

**RESILIENCE IN PRIDE-SECTION 377 OF THE  
INDIAN PENAL CODE**

TEXT TYPE: SPEECH

## **RATIONALE:**

I have chosen to write a speech, which is regarding the Section 377 verdict of the Indian Penal Code, that decriminalized homosexuality on 6th September 2018. The objective of the speech is to celebrate the victory of the LGBTQ community by lauding people who were instrumental in assisting the community in achieving their rights.

The context of the speech is the day of the verdict, where the speech is delivered as a gay rights activist at the gay pride celebrations. It further addresses the importance of equality and evokes awareness about the flaws of the verdict which do not give the LGBT community the right to marriage, adoption, property possession and access to healthcare. The primary audience for my speech is the gay community who have gathered to celebrate this historic victory, whereas the secondary audience is the politicians, legal bodies and the LGBT activists.

I would be using ethos, pathos and logos and persuasive language (rhetorical questions and repetition) as it would allow me to deliver a bold speech in order to consolidate the LGBTQ community to retaliate against the groups who hold hatred towards homosexuality. Moreover, throughout this speech, I would be incorporating synthetic personalization and referring to symbols such as the rainbow flag as it would help me in connecting with the wider band of the audience present at the gay celebrations.

**Word Count: 285**

## **EVERY RIGHT COUNTS**

Good evening everyone,

I stand here for a community I deeply adore, a community that I call my family, a community that deserves every human right. As said by the Supreme Court of India, “Autonomy of an individual is important. He or she cannot surrender it to anyone”. This indeed is true about us. We are our own leaders and will continue to be so. As a gay rights activist and an ardent supporter of the LGBTQ community, I feel proud to stand here and speak to all of you, who are as proud and delighted to raise the rainbow flag, as high as the kite for the liberation of our community. Together, we have sweated, toiled and struggled all this while, and it has helped us emerge as winners, as absolute winners in front of the law!

The decriminalization of Section 377 is a milestone for innumerable citizens in India. Today streets were filled with rainbow colors and fortunate faces beaming with joy, pride and freedom. History has been rewritten in India for all of us and it has made us equal-Equal in the eyes of people, equal in the eyes of the law and lastly equal in our own eyes.

The verdict officially marks our first victory and there is a huge list of people who have helped us achieve this triumph. I stand before you at this gay parade commending the Naz Foundation NGO’s remonstrance against the law, Shashi Tharoor’s stout-hearted fight to revise the enactment of the Indian Penal Code and Navtej Johar’s endeavor to achieve equality for all the citizens of the country. They should be applauded for their contribution in this hard-boiled battle. However, there are multitudinous other faces behind the confrontation, who assisted in the attainment of the current adjudication. All of them have been instrumental in assisting us to reach the first step towards equality, but the battle is not over, brothers and sisters. There is still a long way to go. I have led you in the vanguard of this struggle, I walked shoulder to shoulder with you and will continue to do so.

A wrong is righted, but now it's time for the rights. Section 377 has been erased from our lives, but other obstacles still remain. We can't ignore the fact that decriminalization of Section 377 has been a turning point in the lives of many individuals, still, other challenges of the law restrict us to express ourselves. But, why has this verdict not given us privileges like any other human? We as a community still do not have the right to marriage. We still do not have the right to adoption and sadly, we still do not have the right to healthcare. But, remember brothers and sisters that we have walked hundreds of miles to claim our rights and we shall continue to do so until we gain our dignity! Always remember that sexual orientation does not define you anymore. We have worked together to destroy the major barricade and shall erase the remaining stumbling blocks.

It is high time, everyone. We are in the 21st century, where each and everyone deserves to be equal. We may have different genders and different colors or we may belong to different religions, but at the end of the day, we are all equal, we are all human and this fight against equality is not the fight of a community. It is the fight of humanity. Equality starts with basic rights and those basic rights include the right to marry, someone we love. It includes the right to adopt children just like any other person. It includes access to healthcare for everyone and lastly, it includes the right to possess property. Being gay, bisexual, transgender, lesbian or queer cannot restrict us anymore. We need to get rid of these labels and only adopt the label of a human, as that is where equality starts.

Despite this 17-year battle, we as the citizens of India have contributed to the economy in the same manner than any other citizen, we are an integral part of the future of this country. We live in a country that lays on the framework of democracy, but still, we are considered to be unequal as compared to others. How can we tolerate inequality in the biggest democracy in the world? We deserve equality and we deserve it now. Brothers and Sisters, this is not the time to hide away, we need to fight for our well-being, for the well-being of the society, for the well-

being of the future generations. The verdict on 6th September was a major triumph, but other barriers need to be dodged. The denial of other rights should stop. The world needs to accept us for who we are and we shall fight till that happens. It is time to fight harder to get rid of the intolerance prevalent in society. Our aim is to soar the rainbow flag higher by suppressing the bigotry in the atmosphere. We are winners, and we shall emerge as absolute winners in front of the law once again!

Lastly, I strongly believe that our community will break these barriers in order to gain recognition and respect in the society. Beyond these barriers is a future that would be filled with pride. That day, we won't even use the word, 'community' as that itself creates a distinction between us and others. That day, we would walk shoulder to shoulder and hold our heads up high together. That day, there would be no 'we' and 'they'. And, brothers and sisters, I assure you that day is not far away.

Thank You.

WORD COUNT: 944

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