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It has been a hectic year, particularly at the UN in Geneva, culminating in a historic and hopeful conclusion at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Sri Lanka on 15th November 2017. The Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL), has made a commitment to the UPR Committee, based on the many recommendations they received from several countries. Although noting the recommendations made by Honduras, Canada, Netherlands, Sweden, Uruguay, Australia and Brazil to decriminalise same sex relations, they accepted the 4 recommendations from Italy, Portugal, Uruguay, and Argentina to adopt measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Deputy Solicitor General Mr. Nerin Pulle, speaking on behalf of the GOSL said that the right to non-discrimination on the grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender identity is ‘implicit’ in our constitution and with constitutional reform, will soon be made ‘explicit’. He went on to quote a recent ruling by the Supreme Court (SC appeal no. 32/11) on a case brought before them under section 365A, saying “The contemporary thinking is that consensual sex between adults should not be policed by the state nor should it be ground for criminalization.” For more details on the UPR of Sri Lanka 2017 please do visit our website at www.equal-ground.org.

Needless to say, this current stance by the GOSL is not only very welcome, it does give hope to the more than 2 million LGBTIQ citizens of this country, that their country, their government, is finally willing to take the necessary steps to bring in much needed change to protect us. We will continue to work hard on behalf of the community to follow up on the Government’s commitment to non-discrimination based on SOGI and their commitment to enact judicial reform that will pave the way democratic and social rights for all our citizens, barring none. At EQUAL GROUND, we celebrate the culmination of our year spent at the UN, Geneva – shadow reports and oral presentations made to the ICESCR, CRC, CEDAW and finally UPR – with the positive response of our government regarding our issues. We have hope that the changes the GOSL has spoken about and affirmed at the UN will come to pass, sooner rather than later, but better late than never!

The 25th of November marked the beginning of the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence. This year, EQUAL GROUND engaged well know photographer Malaka (http://www.malakamp.com) to bring to light the increasing and incessant violence perpetrated against the LGBTIQ community. Disturbing though the visuals may be, they are a strong reminder that our community members suffer violence and harassment from others, mainly due to criminalization element but also due to social condemnation based on erroneous and misleading rhetoric. We thank Malaka and the several models who fearlessly lent their images to this campaign for assisting us on this project. This campaign should serve to remind everyone that violence and discrimination against anyone is unacceptable. Laws that discriminate and criminalise must be changed, and all citizens of this country must enjoy the protection of the state and the judiciary without bias.

As this year comes to a close, I must say a big thank you to my staff, my board of Trustees and all our allies and supporters for their continued belief in the work we do and the celebration of the progress we make each day in our journey toward “Equality for all Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities: Human Rights for Everyone.”

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead

Wishing you all a very joyous holiday season!

Rosanna Flamer-Calderar
Executive Director
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Ms. Rosanna Flamer-Caldera at the Zonta International 2017 Women of Achievement Awards. Ms. Rosanna Flamer-Caldera’s statement: “Equal Ground is not a place, it’s a mindset. It’s about breaking down barriers that prevent women from reaching their full potential.”

Zonta Women of Achievement 2017

Equality is not a place, it’s a mindset. It’s about breaking down barriers that prevent women from reaching their full potential. Zonta International 2017 Women of Achievement Awards.

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ZONTA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT 2017

Award for Social Impact
Recognising the LGBTIQ community.

It was very proud moment for EQUAL GROUND when our Executive Director, Rosanna Flamer-Caldera was awarded the Zonta Women of Achievement Award for Social Impact on the 17th September 2017. Since 1985, the Zonta Club 1 of Colombo has actively sought to celebrate women who have excelled in their respective fields and have contributed towards national development.

Upon receiving the award Ms Flamer-Caldera acknowledged that “This is not simply a win for me and the past seventeen years of my work, but it is a milestone in my career to know that the LGBTIQ community has been recognised as an important part of society, solidifying that our communities’ issues are just as paramount as any other marginalised group in this country.”

With the work Ms Flamer-Caldera and EQUAL GROUND has been doing, the LGBTIQ community has reached a point of recognition that would have been controversial ten years ago. We have come to see that the tides have been changing. Businesses and mainstream society are beginning to see that it is time to accept and support the LGBTIQ community.

Rosanna’s had this message to share on receiving the award: “I am dedicating this award to every LGBTIQ person & any kid out there who has faced some form of verbal, physical or emotional harassment – stand tall, bow down to no one and know that you create the path you take. There are opportunities and options available, always. Even if it feels that your world is on fire and you feel helpless and cornered. It is up to you what you make of the situations that are presented to you. Take every stone that is thrown at you and build your castle, one stone at a time. It is what I have done and continue to do, every day!”
ZONTA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT 2017

EQUAL GROUND has been recognized as the only LGBTQ+ achievement award in India. Ms. Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, the first LGBTQ+ person to receive the ZONTA award, was honored at a ceremony in 2017. The event was held at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel. Ms. Flamer-Caldera is an advocate for LGBTQ rights and has been a vocal proponent for equality. In 1985, she founded the Zonta Club 1, which remains a leading organization in India. The ZONTA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT 2017 award was presented to Ms. Flamer-Caldera by the ZONTA International.

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This All Hallows Eve, EQUAL GROUND hosted an intimate yet fun soiree for the community members and allies to escape from their mundane lives and enjoy a few of hours with our chosen families.

The party was held at the EQUAL GROUND office with a vibrant turn out. The office premise was transformed into a true haunted house with moving skeletons and Jack-o-lanterns by our very own staff member Priyadharma Kothiwala (Bundi). The guests paraded in their costumes and the best three costumes that was chosen that night were worn by Sandeepa Perera, Jude Ramesh and Hashendra Perera.
Halloween Costume Party

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Halloween Costume Party

EQUAL GROUND Hallows

The annual event celebrates the spirit of Halloween, where participants wear costumes and participate in various activities. This year, the theme was 'Eerily Earnest,' encouraging guests to dress up in creative and unique outfits that embody the essence of the night. The event was a huge success, attracting a diverse crowd who enjoyed the festive atmosphere and social gathering.

Photography: [Name]

Venue: [Location]

Date: [Date]

Organizer: [Organization]
On Wednesday 15th November 2017, the UN reviewed Sri Lanka’s record on human rights as part of the country’s third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) under the Human Rights Council.

The Universal Periodic Review, commonly known as UPR, is a unique mechanism which is aimed at improving the human rights situations of each of the 193 United Nations member countries. Under this mechanism, the human rights situations of all UN member countries are evaluated every five years. Thus far, the UPR is the first human rights mechanism to ever achieve 100% of participation by the UN member countries. What is also special about the mechanism is that it permits civil society organisations to advocate and take part in implementation of human rights obligations.

During this UPR Cycle the Sri Lankan government received seven specific recommendations to amend sections 365 and 365A of the Penal Code, which targets LGBTQ people in consensual, adult relationships which were submitted by Honduras, Canada, Netherlands, Sweden, Uruguay, Australia and Brazil. Further, Honduras, Italy, Portugal, Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil recommended that Sri Lanka adopt measures to combat the discrimination faced by the LGBTQ community.

In response to issues raised with respect to the LGBTQ community, Deputy Solicitor General Nerin Pulle underlined the government’s commitment to reforming Sri Lanka’s penal code to ensure that it meets international human rights standards.

Mr. Pulle added that the right to non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity is ‘implicit’ in the Sri Lankan constitution and, with the reform, will soon be made an ‘explicit’ guarantee in law. He then quoted from a recent ruling of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, which attested: “The contemporary thinking [is that] consensual sex between adults should not be policed by the state nor should it be grounds for criminalisation”.

Mr. Pulle told the UPR: “Despite social, political and cultural challenges that remain with respect to reforming law, Sri Lanka remains committed to law reform and guaranteeing non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.”
In response to the Sri Lankan Government’s UPR commitments, Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, Executive Director of EQUAL GROUND, said:

“We commend our government’s commitment to reforming the Penal Code and amending the Constitution to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds of non-discrimination.

No one deserves to be targeted by the law because of who they are or whom they love. Our government has shown significant resolve in pledging to address the criminalisation faced by the Sri Lankan LGBTQI community and guarantee them basic rights that have for so long been denied. Whether LGBTQI or not, we are all entitled to the full enjoyment of all human rights. We look forward to the government fulfilling on this commitment.

We welcome the Government of Sri Lanka’s willing and continued engagement with the Human Rights Council and the UPR process, and commend in particular our government’s commitment to the full realisation of human rights for all citizens in the country. We are pleased that in this regard our Government specifically addressed the questions and concerns raised by the UN Member States about the continued criminalisation of consensual same sex sexual conduct and the discrimination and violence faced by the LGBTQI community in Sri Lanka.

We are very grateful for the efforts of the international community who continue to raise their concerns over the treatment of the LGBTQI community in Sri Lanka and greatly appreciate the recommendations that have been made today.”

For the 28th Working Group Session this year, EQUAL GROUND actively advocated with other civil society organisations in Sri Lanka and Internationally to make sure that the situation of the minority sexual orientations and gender identity and expressions (SOGIE) in Sri Lanka were highlighted and addressed during the review of Sri Lanka.

The recommendations presented on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression issues were consulted with the LGBTQI community in Sri Lanka and represented in several joint submissions submitted to the Stakeholder’s summary. EQUAL GROUND submitted a joint report with the support of the The Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) of North-western Pritzker School of Law and The Global Initiatives for Human Rights (GIHR). Furthermore, EQUAL GROUND received the opportunity to speak to the international community during the UPR Info Pre-Sessions in October.
Due to the limitations of civil society involvement during the review process, UPR Info, a civil society organisation introduced the UPR Info Pre-Sessions in 2012 to provide a platform for civil society organisation to address the international community in Geneva and ensure that the recommendations that was made at the Review to be specific and well-targeted. EQUAL GROUND was granted a speaking slot at the UPR Info Pre-Sessions this year to further highlight the needs of the LGBTQ community.

EQUAL GROUND was also a part of the Advocacy Week organised by ILGA World and COC Netherlands which tremendously helped us shed light to the needs of the LGBTQ community with over 26 countries.

Our expectations during this process has been to gain as much support from supportive countries to make recommendations to Sri Lanka during the Review held in November on decriminalisation, protection against non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression and a legislative solution for persons to change their gender identity based on self-identification. Looking back at the recommendations and the Government’s statement we believe our advocacy work has been fruitful.

Our present hope is to support the Government of Sri Lanka during its implementation phase, to well address these recommendations and carry them out.

Special Thanks to:

GLOBAL INITIATIVES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM

HUMAN DIGNITY TRUST

Center for International Human Rights
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Special Thanks to:

UPR

ILGA

09
“Sri Lanka has one of the most progressive human rights records in the region,” human rights activist Dr. Marzuki Darusman said. “We believe that the country’s commitment to protecting and promoting human rights is reflected in the country’s actions and policies.”

Dr. Marzuki Darusman has been a long-time advocate for human rights and has worked with various international organizations to promote and protect human rights. He has been a vocal supporter of Sri Lanka’s efforts to improve its human rights record and has praised the government’s commitment to human rights.

Among the human rights issues that Dr. Marzuki Darusman has focused on in Sri Lanka are freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the protection of minority rights. He has called for the government to take further steps to ensure that all citizens have access to a free press and to protect religious freedom.

Dr. Marzuki Darusman has also spoken out about the need to address the issue of the disappeared in Sri Lanka. He has called on the government to investigate all allegations of disappearances and to ensure that justice is done for those who have gone missing.

In conclusion, Dr. Marzuki Darusman has been a strong and consistent advocate for human rights in Sri Lanka. His work has helped to raise awareness of the country’s human rights record and to bring attention to the issues that need to be addressed.

Sri Lanka's Commitment to Human Rights

Sri Lanka has a strong commitment to human rights and has made significant progress in improving its human rights record. The government has taken steps to ensure that all citizens have access to a free press and to protect religious freedom.

However, there are still issues that need to be addressed, such as the issue of the disappeared. The government has committed to investigating all allegations of disappearances and to ensuring that justice is done for those who have gone missing.

In conclusion, Sri Lanka has made significant progress in improving its human rights record and has a strong commitment to protecting and promoting human rights. However, there is still work to be done to address the issues that remain.

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"சென்றவர் தனது வாழ்வுகளில் புரட்சியக்கவுரையில், பெண்கள் வாழ்வுக்கான புரட்சியக்கவுரையில் அறிக்கை பெற்றுக்காட்டுகிறது. அவர்கள் எந்த பொருளையும் குறிப்பிட்டு விளக்கவும் திறந்து கொள்ளி அவியருக்கு காரணம் மாடுவது.

தாசர் முனையில் UPR தேவை நிலைக்கு. "சிறந்தவர் தனது வாழ்வுக்கான புரட்சியக்கவுரையில், பெண்கள் வாழ்வுக்கான புரட்சியக்கவுரையில் அறிக்கை பெற்றுக்காட்டுகிறது. அவர்கள் எந்த பொருளையும் குறிப்பிட்டு விளக்கவும் திறந்து கொள்ளி அவியருக்கு காரணம் மாடுவது."

வேலியல் அரசாங்கத்தின் UPR கான்கைக்கானது புரட்சியக்கவுரைகள் EQUAL GROUND குழுவின் நிறுவனரும் Rosanna Flamer-Caldera குறிப்பிட்டு.

"அமெரிக்காவின் குழுவாட்சியின் நோக்கம் அரசாங்கத்தின் குழுவாட்சி புரட்சியக்கவுரைகளின் நோக்கம். பெண்கள் வாழ்வுக்கான புரட்சியக்கவுரையில் மேம்படுத்தும் வாழ்வுகளின் பராமரிப்பு பிரிவில் பாதுகாப்பு அளிக்கும் நிகழ்வுக்காக நகரைகள் அவன்றுக்கு குறிப்பிட்டு விளக்கவும்.

அனுமாவர் முனையில் பெண்களின் புரட்சியக்கவுரைகளில் அவர்கள் அவர்களது வாழ்வுக்கான புரட்சியக்கவுரைகளில் பாதுகாப்பு அளிக்கும் பொருளையும் குறிப்பிட்டு விளக்கவும். LGBTIQ பழகுபாடும் நோக்கங்களுள் எந்தவும் அவர்களால் குறிப்பிட்டு விளக்கவும். அவர்களே பதிலும் பழகுபாடும் பொருளையும் குறிப்பிட்டு விளக்கவும். LGBTIQ பழகுபாடும் நோக்கங்களுள் எந்தவும் அவர்களால் குறிப்பிட்டு விளக்கவும். அவர்களே பதிலும் பழகுபாடும் பொருளையும் குறிப்பிட்டு விளக்கவும்."
BREAK THE SILENCE ABOUT LGBT VIOLENCE

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
Violence comes in different shapes and forms. Within the LGBT community, people are often subjected to emotional, physical and sexual abuse. These are often carried out by family, peers or law enforcement. This year for 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, we decided to focus on how LGBT persons face abusive situations due to their sexual orientation, or gender identity and expressions.

For many years EQUAL GROUND has worked on gathering cases on discrimination and violence faced by the LGBT community. In our work, we have noticed similarities in the stories we hear. Based on real reported cases we constructed situations that had a wide impact on the community.

Breaking away from the usual campaign around women and children, we decided to include gay men and transmen and the violence they faced. We felt that they were too important to leave out. They too face much abuse due to their perceived sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions.

We decided to focus on forced marriages of lesbians, abuse lesbian couples face in social situations, blackmail and sexual abuse on gay men by law enforcement and peers, sexual abuse trans women face by law enforcement and street harassment and the gender reveal of and sexual abuse faced by Transmen.

To capture our campaign, we were privileged to work with the very talented Malaka from Malaka MP Photography. From the first discussion, brainstorm sessions to the final shoot date and execution of images he has been supportive to the cause. It was a real pleasure working with such a talent house on such a powerful campaign.

Our ultimate goal with this campaign is to break the silence on LGBT violence. We encourage anyone who has been a victim or who knows someone who has faced a violent situation that is emotionally, physically or sexually abusive based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression to connect with us. We provide legal, medical or emotional advice. We can be reached via phone, text/WhatsApp or Facebook.

EQUAL GROUND also provides free counselling services at 011 4334277 or facebook.com/EGcounsellinghotline/

BREAK THE SILENCE is a proud collaboration of EQUAL GROUND and NEKGEN.

Special Thanks to all the volunteers who contributed their valuable time to this campaign.
නම්නා සිටින් ඉතා දළු අඩිවේගාවක් මෙන්ම මෙරට දෙළි විශේෂ වූ කොටසේ වටා ලැබීමේ ස්වරාමික ආරාම්භය යි. 1971 මාස මෙහෙයින් ආවරණ මණ්ඩලය සහ කරුණ පුළුල තුළ දක්වා විය. නම්නා මෙහෙයිල් මණ්ඩලයට මෙහෙයින් තුළ දක්වා ලැබීමේ ස්වරාමික ආරාම්භය යි. මෙහෙයින් තුළ දක්වා ලැබීමේ ස්වරාමික ආරාම්භය යි. 1971 මාස මෙහෙයිල් මණ්ඩලයට මෙහෙයින් තුළ දක්වා ලැබීමේ ස්වරාමික ආරාම්භය යි.
BREAK THE SILENCE
ABOUT LGBT VIOLENCE
BREAK THE SILENCE ABOUT LGBT VIOLENCE
LGBT எழுத்துச் செய்திகள் விளக்கத்தில் அறிக்கையுள்ள வரலாற்றுச் செயல்கள். தொடர்ந்து எழுத்துச் செய்தி கான்றும் பகுதியில் எழுத்துச் செய்தி விளக்கத்தில் அறிக்கையுள்ள வரலாற்றுச் செயல்கள். 

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BREAK THE SILENCE ABOUT LGBT VIOLENCE

IF YOU ARE VICTIM OF VIOLENCE, WE CAN HELP YOU WITH LEGAL, MEDICAL OR EMOTIONAL ADVICE.
Call - 011 4334277 | Text / Whatsapp - 0777 677 333 | Facebook - www.facebook.com/nexgensl
Within the Sri Lankan society, we’ve come to understand that the Lesbian and Bisexual women are the least represented and visible due to the intersection of their sexual orientation with their gender identity. The gender imbalances in Sri Lankan society are worsened by a women’s non-heteronormativity. We believe that as a result, lesbian and bisexual women face a higher risk having their rights infringed, especially if they are not economically independent.

In hopes of shedding light on the issues faced by the Lesbian and Bisexual women, EQUAL GROUND announced the September 21 as Lesbian Visibility Day. Celebrations were held at the Dutch Burgher Union which brought together the community members in a Strictly Women Only event where EQUAL GROUND introduced the Women on Top Scholarship program.

The Women on Top Scholarship program hopes to provide 10 grants of up to LKR 50,000.00 per individual, who qualify for personal or economic advancement. The scholarship will be granted for enrolment in a vocational course or purchases trade-equipment or other related development activities that would help one advance their economic situation.

The scholarship program was previously carried out as a Catapult Project. EQUAL GROUND hopes to continue the program annually along with celebrating Lesbian Visibility Day. To be a part of our mailing list for Lesbian Visibility please email media@equalgroundsri.lanka.com with the subject “Lesbian Visibility”.

For more information on the scholarship program visit the EQUAL GROUND Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/EQUALGROUND
Celebrating the power of lesbian visibility

EQUAL GROUND is proud to announce that all proceeds from the Women on Top Scholarship Program will go towards female and non-binary gender-identifying students pursuing higher education. The scholarship program aims to support those who identify as LGBT+ and their allies.

Women on Top scholarship is open to all students pursuing higher education in Lankan universities and institutions. The scholarship will cover tuition fees, books, and other educational expenses. The deadline for applications is 30th November 2023.

The Women on Top Scholarship is a collaborative effort between EQUAL GROUND and Catpult Media. Catpult Media is a leading media company in Sri Lanka, known for its innovative and groundbreaking content. The partnership aims to create awareness and support for LGBT+ students in Sri Lanka.

For more information, please visit our website at www.equalgroundsri.lanka. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact us at info@equalgroundsri.lanka or send an email to info@equalgroundsri.lanka.

Let us join together to celebrate the power of lesbian visibility and support our future leaders.
Life story

Meenakshi Gurukkal

(මේනක්‍යේ ගුරුක්කල)

Kalaripayattu

මේනක්‍යේ ගුරුක්‍කලු යොදාගතිය, මෙය විශාල මුද්‍ර මුදුරියේ ඉදිරිපත් කරන අවසන් කටයුතු අතරින් ඉටුව විශේෂයක් නිෂ්පාදන කරන කොටසක් යියේ යි. මැතන්නෙන් කොටසේ මෙහෙයින් අනුවදුරු වශයෙන් විශේෂය විශේෂයක් නිෂ්පාදන කරන කොටසක්, මෙහෙයින් අවසන් කාර්ය අතරින් ඉටුව විශේෂයක් නිෂ්පාදන කරන කොටසක් යියේ යි. මේයින් අනුවදුරු කාර්ය අතරින් ඉටුව විශේෂයක් නිෂ්පාදන කරන කොටසක් යියේ යි. 

මේනක්‍යේ ගුරුක්‍කලු (Kalaripayattu) මෙය ප්‍රධානයෙන් දෙළි මොඩේ මොඩේ බාලව මෙහෙයින් ඉටුව විශේෂයක් නිෂ්පාදන කරන කොටසක් යි. මේයින් අනුවදුරු කාර්ය අතරින් ඉටුව විශේෂයක් නිෂ්පාදන කරන කොටසක් යි. මේයින් අිට්ටස් මොඩේ මොඩේ මොඩේ මොඩේ බාලව විශේෂයක් නිෂ්පාදන කරන කොටසක් යි. 

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Life story

Born in a coalmine village in Kerala, Meenakshi Gurukkal was a young child at the time of the 1949 major labor strike. Her parents were among the many who decided to leave the mines. At the age of 16, Meenakshi's parents apprenticed her under famous Kalaripayattu maestro Kallil V.K. Pillai. She mastered the art of Kalaripayattu, which is a traditional martial art of Kerala.

Meenakshi's talent and dedication were recognized at a young age. She started performing in Kerala and later in other parts of India. Her performances were a blend of traditional Kalaripayattu and modern themes, earning her the title of "Maestro of Kalaripayattu." She continued to perform until her retirement in 1980.

After retirement, Meenakshi Gurukkal became a teacher and mentor, passing on her knowledge to the next generation. She was honored with several awards and recognition, including the Padma Shri in 2004, India's third-highest civilian award.

Meenakshi Gurukkal passed away on January 21, 2020. Her spirit and legacy live on through the Kalaripayattu community and her students.

For more information, visit:
https://www.barcroft.tv/sword-fighting-granny-martial-arts-kalaripayattu-india
http://www.india.com/home/india-on-social-media/}

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In 2014 I met an icon, a woman who fearlessly took on the might of the US government and won! I remember thinking when I first set eyes on her in person, “She’s so tiny and so beautiful! I can’t believe she did what she did!” I immediately knew I had to somehow find a way to speak to her. We were in the middle of the very crowded Arcadian Court, an Art Deco event space on the eighth floor of the flagship downtown Toronto location of the Canadian department store The Bay. It was the venue of the World Pride Gala and Awards held in support of Camp fyrefly, the country’s only national leadership retreat for Canada’s LGBTQ++ youth. Performing at that event were k.d. lang – I’m a huge fan - and Lea Delaria (of Orange is the new Black fame). The black-tie gala dinner was filled with celebrities such as the ex-PM of Iceland and her partner and other LGBTQ luminaries such as Gilbert Baker (who also passed away last year).

I did have to scramble my way through PA’s and others who had a ring around Edie like she was the President of the United States. But she took one look at me, and perhaps it was the desperation written on my face, she signaled her troups to let me through! I couldn’t have asked for a better reception. She was so cordial and sweet, particularly when she held my face in her hands and wished me well. I was happy to tell her how much she inspired me and also that we had shown her documentary ‘Edie and Thea: A Very Long Engagement’ at the 2013 Colombo PRIDE Celluloid Rainbows LGBTQ Film Festival! She was very happy about that.

Having thus digressed out of sheer excitement and sadness at her passing, let me share a few facts about Edie and you will see how ‘big’ a personality she really was. How determined and passionate and brave she was.

Edie Windsor was the plaintiff who brought down the Defense of Marriage Act and paved the way for national marriage equality in the United States. The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), enacted in September 21, 1996, was a US Federal law that defined marriage for federal purposes as the union of one man and one woman, and allowed states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages granted under the laws of other states.

Edith “Edie” Windsor met her partner Thea Spyer in 1963 in New York. At the time, it wasn’t fashionable or accepted that women date each other or fall in love, so things were kept on the downlow for many years.
In 1967, Thea Sper asked Edie to marry her although it was not legal in the US at the time. They were together till 2009 when Thea Sper died of complications caused by Multiple Sclerosis. Prior to that however, they lived in New York and after Thea was diagnosed with MS, Edie took care of Thea as her main care giver. Edie and Thea entered into a ‘domestic partnership’ in New York City in 1993 where they resided, which at the time was the closest they could come to being actually married. In 2007, the doctors broke the news to the couple that Thea had less than a year to live. Complications from MS had shortened Thea’s life considerably and since New York had not yet legalized same-sex marriage, the couple decided to fulfill their desire of many, many years to marry in Toronto, Canada, on May 22, 2007, with Canada’s first openly gay judge, Justice Harvey Brownstone, presiding. The marriage was written about in the New York Times and documentary film makers were on hand to film every bit of this wonderful union which later translated into ‘Edie and Thea: A Very Long Engagement’ – a beautiful documentary film that we screened here in Colombo as well.

In 2008, New York recognized their marriage following a court decision. When Thea Sper died at the age of 77 in 2009, she left her entire estate to Edie Windsor. Windsor sought to claim the federal estate tax exemption for surviving spouses. She was barred from doing so by section 3 of DOMA, which said that the term "spouse" only applied to marriages between a man and woman. The Internal Revenue Service found that the exemption did not apply to same-sex marriages, and denied Windsor her claim, compelling her to pay a huge sum of money in estate taxes.

On November 9, 2010, Windsor sued the federal government seeking a refund stating that DOMA singled out legally married same-sex couples for "differential treatment compared to other similarly situated couples without justification." After much legal wrangling and to and fro, on June 26, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision declaring Section 3 of DOMA to be unconstitutional; "...a deprivation of the liberty of the person protected by the Fifth Amendment." Edie had won!

Paving the way to this enormous victory was her solid base of activism on behalf of the LGBT community in the US, for which, over the years, she won many accolades for. Edie was also an intellectual and had a Masters in Mathematics and worked for IBM for several years. Following her departure from IBM in 1975, she increased her involvement with LGBT organizations volunteering for the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the East End Gay Organization, the LGBT Community Center and the 1994 Gay Games held in New York. She helped found Old Queers Acting Up, an improvisation group utilizing skits to address social justice issues. She also served on the board of Services & Advocacy for LGBT Elders (SAGE).

Edie continued to be a public advocate for same-sex marriage in the years following United States v.

Windsor. She also received many, many awards which included in part the Joyce Warshaw Lifetime Achievement Award (2010), Trailblazer in Law Award (2011), Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty (2011), New York City Council Award, (2011) Susan B. Anthony Award (2012), Visionary Award (2012), Trailblazer Award (2013), Eugene J. Keogh Award for Distinguished Public Service at New York University (2013), Presidential Medal (2013), Keeping Faith Award (2013), Lifetime Leadership Award (2013), Trailblazer of Democracy Award-The Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Award (2013), Out 100 – Lifetime Achievement Award (2013) and was Named by Equality Forum as one of their 31 Icons of the 2015.

Edie Windsor was a trail blazer and an icon. At her funeral Hilary Clinton said: "It is fitting that she will be immortalized in history books in that landmark decision synonymous with equal rights and dignity under the law. But she didn’t stop there. She continued to support the needs and the rights of the LGBT community. She helped change hearts and minds, including mine. And we are forever grateful to her for that."

President Barak Obama summed her up succinctly. “Few were as small in stature as Edie Windsor – and few made as big a difference to America.”

She will be missed. I am honoured that I had the chance to meet her. Rest in Peace Edie – you were a giant amongst us all!
Pumpkin Cake is a rather unusual dessert for us Sri Lankans. But, we guarantee that this rich and decadent cake would leave you wanting more. The best part about it is that it is easy to make and it stores well for later. Try the following recipe by our culinary guru Tosakanth with her own twist.

**METHOD:**

1. Pre-heat the oven at 180°C and grease pan (Bundt cake pan or whatever you have).

2. If using fresh pumpkin, chop it and add a little yoghurt or sour cream and blend it till it’s a puree.

3. In a bowl combine the dry ingredients: flour, cocoa powder, cinnamon and nutmeg.

4. In a mixing bowl with electric mixer, cream butter with sugars until light and fluffy.

5. Beat in eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition and then beat in vanilla.

6. Slowly beat in the dry mixture, alternating with the sour cream/yoghurt and pumpkin. Beat until well blended, scraping the sides of the bowl a few times.

7. Spoon the batter into the prepared pan

8. Bake for 25 mins or until toothpick comes out clean when inserted.

9. Cool in the pan on a rack for 15 minutes. Invert onto a serving plate to cool completely. Dust with powdered sugar or ice with an orange tinted glaze or thin icing.
Bondi Beach in Sydney comes alive each September with the world-famous Festival of the Winds – an international kite flying festival with music, dance and culinary delights which attracts big crowds and the most innovative kites from around the world. I was fortunate to have been in Sydney and on Bondi Beach on Sunday 10th September 2017 to witness this most spectacular beach carnival. While the beat of some spectacular music from the local Sydney radio spin doctors and performances by local and international dancers and musicians on the built-up stage near the famous Bondi Pavilion, the kites flew high in a dazzling display of colour and ingenuity.

This famous ‘wind powered’ event features Australian and International kite flyers showing off their skills and amazing hand-made creations. Vendors were also busy selling kites along the beach walk so that anyone who wanted to, could also get in on the fun. Flying a kite can be so exhilarating and also extremely frustrating! Particularly if the wind gods don’t cooperate! However, this Sunday, was exceptional.

The weather gods were indeed smiling on Bondi Beach – the temperature in the high 60’s (F) with winds gusting just right at between 14 to 20mph. While the surf was extremely rough – not a single surfer dared the waves that day - it made a perfect setting for the kites to ‘show off’!

The Festival of the Winds kite flying festival is Sydney’s most colourful spring festival. Held each year in September it promises each year, to be a great day out for the whole family.... and their dogs!

I was just thinking, while wandering around absorbing the amazing atmosphere of the festival, that it would be so great to have our ‘Rainbow Kite’ Festival become as big and as amazing as this one, one day!
The Transgender day of Remembrance is observed annually on the 20th of November to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. Many activists plan events around the Transgender Day of Remembrance to bring about awareness of the continued violence endured by Trans communities around the globe.

Gwendolyn Ann Smith founded the Transgender Day of Remembrance in 1999 to memorialize the murder of Rita Hester in Allston, Massachusetts. Over the years this commemorative day has taken traction from a web-based project to an international day of action which consists of candle light vigils, art shows, film screenings and social media campaigns to spread awareness.

The trans community in Sri Lanka also continues to face numerous abuses due to their gender identity and expression. Thankfully we haven’t faced any murders that can be linked directly to transphobia but the stigma and discrimination, sexual and physical violence persists. To discuss the situation further we spoke with prominent trans rights activist and Organisation Coordinator of Young Out Here, Ms Bhoomi Harrendran.

Transgender day of Remembrance and Violence against Trans persons in Sri Lanka with,

Bhoomi Harrendran

According to Ms Bhoomi, Sri Lankan society is usually more welcoming of the Trans persons who conform to the gender binary and complete their transformation as either a male or a female. As much this is progressive of our society it brings a considerable disadvantage to the trans persons who are either in transition or do not feel the need to conform by the society’s standards. The first and most copious issue that is faced by trans persons of all walks of life is a constant battle with depression and suicide. This emotional abuse starts from home with abusive words, physical and sexual abuse and culminate with trans persons often being kicked out of their homes.
As much as the process of transition is economically costly and stressful emotionally, they then face numerous other abuses from society. They are often unable to find suitable employment and housing and even face physical and verbal harassment on the streets. These intersecting issues often leave them with very little choice of employment methods and they end up succumbing to sex work. Leading a life as sex worker then paves the way to bigger and more problematic issues such as being at risk for arrest, rape or even sexually transmitted diseases.

Recently the Government of Sri Lanka has taken progressive steps to protect the fundamental rights of the Trans community by recommending, including explicit protection from discrimination based on gender identity in the Sri Lankan Constitution through the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2017-2021. In 2016 the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine along with the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka introduced a process for document change for transgender individuals undergoing ‘surgical and hormonal treatment’ via a circular enabling them to change their identity documents such as the NIC and education certificates. As commending as these progresses are, we must keep in mind that without fair education, awareness and acceptance from society, these changes will remain limited.

The fact is that acceptance needs to start early. It is generally understood that kids as young as six years begin to explore their gender identity. Creating awareness among parents and educators is paramount in fighting the battle against the abuse Trans persons go through. Acceptance within the family unit fosters a healthy environment for any child especially kids battling with their gender identity to come out and accept themselves.

On a social level, educating law enforcement and the medical sector as well as the general public is the next step. As community members, it is also important to fight against violence and discrimination to better the lives of Trans persons of tomorrow. EQUAL GROUND has been introducing various modes of safe and secure communication channels for persons seeking redress. The December issue of EQUALITY Magazine is dedicated to raise awareness of the violence we go through. We encourage that community members continue to seek the necessary advice and help through these channels.

Sriyal Nilanka

Acceptance within the family unit fosters a healthy environment for any child especially kids battling with their gender identity to come out and accept themselves.

Celebrating the Transgender Day of Remembrance!

Celebrating the Transgender Day of Remembrance!

Celebrating the Transgender Day of Remembrance!

Celebrating the Transgender Day of Remembrance!
"Sraddhā pravidhānā karunā" (Freedom Of Sexual Orientation)

Dinakari karunā punarṇāmarē, dinakari va karunā purushottamē.

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Dinakari karunā punarṇāmarē, dinakari va karunā purushottamē.
"तिब कक्षीताच्या हथलोकम" ठरला ज्या इंग्रजीत "A Silent Voice" असे लोकप्रिय अभियंताच्या हथलोकम. या कथेचा वाचकांना त्यांच्या अनुभवाच्या वृद्धिके काळातील वसूली असतील. नायकांचे वापर अलंकारित अनुभवाच्या वृद्धिके काळातील वसूली असतील. नायकांचे वापर अलंकारित

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பாங்கிச் கிளாஸ்

淮南 பெண்கள் அனைத்து படம்

குரோமியம், புரூப்போவியமு சிறுவர் அகத்த மைசார் பொடிகை (பொடிகை) தொடர்பான கயிறுகளும் காலரூக்குச் சினை (Pansy) தலைவர்கள் பிள்ளையார். காட்சி பூச்சிகளின் கணிப்பக்கத்தில் பிள்ளைநாய், புரூப்போ (Pansy) தலைவர்கள் பிள்ளையார் நடவடிக்கை. இவ்வாலே, பொடிகைக்கும் பொடிகைக்கும் வேலை. பொடிகை பொடிகைச் சினையான (The Pansy Project) பொடிகைநிகழ்ச்சி. 

மற்றையென பாங்கிச் கிளாஸ் சினையான பொடிகை தமிழ் பொடிகைச் சினையான (The Pansy Project) பொடிகைநிகழ்ச்சி. மற்றையென பாங்கிச் கிளாஸ் சினையான பொடிகை தமிழ் பொடிகைச் சினையான (The Pansy Project) பொடிகைநிகழ்ச்சி. 

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[Narahenpita] A Heart2Heat Community project conducted in collaboration with the Global Fund and the Family Planning

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“මෙකකට හැකිය අපාරව පිළිබඳ , කලාවට ආකමනිට.. ඔබට අදාළකිනි මතු වි සොංකොත්වීමී”

2013 වසරේදී මෙම නිපතනය යටතේ දේශපාලන දී ගැනීම, 2009 වසරේදී ගොඩල්ල ප්‍රමාණය ලබා දීමේ පිළිබඳව පෙනෙන කොටසේ 377 මාසයක්, නිරිත කරගන්නා යාම්පන්ටේ ප්‍රතිසන්ධානයක් පිළිළි කළ වේ. මෙම නිපතනය අතිකඩ විටි ආරක්ෂාවක් ලබා දේ. 2014 වසරේදී මෙම නිපතනය යාම්පන්ටේ ප්‍රතිසන්ධානයක් යටතේ භාරත්වයන් නිරාකරණය කළ නිරාකරණය කළේ. මෙම නිපතනය යටතේ ප්‍රතිසන්ධානයක් යටතේ භාරත්වයන්නේ පිළිබඳව මෙම නිපතනය රාජකිරීම ජාතික කාර්යදේශයක් ලෙස කිරීමට පියෝන්නා තිබේ. 2017 වසරේදී මෙම නිපතනය කිරීමට උත්සාහ දෙන විට, ගොඩනැගිල්ලේ දක්නට පොළිසෙන්ට පුළුල් අවස්ථාවක් ලිඛිතව ඉතිහාසිකය්න්ගේ පිළිබඳව මෙම නිපතනය කිරීමට උත්සාහ දෙන විට, මෙම නිපතනය ගොඩනැගිල්ලේ දක්නට තිබේ.
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සිංහලේ

මෙහෙය  විශේෂ කොටසේ අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට මෙහෙය අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට කොටසේ අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට, මෙහෙය අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට, මෙහෙය අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට. මෙහෙය අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට විශේෂ කොටසේ අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට. මෙහෙය අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට විශේෂ කොටසේ අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට. මෙහෙය අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට විශේෂ කොටසේ අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට. මෙහෙය අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට විශේෂ කොටසේ අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට. මෙහෙය අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට විශේෂ කොටසේ අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට. මෙහෙය අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට විශේෂ කොටසේ අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට. මෙහෙය අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට විශේෂ කොටසේ අතා කළේ නිවැස කල විට.
සාකේ කළුළු අතරින් ඔබ නිවේදන කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය සහ අසංඝුරා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය සාකේ කළුළු අතරින් එයින් අරියක් කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය සහ අසංඝුරා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය විශේෂයෙන් ඒවා විශේෂයෙන් ඔබට පෙරළූවන්නේ කොහෙයින් අතුරින් ලෙස මෙම විශේෂය සමඟින්නා අතුරින් යි. 

උත්තර අතුරින් දෙදූ සාකේ කළුළු අතරින් රෝගය යෝජනා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය සහ අසංඝුරා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය ගිණිමති රෝගය.

උත්තර අතුරින් දෙදූ සාකේ කළුළු අතරින් රෝගය යෝජනා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය සහ අසංඝුරා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය ගිණිමති රෝගය

උත්තර අතුරින් දෙදූ සාකේ කළුළු අතරින් රෝගය යෝජනා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය සහ අසංඝුරා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය ගිණිමති රෝගය

උත්තර අතුරින් දෙදූ සාකේ කළුළු අතරින් රෝගය යෝජනා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය සහ අසංඝුරා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය ගිණිමති රෝගය

උත්තර අතුරින් දෙදූ සාකේ කළුළු අතරින් රෝගය යෝජනා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය සහ අසංඝුරා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය ගිණිමති රෝගය

උත්තර අතුරින් දෙදූ සාකේ කළුළු අතරින් රෝගය යෝජනා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය සහ අසංඝුරා කළමනාකරණයේ වර්ගීකරණය ගිණිමති රෝගය
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Years is 
enough

PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO LOVE!
Over the years with film school influence and engaging discourses offering feedback to the queer cinema, we could see that LGBT movies are reaching a golden age. Just this year we have been privy to movies such as Call me by your name and the summer surprise hit, God’s own country.

We dived into the streaming service Netflix, taking root in the country to compile a list of queer movies for our readers to enjoy from the comfort of their living room. From coming-of-age dramas and thought-provoking documentaries to bro comedies and drag queen biopics, here’s a look at nine great modern LGBT films to indulge in this holiday season.

Source: http://metro.co.uk/2017/10/31/10-great-lgbt-films-to-watch-on-netflix-7904710/

Blue is the Warmest Color

A three-hour long subtitled coming-of-age drama based on a French graphic novel? Blue is the Warmest Color sounds like a hard sell on paper.

But despite its lengthy running time, magnetic performances from Lea Seydoux and Adele Exarchopoulos impressively leave you wanting more.

I Am Divine

Best-known for eating dog excrement in Pink Flamingos and his brief mid-80s Hi-NRG pop career, the late drag queen Divine is celebrated in all of her larger-than-life glory in this fascinating biopic.

Long-time collaborator John Waters, Hairspray co-star Ricki Lake and 50s movie idol Tab Hunter are just some of the famous faces who pay tribute to the surprisingly shy man behind the garish make-up.

The Pass

Deservedly nominated for a BAFTA earlier this year, The Pass explores the long-running and complex relationship between two closeted professional footballers. Russell Tovey, who also starred in the stage play it’s adapted from, gives a career-best performance in an insightful drama that takes place across ten years in three hotel rooms.
Tab Hunter Confidential

Tab Hunter is also the subject of this candid 2015 documentary which reveals how one of the most lusted-after movie stars of the 50s and 60s coped with staying in the closet.

Now in his mid-80s, Hunter is both refreshingly honest and super charming as he recalls his double life in the glory days of the Hollywood studio system.

Fourth Man Out

A bro comedy with an LGBT twist, Fourth Man Out stars Evan Todd as a 24-year-old New Yorker whose friendship with his dude squad is tested when he comes out.

Parker Young (Suburgatory), Chord Overstreet (Glee) and Jon Gabrus (Younger) play the three buds who all deal with the news differently in a film far more appealing and warm-hearted than its premise suggests.

The Death And Life Of Marsha P. Johnson.

Hailed as the Rosa Parks of the LGBT movement, Marsha P Johnson was a transgender activist who played an instrumental role in the Stonewall riots of 1969. Tragically, her dead body was found floating in the Hudson River in 1992, with police initially ruling a suicide verdict. This heartbreaking documentary sets out to explore the theory that her death may have been more sinister than first thought.

Handsome Devil

A hidden gem, this charming indie comedy drama centres on a fiery-haired sensitive geek who develops an unlikely friendship with his school’s rugby superstar. Starring relative unknowns Nicholas Galitzine and Fionn O’Shea as the mismatched buddies, and Andrew Scott (Sherlock) as their inspirational English teacher, Handsome Devil tackles serious themes of homophobia, conformism and masculinity, but does so with warmth and a breezy sense of humour.

Holding The Man

You’ll need to get the tissues ready for this evocative and emotionally devastating adaptation of the late Australian activist Timothy Conigrave’s memoir. Ryan Corr and Trevor Stott are perfectly cast as two young lovers whose high-school romance blossoms into a lifelong relationship cruelly cut short by the 1980s HIV/AIDS crisis. Holding the Man perhaps inevitably got overshadowed by HBO’s similarly-themed The Normal Heart, but this more intimate alternative is arguably just as powerful.

I Am Michael

The ridiculously prolific James Franco delivers one of his better recent performances in this thought-provoking, if slightly uneven, true-life tale. The older Franco brother stars as Michael Glatze, a one-time gay activist who on his way to becoming a Christian pastor ends up renouncing his entire former life.
HONG KONG WINS BID TO HOST 2022 GAY GAMES

Built on the principals of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best, since 1982 the Gay Games promote equality through gay-friendly sports and cultural events. Gay Games was the brainchild of Olympic decathlete Tom Waddell and others.

Back in October during a vote held in Paris, France, Hong Kong won the bid to host the Gay Games 2022 contributing to the progress Asia has been achieving in the region. It comes as a big victory in diversity and inclusion along with Taiwan’s declaration to marriage equality.

Even though there is no legal protection against non-discrimination or equal marriage rights in Hong Kong, “The government is committed to promoting equal opportunities and fostering in the community the culture and values of inclusiveness and mutual respect,” the Hong Kong Government said.

Backed by major corporations such as Cathay Pacific, Credit Suisse Hong Kong Ltd & Linklaters LLP the games are expected to attract over 15,000 participants and provide a HK$1-billion boost to the economy.

Gay Games have made a great impact in the cities that have hosted them in the past contributing to the culture, sport, economy, history and most notably elevating all matters of LGBTQ equality.

The 2018 Gay Games will be hosted in Paris from August 4-12 featuring 36 sporting events, 14 cultural events an academic conference. Over 70 countries are expected to participate in the 2018 Gay Games.

Sources: reuters.com | federationofgaygames.com
What’s inspirational about Sia, isn’t merely her vocals or lyrical abilities, but it’s also her struggles in life and her voice in more controversial areas. Sia has played a major role in the LGBTQ+ community through constant support, awareness and contributions since she came out to world as queer in the year 2013. She openly announced that she was bi-polar and reminds us that life is a constant battle but that we must go on. Unlike many artists who commercialize on their faces and bodies, Sia focuses just on the voice and values her privacy hence deciding to hide her face from the public. Sia has become a role model to many, serving as an idol to queer kids searching for their place around the world.

Having released her album ‘This is Acting’ including a range of rejects by many famous artists in 2016, Sia surprised fans with the announcement of her Christmas album ‘Everyday is Christmas’ with 10 original songs, and it was well worth the wait. This album is not the usual Christmas album you would hear. Sia starts off with the usual jingles and horns we hear in any Christmas album, but what sets this apart is how she serenades us with simple concepts such as snowflakes and puppies. Her unique voice definitely adds the Christmas spirit and this album caters to the audiences ranging from little kids, to lovers and anyone searching for the true meaning of the season. We hope you enjoy it as much as we have.
Darkness Covers the Stringent Path

Darkness covers the stringent path
I have no lamp to light the way.
The wind sways me from side to side,
The darkness grows around me
Goes through my skin, clogs the arteries.
I breathe.

The venomous blackness,
Gassy smell and leaked patrol too...
But I'm used to this suffocation
Day one, two twelve moons past
I recall the cluster of deceitful stars on my night wall.

I've dreamt of paths un-traversed
Unattended, clustered purple flowers crowned paths.

Fill my dark throbbing mind with snow drops
freeze the heart once more.

Break now and walk away.
Stay! Then light the way.

- Oshanthaka Cabraal

தற்கால் சோழ பொய்த்தல்?

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- அருணா கவிஞையார்

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- அருணா கவிஞையார்
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Online Counselling Service For LGBTQI Community

We now offer a free general counseling service for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning (LGBTIQ) persons via Facebook Messenger.

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5.00pm

Do you feel isolated because you cannot share your thoughts and aspirations with anyone?

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions above, then do give our trained counsellors a call.

We offer a free general counselling service for Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTIQ) persons and a counselling service specifically for Lesbian and Bisexual women through a secure and confidential hotline.

Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5.30pm

General counseling line - +94114334277
Lesbian and Bisexual women counseling line - +94115679766
Transgender counseling line - +94114334278

For more information, contact us at - +94114334277

Facebook Messenger is available for counseling.

Please be aware that counseling sessions are confidential and free of charge.

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BREAK THE SILENCE ABOUT LGBT VIOLENCE

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