



# Miranda House

## UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

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### Miranda House Queer Collective

### Annual Report 1

**Society:** Miranda House Queer Collective

**Academic Year – 2019-20** (For the period 1.7. 2019 to 30.6.2020)

**The Office Bearers:**

**President:** Hritvika Lakhera (English Honours III Year)

**Vice-president:** Shinjini Chatterjee (Geography Honours III Year)

**Treasurer:** Anamya Anurag (Philosophy Honours III Year)

**Staff Advisor:** Dr. C. Suvasini

The academic year 2019-20 was the first year of Miranda House Queer Collective operating as a formalised society in Miranda House. We have worked tirelessly to create a safe space in Miranda House for LGTBQIAP+ individuals to exist and find support, holding several meetings to allow our members to find their community.



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## Part A.1

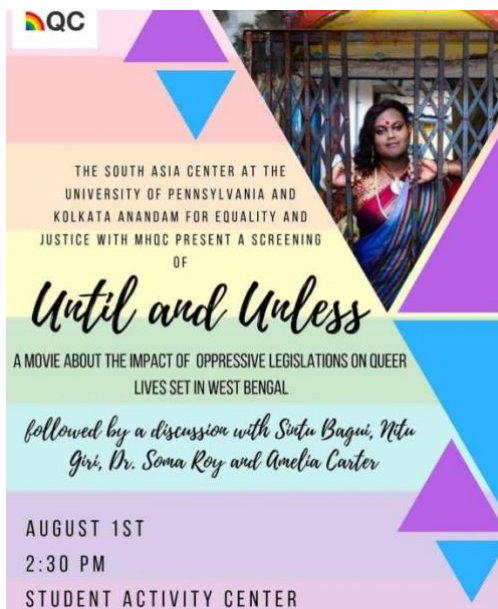
### Events/Seminars/conferences/workshops/Extension Activities organized

#### 1) Screening of *Until and Unless*:

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2019

The South Asia Centre at the University of Pennsylvania and Kolkata Anandam for Equality collaborated with MHQC for a screening of the documentary *Until and Unless*, which showcased the impact of the oppressive legislations on queer lives, before the historic repealing of Section 377. The screening was followed by a discussion with queer activists from Kolkata Anandam and the filmmakers of the documentary.

Number of participants - 50+





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## 2) Panel Discussion on ‘Gender: Identity and Expression’:

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019

MHQC hosted a panel discussion on Gender identities, gender expression, and the Trans Bill. The panelists included Ray, a trans woman pursuing LLB from Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi, and Kai, a Trans Gender queer person who has been a former member of MHQC and also initiated a Non-Binary Collective in Delhi known as Naan Biryani Dilli. The discussion covered gender dysphoria, identities, struggles faced by the Trans\* and non-binary communities and how these are exacerbated by draconian legislations.

Number of participants - 25





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### 3) Prism, an Awareness Drive:

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> August 2019

For greater sensitisation on campus, MHQC held an awareness drive with a fundraiser through stalls as well as a film screening of the film *A Kid Like Jake* to give insights into gender identity and its development in children.

Number of participants - 30



### 4) Mental Health Workshop:

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019

As part of our Mental Health Programme wherein we spread awareness about mental health issues and help connect students in need with counsellors, therapists, and psychiatrists, MHQC held a Mental Health Workshop where Queer Affirmative psychologist Ipsa A James helped the attendees tackle some daily mental health concerns and answered their questions about influences on mental health and treatment through professionals.

Number of participants - 22





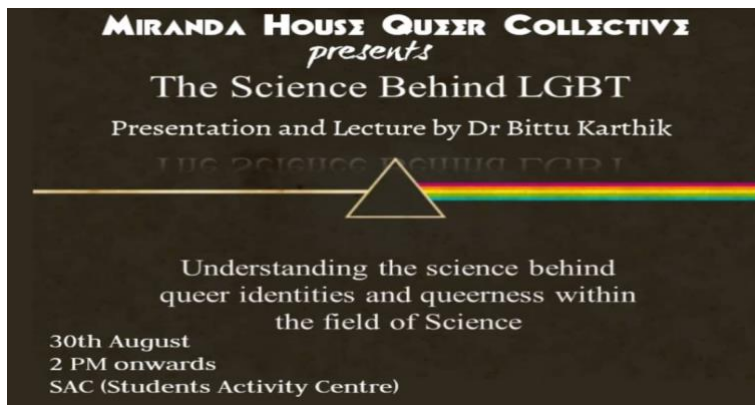
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## 5) The Science Behind LGBTQ+:

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019

So as to counter the misinformation about queer identities being ‘unnatural’ and the long-held biases in the field of natural sciences and psychology, MHQC invited Dr Bittu Karthik to explain how queer identities are completely natural and scientific, which was accompanied by a student presentation on queer people within the field of science as a lesson in both queer and science history.

Number of participants - 30



## 6) Gumaan (with WDC and Adwitya):

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

The Women’s Development Cell, Miranda House, organised Gumaan as a celebration of Queer Pride along with MHQC and Adwitya. MHQC gave a presentation to clear up basic queer concepts and history to have greater sensitisation amongst allies of the queer community.

Number of participants - 40







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## 7) Rainbow Connection:

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Rainbow Connection is a queer-only interactive session held by MHQC to allow queer individuals from within and outside of MHQC to have a safe space to mingle, share art and performances, and find a larger support group that they can rely on.

Number of participants - 70

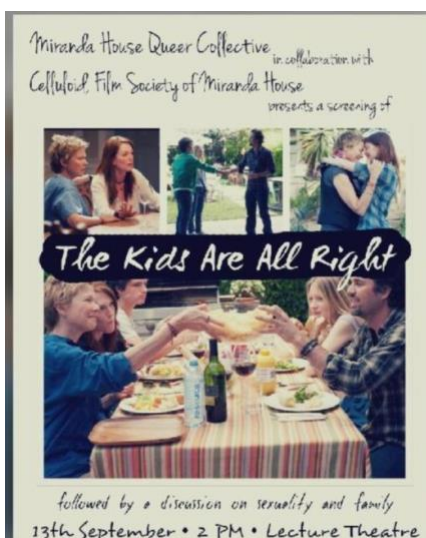


## 8) Screening of *The Kids Are All Right*:

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

In collaboration with Celluloid, the Film Society of Miranda House, MHQC held a screening of *The Kids Are All Right*, a film about queer identities and familial structures. This was followed by a discussion led by MHQC members.

Number of participants - 60+





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### 9) Art Against Violence:

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020

In light of political and communal tensions around the country, MHQC organised a demonstration against violence where artists presented their views through speeches, songs, and street plays.

Number of participants - 55

# Art Against Violence

A gathering to dissent against the hostile political environment



09.01.2020  
1 PM

Arts Faculty Gate No. - 4









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### 11) Annual Fest – Iridescence:

**Day 1** (10<sup>th</sup> February 2020):  
Number of participants - 60+



- *Talk on Legislations as Tools of Marginalisation*-This talk started off our annual fest with a discussion on how legislations have often been used by autocratic governments to further oppress marginalised communities. The talk was led by Ditilekha, a queer feminist student activist.
- *Revolution Radio: A Singing Competition*- This singing competition aimed to bring out the spirit of revolution in music and get the participants to not only explore songs, but their socio-political significance.
- *Letters To Our Gay Awakenings: A Slam Poetry Competition*-This Slam Poetry event asked participants to write their poetry to or about the people who helped them find this part of their identity.



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Day 2 (11<sup>th</sup> February 2020):

- *Panel on Gatekeeping Within The LGBTQIAP+ Community*

This panel discussed the exclusion of identities within the Queer community, be it lack of awareness of asexuality, bimisia within the community, exclusion of Trans\* identities from activism, or a lack of intersectionality taking into account caste, class, racial, and religious divides.

Number of participants - 50

MIRANDA HOUSE QUEER COLLECTIVE  
PRESENTS



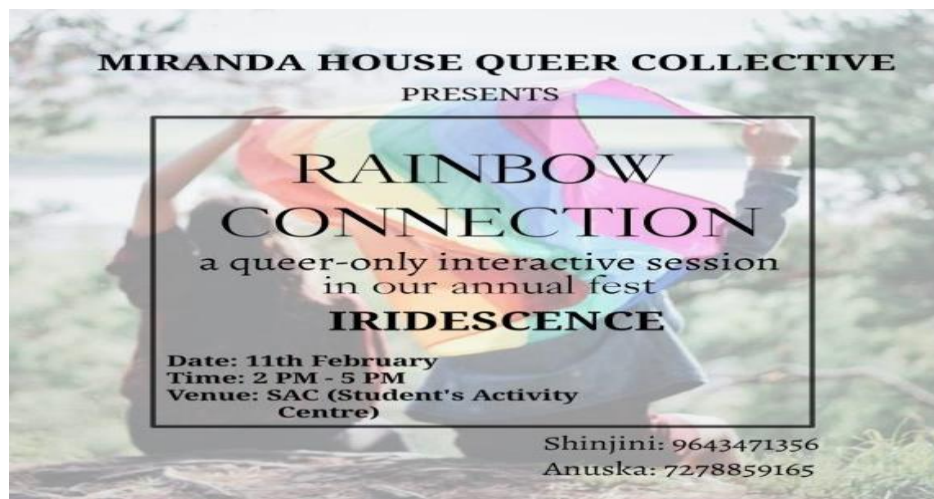
Date: 11th February  
Time: 10:30 AM - 12 Noon  
Venue: Room 314

Hritvika: 9711605552  
Anamya: 9990793427

- *Rainbow Connection*

The two-day fest ended with another interactive session in the form of Rainbow Connection for queer people to mingle and safely discuss anything on their mind.

Number of participants - 60+





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In addition to these events MHQC gave a space to queer artists and upcoming queer collectives to sell their artwork and gather funds.







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### Part A.2

#### Awards and recognition received

#### Gender Equity Certificate Course on Gender and Sexuality:

**1. Date:** 7th January – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020

In collaboration with Nirantar Trust, MHQC provided a course on Gender and Sexuality for students of Miranda House which covered several topics relating to gender disparity, sexual education, and the queer community.

Number of participants - 20

