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# JU gets gender-neutral toilet in IR dept, second such facility on campus

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KOLKATA: Jadavpur University on Tuesday converted another toilet into a gender-neutral facility, this one in the international relations department in the PG Arts building. It can be used by men, women and people from the LGBTQIA+ community. This is the second gender-neutral toilet on the campus, the first one being inaugurated in the English department on Monday.

Students and activists hoped the authorities would ensure proper infrastructure and maintenance of the toilets. Shivadooti Mandal, a comparative literature student and LGBTQIA+ community member, said, “Using men’s and women’s toilets was uncomfortable. This will not only ensure our mental and corporeal safety but is also a recognition of our identity.” Head of the IR department Imankalyan Lahiri felt the initiative promoted inclusivity and recognised basic rights of all. JU registrar Snehamanju Basu said, “We aim to have at least one gender-neutral toilet in each building.”

CU pro-VC Asish Chatterjee said, “There’s plan for a gender-neutral toilet on College Street campus. It will be set up on other campuses, based on demand.” Ranjita Sinha, director of Association of Transgender/Hijra, said, “It will increase visibility of people like us in society.”— Dipawali Mitra