



SUSTAINABLE EVENT GUIDELINES

Creating an Eco-Friendly Mumbai Queer Pride March 2024

Rationale: This is a guide on organising an environmentally conscious and socially responsible event – specifically tailored for the Mumbai Queer Pride March 2024. In an era where sustainability is paramount, it is crucial to extend these principles to every facet of our lives, including the vibrant celebrations of pride. This document outlines a set of do's and don'ts to ensure that the Pride March is not just a celebration of diversity and inclusivity, but also a model for eco-friendliness. By embracing reusable materials, promoting local sourcing, and advocating for mindful practices, we aim to make this event a shining example of how the LGBTQ+ community and its allies can contribute positively to the environment. Let us embark on this journey together, fostering pride in both our identities and our commitment to a greener, and more sustainable future.

Do's & Don'ts for an Eco-Friendly Pride March:

Do's:

1. **Climate-friendliness:** Encourage ideas, materials, and activities, which tend towards climate-friendliness and the principles of 5Rs (Restore, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).
2. **Reusable Materials:** Opt for reusable banners, signs, and decorations made from sustainable materials. Consider using fabric banners that can be reused in future events or upcycled.
3. **Eco-friendly Merchandise:** If providing merchandise, choose items made from sustainable materials, such as organic cotton or recycled materials. Avoid single-use or multi-layered plastics and synthetic polymers.

4. **Biodegradable Confetti:** If confetti is part of the celebration, make sure it is biodegradable ex-paper. Traditional confetti is made of Thermocol, which is non-biodegradable and harmful to the environment. Consider paper-based alternatives.
5. **Public Transportation:** Encourage participants to use public transportation or carpool to reduce carbon emissions associated with individual travel.
6. **Waste Segregation Stations:** Follow international colour code system for setting up proper waste segregation stations and clearly label with symbols and written text on the bins, to ensure proper disposal by participants for proper recycling and composting. Label bins to guide on.
7. **Reusable Water Stations:** Instead of providing single-use water bottles, set up refill stations with reusable cups or encourage participants to bring their water bottles.
8. **Educational Posters:** Have informational posters about environmental issues, promoting sustainability, and how the LGBTQ+ community can contribute to a greener world.

Don'ts:

1. **Avoid Single-Use Plastics:** Eliminate single-use plastic such as water bottles, straws, disposable cutlery, banners, carry bags, etc.
2. **Say No to Balloon Releases:** Balloon releases may seem festive, but they are harmful to wildlife. Avoid this activity to protect the environment.
3. **Chemical-based Decorations:** Steer clear of decorations that involve toxic or chemical-based materials, as they have adverse effects on the environment.
4. **Excessive Printing:** Minimize paper usage by avoiding excessive printing of promotional materials. Opt for digital platforms and e-communication for publicity.
5. **Avoid Excessive Signage:** While signage is essential for guiding participants, avoid excessive use. Opt for clear and concise signs to reduce waste.
6. **Avoid High-impact Sound Systems:** Use sound systems that are energy-efficient and avoid excessive volume levels to minimize noise pollution and make it less harmful to the wildlife.
7. **Disposable Foodware:** If providing food, avoid disposable plates, cups, and cutlery. Opt for reusable or compostable alternatives.