

Annexure 1 Friendship Walk 1999

LGBT India invites you to India's first public celebration of joy, brotherhood and love that is our birthright. This is also a remembrance of the Stonewall day that has become the single most important event in the history of the LGBT movement.

In order to underscore our unity with our non-LGBT brothers and sisters, this event is being planned as a **Friendship Walk**. This is to send a message loud and clear that we are there; and we are there as friends. That we do not intend to intimidate anyone; and by the same token, we are not about to be intimidated either.

To this walk, LGBT India invites all the people who believe that humans should be respected for what they are. This is an affirmation that we as LGBT people respect our rights. This is also an affirmation that we, again as LGBT people, respect others rights to live a life of their own choosing. And this, finally, is also an invitation for our non-LGBT brethren to affirm their faith in human rights and walk with us.

As a result of this being the first instance of such a walk, the exact plan will not be shared publicly. All those interested in making history on Friday, the second day of July 1999 are requested to register their names. This can be done either with Owais (by sending a reply e-mail / e-mail to owaiskhan@hotmail.com) or with Pawan / Ranjan (personally; by snail-mail to PostBag # 10237, Calcutta, 700019; or by e-mail to breeze@cal2.vsnl.net.in).

A place of assembly in **Calcutta**, at **8:45 AM** on **2nd July 1999**, a recommended hotel for the purpose of stay and an emergency contact number will be given to the registrants latest by June 25th. In order for us to ensure that all the bits are in place on the appointed day, we request you to register latest by June 18th. The requirements of registration are a name to call you by, an e-mail address / telephone number and your T-shirt size. The expenses of travel, stay and T-shirt will be borne by the participants. However, we will be in a position to make reservations at a recommended hotel and provide lunch for outstation participants on the day of The Walk. If someone is keen on attending and can not afford his or her own expenses, we could also look at a limited number of such requests.

Please send in your registrations post-haste. The schedule is given overleaf.



Friendship Walk Schedule, July 2, 1999

9 AM - 1 PM: Two teams consisting of 15 participants each will start walking from two points in the city along two pre-planned routes to network with other gay friendly CBOs, NGOs and individuals. Handouts talking about the walk and LGBT-India to be handed out along with flowers. These two teams will meet at a common point, from where they will proceed on a short walk to the culmination point of The Walk.

2 PM: Lunch

4.30 PM: At the press conference venue:

1. Intro to the event: Counsel Club and Integration welcome everybody on behalf of LGBT-India to MediaMix '99 - II. Topic of the second edition of MediaMix '99: LGBT-India's Friendship Walk to mark the Stonewall Day on June 29. (Pawan: 10 min.)
2. Welcome song by Shivaji and Ranjan (10 min.)
3. Introduction to LGBT-India by Owais (15 min.)
4. About Friendship Walk (brief description and purpose): Owais and Pawan (15 min.)
5. A friend's letter to be read out (these are the kind of letters which motivate LGBT groups to exist and work, and which make events like marking Stonewall Day relevant). (Aditya: 10 min.)
6. Dedication show - forming a triangle with candles and roses by the Walk participants. (15 min.)
7. Cultural item by Raja and Shivaji (20 min.)
8. Press conference (Only speakers can be spoken to and photographed -with due respect to requests for name changes etc.)
 - Ranjan: CC's new activities (esp. networking)
 - Owais: LGBT-India and Friendship Walk
 - Bina: Humjinsi
 - Pawan: Integration's plans

Note: Emphasis is going to be on inviting media people who are already quite aware about CC and the LGBT movement in India. Otherwise, the emphasis will invariably shift to CC and its activities- issues, which have been written quite often now. We should draw attention more to the new things happening, especially LGBT India.

