



LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
CHENNAI-34

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS
& LOYOLA STUDENTS' COUNCIL

in collaboration with

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Cardially invite you to

◆◆ **THE PHILOMATHEAN CIRCLE** ◆◆

Guest Lecture on

**WHY TRANS POLITICS MATTERS?:
REPRESENTATION AND RESISTANCE**

ON THE DATE OF

03 FEBRUARY 2025

TIME
11:00 AM



VENUE
LS HALL

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GRACE BANU

WRITER AND ACTIVIST

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PATRONS

Rev. Dr. ANTONY ROBINSON S.J.
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Dean of Students

Dr. J. VANITHA
Head, Department of Sociology

Mr. A. R. TIPSTON
Dean of Students (Shift-II)

Report on the Guest Lecture Why Trans Politics Matters: Representation and Resistance

Guest Speaker: Ms. Grace Banu, Writer & Activist

Venue: L.S. Hall

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Date: 03.02.2025

The Department of Sociology at Loyola College hosted an eye-opening session, Why Trans Politics Matters: Representation and Resistance, featuring the esteemed activist, Grace Banu. Grace Banu is a trailblazing transgender activist, writer, and India's first transgender engineer. She has been a relentless advocate for trans rights, fighting for education, employment, and political representation for the transgender community. The event sought to unravel the harsh realities of transgender politics, their struggles, and the road ahead.

A Voice for the Voiceless

The event began with Thamizhthai Vazhthu followed by the introduction of chief guest, Ms. Grace Banu, a trailblazer in trans rights activist by III UG student Mr. Isaiarasu. Dr. J. Vanitha, Head of the Department of Sociology facilitated the chief guest with a shawl and Dr. Tipston, Dean of Students, shift 2, and Priya a student from Advanced Zoology facilitated the chief guest with mementos.

The Chief Guest's Address: A Stark Reality

Grace Banu's address resonated with raw truth. She reflected on her decade-long journey engaging with students, shedding light on incremental victories in trans rights. Yet, she reminded us that true equality remains a distant dream.

She challenged societal norms, questioning why trans individuals are forced into commercial sex work. The reality is stark—not choice, but systemic exclusion. She posed a piercing question: Would you accept a transgender child in your family?

The Hidden Violence Against Trans Lives

Banu narrated a harrowing incident where a transgender woman was publicly assaulted while bystanders remained silent. Even the police failed to take action. Who grants society the right

to inflict such violence? she asked. Transgender people are invisible in media, justice, and often, in their own homes.

The Politics of Recognition Without Rights

She dissected the political façade—while trans people are “recognized,” they are denied reservations in education and employment, blocking their true empowerment. She highlighted the systemic bias in competitive exams, asking: Should trans individuals compete with men, women, or among themselves? True equality demands structural change, not just symbolic inclusion.

Breaking the Silence: A Call to Action

Ending with a powerful message, she declared: Our silence is killing transgender lives. Acceptance is more than tolerance—it is standing in solidarity. She urged each individual to self-reflect: Have we truly embraced transgender individuals as equals?

The event concluded with an engaging Q&A session, followed by a heartfelt vote of thanks by Mr. Ssreejith I UG Sociology student.

