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Garage sale kicks off queer celebration

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BANGALORE: A garage sale was organized on Sunday as part of Bangalore Pride 2011, a[Recommend](#)

celebration of [Queer Pride](#) that kicked off in the city recently. A number of organizations fighting for sexual minority rights raised funds by selling used clothes, shoes, handmade gifts and home decor.

"We are selling them to raise funds for the development of queer groups and other sexual minorities. Pride celebrations are an opportunity to mark local, national and global changes which have improved the lives of sexual minorities. It is also an opportunity to remember the days when we fought social injustice," said Sowmya Reddy, a bisexual activist of We Are Here And Queer ([WHAQ](#)).

The celebration is being held under the flagship of [Campaign for Sexual Minority Rights](#) and other sexual minority organizations like Good As You, Sangama, Samara, Prakriti, comprising lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, hijras and other sexual minority groups.

"We have been deprived of our right to be ourselves and even our citizenship. But we are not fighting a losing battle. Section 377 is, for the moment, no longer a threat. More lesbians, gays and bisexuals are bravely coming out to their family and friends every day.

A welfare board has been set up for hijras in Karnataka and schemes for pension and voter ID cards are being discussed. Many same-sex couples are now living a fulfilling life. The media has been incredibly supportive. All this is a cause for celebration," said Sumathi, Lesbit organization.

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