



# salganyc

South Asian Lesbian & Gay Association of New York City

## Press Statement

AUGUST 13, 2009 - On Thursday July 2nd, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Indians and their allies scored a victory when the Delhi High Court read down Indian Penal Code Section 377 to not include consensual gay sex. The court stated powerfully and succinctly, that intolerance is not an Indian value. The judgment declares, "It cannot be forgotten that discrimination is the antithesis of equality and that it is the recognition of equality which will foster the dignity of every individual". We at the South Asian Lesbian Gay Association (SALGA) welcomed this historic ruling and rejoiced in the Delhi Court's decision.

Despite such a monumental victory for sexual minorities in India, we are outraged and disappointed that the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) has decided not to respond to our petition to march at the annual India Day Parade. This year, as Indians in the tri-state area celebrate Indian Independence Day by marching in the parade, the FIA is once again trying to make Indian sexual minorities invisible through its discriminatory acts.

While the words from the Delhi ruling ring loudly in our ears - "Inclusiveness that Indian society traditionally displayed, literally in every aspect of life is manifest in recognizing a role in society for everyone", the FIA willfully chooses to ignore a large part of the community. We at SALGA urge Indians in the tri-state area to protest this discrimination. The FIA has no inherent right to choose who is representative of India. We ask LGBT South Asians and other progressives to stand with us and raise their voice against discrimination.

---

Mailing Address: SALGA, C/O LGBT Center, 208 West 13th Street, New York, NY 10011

Visit us online at [www.salganyc.org](http://www.salganyc.org)

[salganyc@hotmail.com](mailto:salganyc@hotmail.com)