

The Pink Singers - India 2017

The Pink Singers, London's LGBT Community Choir, is planning a year-long series of events to mark the 50th anniversary of the decriminalization of homosexuality in England in 2017.

Crucially, a version of this Victorian law (Section 377) remains in place in the Indian Penal Code, criminalising tens of millions of people and oppressing many more. So this year, the Pink Singers are highlighting this injustice with a number of events to support our LGBT friends.

These will include educational seminars on queer India, special performances, and a trip to sing with India's first LGBT choir - Rainbow Voices Mumbai – where we will stand shoulder to shoulder with them at Queer Azaadi Mumbai (Mumbai Pride). The Pink Singers then plan to invite Rainbow Voices Mumbai to Pride in London in June 2017.

So join us – in London, Mumbai and online:

www.pinksingers.co.uk/india2017

#PSIndia2017

ENDS

Notes to editors:

About the Pink Singers

- The Pink Singers are Europe's longest-established lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) choir. They formed in April 1983 and their first performance was at that year's Pride.
- Its 90 members come from different backgrounds, countries, ethnicities, religions and generations and have various musical tastes. The repertoire for each season reflects this, ranging from Elton John to Handel, Madonna to Gershwin.
- The choir has a long history of travelling to sing and support our LGBT singing family across the world - in the last two years they have sung in Mallorca, Iceland, Manchester, Amsterdam and Dublin.
- The choir also performs 'small group' gigs at community events such as London Pride and LGBT History Month.
- Website: www.pinksingers.co.uk
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About Rainbow Voices Mumbai:

- Rainbow Voices Mumbai are India's first LGBT choir
- Founded by Vinodh Philip and Sibi Mathen in the Summer of 2014, the group is made up of around 20 people – from amateurs to trained professionals - and perform a range of styles - from classical to modern.
- The choir regularly perform at LGBT events, charity concerts and festivals
- <https://www.facebook.com/rainbowvoicesmumbai>

About Queer Azaadi Mumbai:

- **Queer Azaadi Mumbai** (*Azaadi* meaning "freedom" in Hindi) is an annual LGBT pride parade held in the Indian city of Mumbai.
- The first Queer Azaadi Mumbai march was held on August 16, 2008 where about 500 people participated. The march now involves around 7,000 people and is India's largest LGBT event.
- Website: www.mumbaipride.in

Seminar

The first event lined up is a seminar featuring noted academics working in the field of queer studies in India, including presentations by Danny Luther, Jacquelyn Strey and Dr. Jennifer Ung Loh on topics spanning being gay in India, how the law affects the LGBT movement, lesbian and feminist representation, the state of the pride movement in India, and hijra and the transgender identity.

Pink Singers in Mumbai

Secondly, the Pink Singers will travel to Mumbai in January 2017. The trip will include performances at the National Centre for Performing Arts and the British Council Mumbai, as well as joining Rainbow Voices at the Queer Azaadi (Mumbai Pride) march in January 2017. Established in 2008, this march has grown to include over 7,000 participants.

Rainbow Voices Mumbai come to London

The third stage is to invite Rainbow Voices Mumbai to join the Pink Singers at London LGBT pride in June 2017.