

# Legal recognition for transgenders

## Supreme Court rules third gender entitled to job, education quota

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**NEW DELHI:** In a significant step, the Supreme Court on Tuesday recognised the transgender community as a third gender along with male and female.

A Bench of Justices K.S. Radhakrishnan and A.K. Sikri, in separate but concurrent judgments, said “eunuchs, apart from the binary gender, be treated as a “third gender” for the purpose of safeguarding their rights under our Constitution and the laws made by Parliament and the State Legislature.” The ruling came on a petition filed by the National Legal Services Authority.

The Bench directed the Centre and States to treat them as socially and educationally backward classes and extend reservation for admission to educational institutions and in public appointments.

The Bench said “recognition of transgenders as a third gender is not a social or medical issue but a human rights issue. Transgenders are also



**MOMENTOUS DECISION:** Transgenders celebrate in New Delhi on Tuesday after the Supreme Court recognised them as third gender. – PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

citizens of India. The spirit of the Constitution is to provide equal opportunity to every citizen to grow and attain their

potential, irrespective of caste, religion or gender.”

By virtue of this verdict, all identity documents, including

a birth certificate, passport, ration card and driving licence would recognise the third gender. **More reports on Page 12**