



# Miranda House

## UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

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### Miranda House Queer Collective

### Annual Report

**Society: Miranda House Queer Collective**

**Academic Year – 2020-21** (For the period 1.7. 2020 to 30.6.2021)

**The Office Bearers:**

**President:** Anuska Roy (English Honours III Year)

**Vice-president:** Ria Goel (Economics Honours II year)

**Treasurer:** Sonal Sharma (English Honours II year)

**Staff Advisor:** Dr. C. Suvasini

The events for academic year 2020-'21 were conducted online due to the Coronavirus outbreak and the subsequent lockdown. However, the union and members of the collective strived to build a virtual space for learning and innovating for members of the queer collective and our allies. The MHQC continued to work to create a safe space for members of the community while trying to work on workshops, seminars and events that were insightful as well as fun to participate in.



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## Part A.1

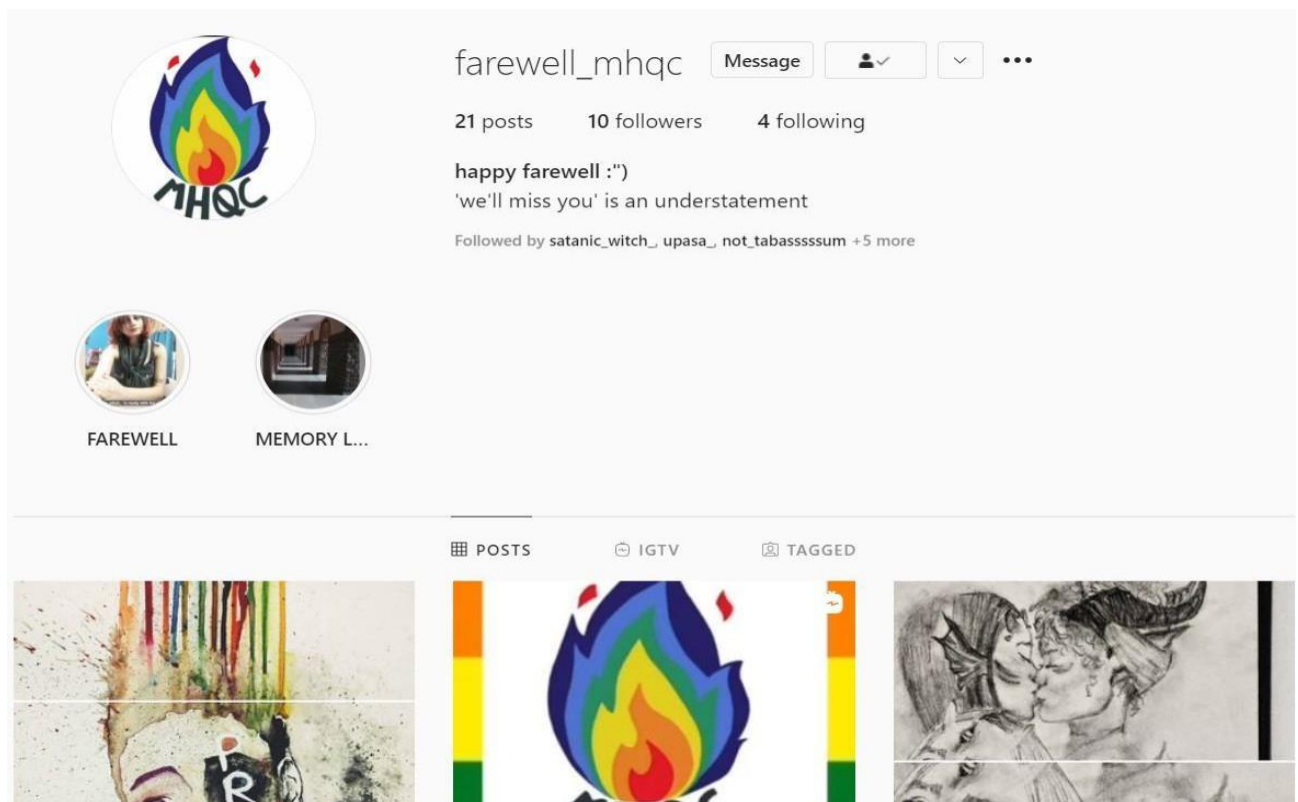
### Events/Seminars/conferences/workshops/Extension Activities organized

#### 1. Farewell

The Miranda House Queer Collective started off the year by bidding farewell to the previous batch. We had created an Instagram page with voice notes and videos from teachers and previous members of the collective. The Instagram page also had messages from the Union as well as some other members from the collective.

We also conducted an online Zoom meeting to bid our seniors one final adieu before starting off on our session.

Number of participants - 20





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## 2. Talk on Politically Triggered Anxiety

For our first live event, we had Dr. Itisha Nagar (Assistant Professor of Psychology at Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi), speak on the issue of Politically Triggered Anxiety with MHQC member Poonam Dey.

The talk was centred on the political landscape of our country and outside, and how it has impacted individuals involved in any kind of protest. In the recent socio-political climate of our country, it is important to note the impact that the political milieu has had on an individual's mental health. From the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir to the passing of the regressive Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill and the Citizenship Amendment Act, the country has been relentlessly fighting against the outright attack on its basic human rights. Further, the violence that erupted in North-East Delhi in the month of February 2020, followed by the pandemic that shook the country and left the most vulnerable communities of India defenceless and weak. Another issue that is gaining currency these days is the queer individuals being subjected to forceful conversion therapies and the subsequent commemoration of the Stonewall Riots in Pride Month for the assertion of queer lives.

MHQC conducted a Live on our official Instagram page as we deliberated upon the topics mentioned and presented an intellectual discourse from the perspective of a psychologist.

Number of participants - 60

The poster is for an Instagram Live Session titled "Politically Triggered Anxiety". It features the Miranda House University of Delhi logo at the top left and the MHQC logo at the top right. The text "Presents" is centered below the logos. The session title is written in a cursive font. The speaker is Dr. Itisha Nagar, PhD Psychology, Assistant Professor at Kamala Nehru College. The moderator is Poonam Dey, a member of the Miranda House Queer Collective. A photograph of Poonam Dey speaking into a microphone is included. At the bottom, there is a call to action to join the session on 26th June at 5:00 P.M. and contact information for Anuska (7278859165). The background is pink with watercolor-style splashes and a small illustration of a person sitting on the ground.

Miranda House Queer Collective

Presents

INSTAGRAM LIVE SESSION:  
*Politically Triggered Anxiety*

SPEAKER:  
*Itisha Nagar*  
PhD Psychology, Assistant Professor  
Kamala Nehru College

MODERATOR:  
*Poonam Dey*  
Miranda House Queer Collective

JOIN THE INSTAGRAM LIVE SESSION  
ON 26TH JUNE AT 5:00 P.M

FOR ANY FURTHER QUERIES  
CONTACT:  
ANUSKA: 7278859165



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### 3. Localising Queer Support with Miranda House Queer Collective

Miranda House Queer Collective collaborated with Gaysi to bring attention to the crucial need for the building inclusive queer spaces in the world. In this series, Gaysi attempted to explore the vital role of queer safe spaces in college, particularly queer support groups and collectives, and the ways in which they contribute to increasing visibility, resisting the imposition of normativities and providing a sense of community.

For the first in the series Gaysi was in a conversation with Vitti Joshi from the Miranda House Queer Collective.

Number of participants – 40





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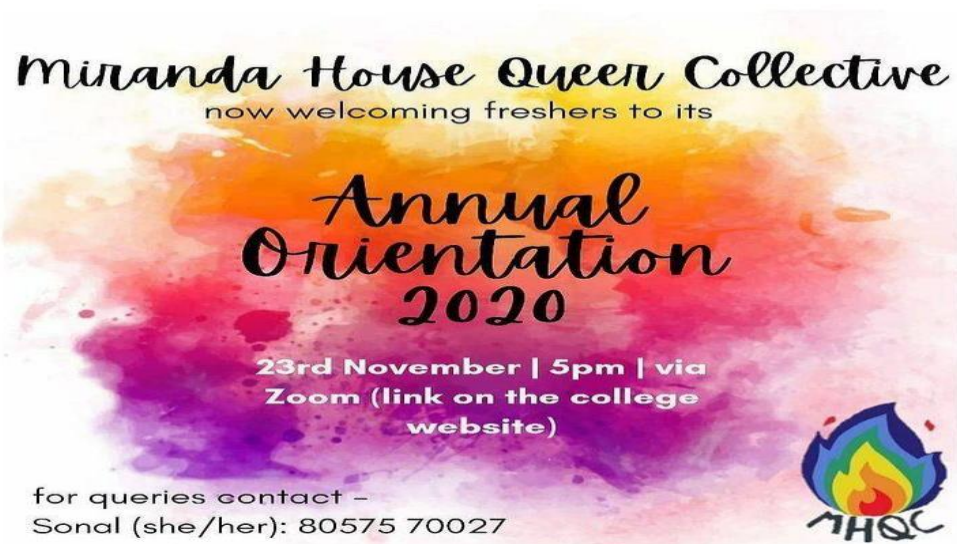
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### 4. Annual Orientation

Soon after the first years joined college, Miranda House Queer Collective held an online orientation to help them better understand what the collective is all about.

Number of participants – 80





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## 5. Activism and Assertion

The queer political movement in India has come a long way with strong political fronts. In various movements across the country. 'Queers Against Fascism' emerged as an important facet during the anti CAA-NRC movement. One of the major attributes that this movement thrives on, like many others, is intersectionality. Within this context, it is especially essential to comprehend the struggles of the subaltern groups within the larger queer community. In a socio-political landscape that is centered largely around benefiting the Savarna, cis-heterosexual persons, it is important to make space and raise conversations about subaltern transgressions and dissent. Covid-19 has affected many dimensions of social and political life and has landed marginalised communities in a doubly vulnerable position. The passing of the draconian 2019 Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act displaying a sheer violation of human rights of transgender people raises questions about the social situation of transgender people. With these themes in mind the English Literary Society in collaboration with the Miranda House Queer Collective presented a panel on 'Activism and Assertion: Recognising Transgender', with Vihaan and Grace Banu as panelists.

Number of participants - 45







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### 6. Iridescence (Annual Fest)

The Miranda House Queer Collective held its annual fest Iridescence with these events:

Miranda House Queer Collective

# Iridescence

## 2021

06.03.2021

11-1pm Talk on 'Pink Capitalism in Commercial and Educational Spaces' with Dr. Bittu

2-4 pm Queer Artists' Exhibition

5-7 pm Screening of 'Miss Man' followed by Discussion with Director, Tathagata Ghosh

07.03.2021

11-1pm Panel Discussion on the Importance of QCs within Campuses

2pm Open Mic



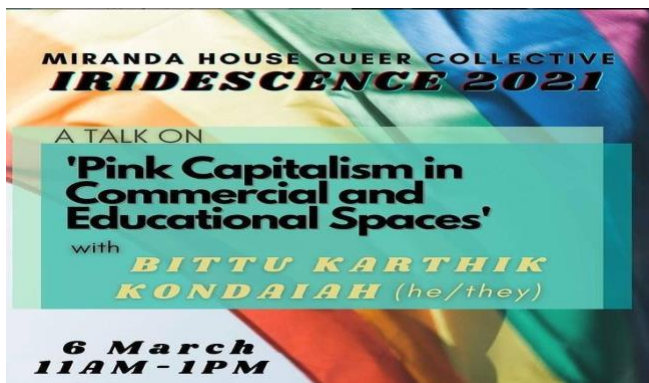
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- **Talk on Pink Capitalism in Commercial and Educational Spaces**

For our first event, we had Bittu Karthik Kondaiah, Associate Professor at Ashoka University and queer activist, for a riveting discussion on Pink Capitalism within Educational and Commercial Spaces. Pink Capitalism is the commodification of the queer movement for the benefit of huge corporations and institutions. At a point when virtue signalling and false allyship are keys to gain social capital, it is important to distinguish between performative and real allyship.

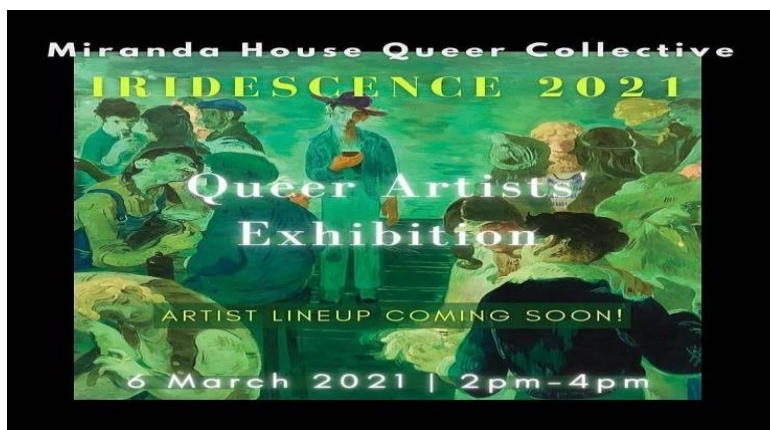
Number of participants - 50+



- **Queer Artists' Exhibition -**

A special feature of the festival is the space provided for local queer artists and collectives to exhibit and even profit from their work. Various queer artists had set up stalls in the college premise for the promotion of their art last year. As a result of the uncertain times in a pandemic, we have been compelled to take this celebration of our pride to the online platform. Since the major aim of Iridescence has always been to provide a space for queer artists and creators to showcase/promote/exhibit their work, we would like to continue with this tradition irrespective of the mode and are delighted to introduce artists for the same.

Number of participants - 20+ artists







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- Screening of 'Miss Man', followed by a discussion with the Director of the Movie -

In his 2019 short film, Miss Man, Tathagata Ghosh, very effectively demonstrates the turmoil engendered by perplexing confusion and doubt around one's gender identity and sexual orientation along with issues of societal apathy, dismissive ignorance and ruthless mistreatment of the queer community, and how they are shoehorned and force fitted into hetero-normative codes of living.

The Miranda House Queer Collective was delighted to present a screening of the movie followed by a conversation with the director to understand the intricacies behind the making of the movie.

Number of participants – 45





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- **Panel Discussion on the importance of Queer Collectives**

The Miranda House Queer Collective brought together a few members from different Queer Collectives of various colleges, to talk about their journeys and the importance of having queer collectives in campuses.

In this panel discussion, we discussed the various socio-political issues surrounding Queer Collectives, their formation and functioning, presence of political activism in campuses, etc.

Number of participants – 45





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- **Open Mic**

The Miranda House Queer Collective, in collaboration with Syzygy Art Festival, presented an Open Mic as an outlet for creative expressions. The event was open for all queer artists who wanted to showcase their talents. MHQC and Syzygy collaboratively formed a line-up of artists from both sides.  
Number of participants - 30+

