have on a family will really hit home for a lot of us.



“

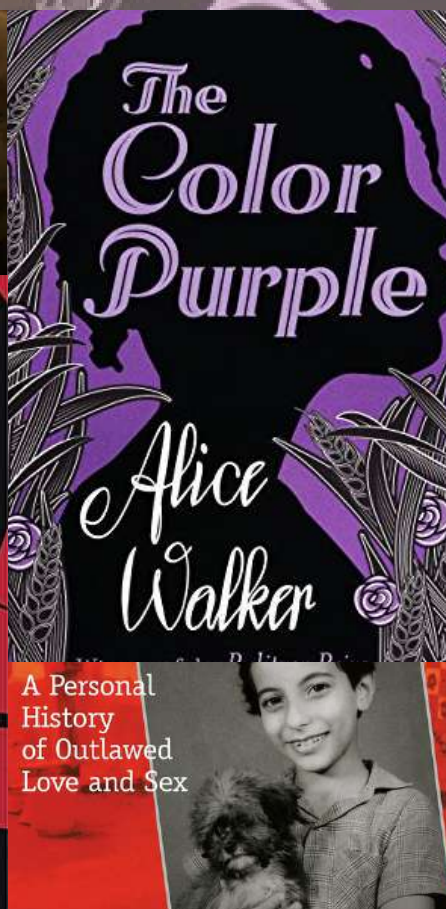
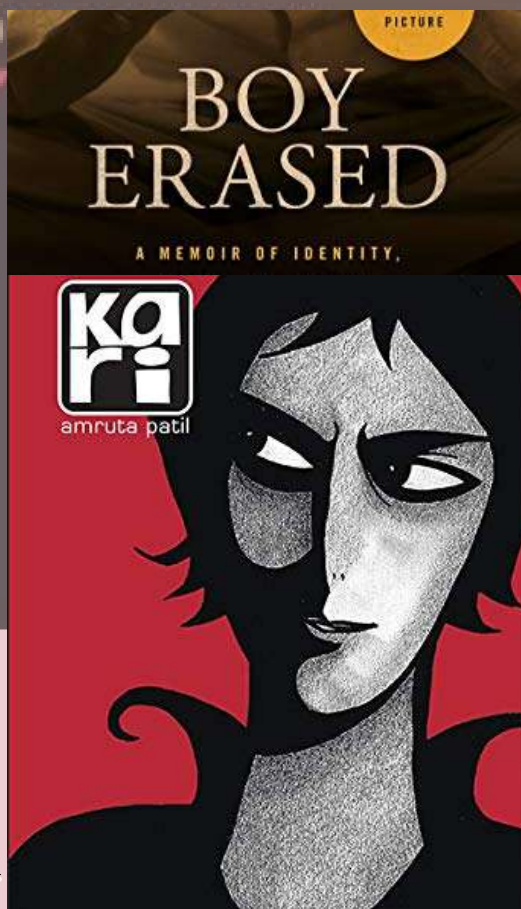
## Moonlight

This moving film introduces us to a gay Black man and son of a drug-addicted mother who deals with bullying related to his family circumstances, his sexuality and his place in the world. With the help of a drug dealer who becomes his mentor, he starts to find his way.



# ERASED

A MEMOIR



## Books

### INDIAN AUTHORS:

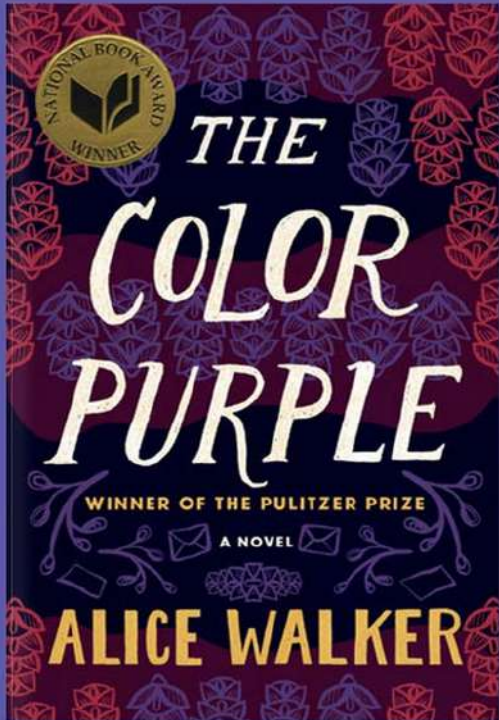
1. Queering India: Same-Sex Love and Eroticism in Indian Culture and Society edited by Ruth Vanita
2. The Pregnant King by Devdutt Pattanaik
3. Loving Women: Being Lesbian in Unprivileged India edited by Maya Sharma
4. The Ministry Of Utmost Happiness Arundhati Roy
5. Same-Sex Love In India, edited by Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai
6. Lihaaf (The Quilt) — Ismat Chughtai
7. Kari by Amruta Patil
8. Me Hijra, Me Laxmi by Laxmi Narayan Tripathi
9. No One Else — Siddharth Dube
10. Shikhandi: And Other Tales They Don't Tell You by Devdutt Pattanaik
11. Impossible Desires by Gayatri Gopinath

### INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS:

1. The Carpet Weaver
2. Call me By Your Name.
3. The Price of Salt
4. The Colour Purple
5. Red, White and Blue
6. If I Was Your Girl
7. The line of Beauty
8. Fingersmith

### AUTOBIOGRAPHIES:

1. Rainbow Warrior: My Life in Color by Gilbert Baker
2. Boy Erased: A Memoir by Garrard Conley
3. A Wild and Precious Life: A Memoir by Edie Windsor
4. A Life Misspent — Suryakant Tripathi Nirala
5. Sissy: A Coming of Gender Story by Jacob Tobia



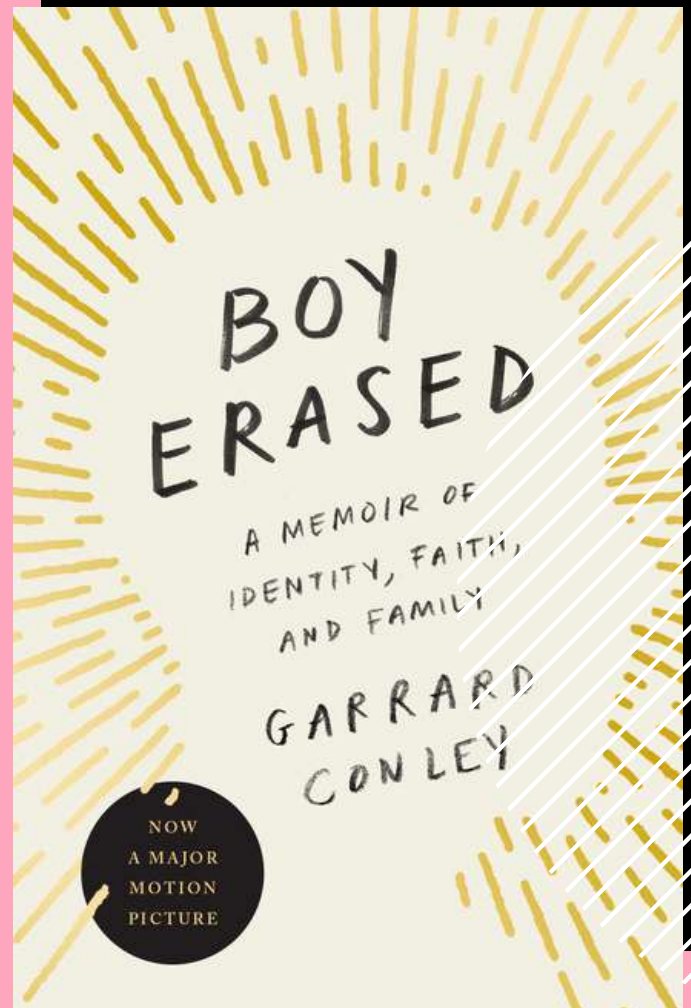
## “ The Colour Purple : A Novel by Alice Walker

“Silence is the condition of one who has been dominated, made an object, and talk is the mark of freeing, making one a subject.” The Color Purple is a 1982 epistolary novel by American author Alice Walker which won the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. This is not simply a story of a girl, Celie, but many more like her, who are oppressed, dominated and humiliated and how they are forced to accept the identity of silence over words. The novel powerfully addresses the issue where a woman's will, choices, ability to think and live by her own ways is snatched away from her, and then it more powerfully portrays their(women's) journey from being an object to a subject.

“

## Boy Erased : A Memoir by Garrard Conley

In “Boy Erased,” Garrard Conley tells a haunting account about his childhood in a fundamentalist Arkansas family that forced him to undertake conversion therapy. After Conley was outed as gay in college, he was given a choice: be disowned or go through complete conversion therapy — a practice widely discredited as ineffective and harmful by medical practioners. Conley recounts his participation in the months-long program in this 2016 memoir, with the hope of spreading awareness about the psychological warfare inflicted on those subjected to the practice. “Boy Erased” was adapted into a 2018 film, starring Lucas Hedges and Nicole Kidman.





# MUSIC

EXPLORE AND CELEBRATE LOVE WITH  
MUSIC

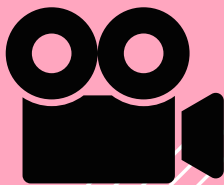
**BY LGBTQ+ ARTISTS THEMSELVES**

1. Really Don't Care - Demi Lovato
2. Battle Cry- Angel Haze ft Sia
3. I Am Her - Shea Diamond
4. True Trans Soul Rebel- Against Me!
5. Uprising Of Love- Melisa Etheridge
6. Curious - Hayley Kiyoko
7. Freedom! 90'- George Michael
8. Born This Way- Lady Gaga
9. Alive- Sia
10. I Want To Break Free- Queen





# Video Resources



1. **LGBTQ+ Stereotypes That NEED to Die -**  
<https://youtu.be/pv6rMKjBrf0>
2. **LGBTQ | How You See Me -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxHHstcyP4I>
3. **This is Me | Pride PMV -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NU5MpzOOvww>
4. **LGBTIQ explained -**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uD\\_p0kkof-k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uD_p0kkof-k)
5. **How uncomfortable conversations can save lives -**  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/lyra\\_mckee\\_how\\_uncomfortable\\_conversations\\_can\\_save\\_lives](https://www.ted.com/talks/lyra_mckee_how_uncomfortable_conversations_can_save_lives)
6. **How I use art to bridge misunderstanding -**  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/adong\\_judith\\_how\\_i\\_use\\_art\\_to\\_bridge\\_misunderstanding](https://www.ted.com/talks/adong_judith_how_i_use_art_to_bridge_misunderstanding)
7. **Why kids need to learn about gender and sexuality-**  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/lindsay\\_amer\\_why\\_kids\\_need\\_to\\_learn\\_about\\_gender\\_and\\_sexuality](https://www.ted.com/talks/lindsay_amer_why_kids_need_to_learn_about_gender_and_sexuality)



# ARTICLES

QUICK READS EXPLORING THE STRUGGLES OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

AND THE BASICS TO HELP YOU BE AN ALLY

1. [Gender identity for beginners: a guide to being a great trans ally](#)
2. [Your beginner's guide to LGBTQ+ terms on sexuality and gender expression - Carly Wu](#)
3. [10 Queer And Trans Affirmative Moments Of 2020 That Created History - Sudipta Das](#)
4. [Queering The Political: Looking For The 'Rainbow Wave' Of LGBTQIA+ Candidates In India](#)
5. [Where are India's queer parents? Having a family is not even an option for many Indians - Tarini Mehta](#)
6. [The Struggle for Gay Rights Is Over - James Kirchick](#)
7. [The firms that fund anti-LGBTQ+ politicians while waving rainbow flag - Mona Chalabi](#)
8. [Being LGBT in India: Some home truths - Rashmi Patel](#)

\*hyperlinked text



“

## **Pride and paradise**

Hoping for equality, their voices speak...  
Suppressing segregation and requiring justice,  
Let's consider them humans and stop spreading  
malice,  
Acceptance yet to be born from womb,  
Society cannot define their tomb  
Birth was not their choice,  
But no one can live life with a defiance voice  
These decorative shackles we wear,  
Make us feel superior  
But breaking stereotype is the only solution,  
Because earth is suffering from a lot many  
problems  
They are children of god so as you,  
A moment to make them stand tall,  
"Pride" and that's all!  
Pay heed to my advice,  
Let's make earth a paradise!

*By Aanchal*

“

## Into the sky with Pride forever

Is it really difficult or just a wall  
In my mind made of conservative calls,  
Sailing with thousands of such thoughts in a yawl,  
I looked up,  
I raised my head,  
I could see the clear sky,  
Standing high with pride,  
Showering love with rain, and a rainbow leaving  
Cherish red vibes and serenity of violet,

My curiosity reached its peak  
And i jumped off the rigid structure,  
Initial struggle was real,  
But my mind was clear and my feet and my soul;

In fresh water with cheer around,  
Never thought it would be so free and divine  
And conservative walls were so weak,  
Than power in being what you love yourself to be;  
“To live thy way!  
I can't set you free  
As no one can give what you already hold”,  
Said the sky raising me high,  
looked down with eyes filled with tears and love and joy, I just  
said a goodbye!

*By Khilansha Mukhija*

# THEM!

celebrating pride now and beyond



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