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Uttarakhand UCC: Law trying to protect children born of live-in relationships, says Uttarakhand govt

The Uttarakhand High Court on Thursday (February 27, 2025) orally observed that live-in relationships were increasing and the [law \(Uniform Civil Code\)](#) was merely trying to accommodate the rights of women and the rights of children born out of such relationships.

[UCC implementation in Uttarakhand: One live-in relation registered in 10 days](#)

The observations were made by the Bench of Justices Manoj Kumar Tiwari and Ashish Naithani while hearing two petitions challenging different provisions of the [UCC that was rolled by the State on January 26, 2025](#). One of the petitions was filed by social activists Uma Bhatt, Kamla Pant and Munish Kumar, and the other by a couple in a live-in relationship. Under the UCC, couples in live-in relationships have been asked to register with the government.

The Bench asked the couple to approach the court in case any punitive action is taken against them in case of non-registration of their relationship.

Privacy concerns

During the hearing, advocate Vrinda Grover highlighted before the court that the UCC Act and Rules allow untrammelled state surveillance and policing of choices that fall within the protected zone of right to privacy.

“UCC establishes a draconian statutory regime of inquiry, authorisation and penalisation of choice of partner,” she said.



Justice Tiwari asked Ms. Grover whether the mere fact of registration of relationships can be challenged as unconstitutional. He stated that live-in-relationships were on the rise even if not fully accepted by society and the law was merely trying to accommodate the changing times and ensure the rights of women and the rights of children born of such relationships.

Ms. Grover replied that a 'critical' reading of the UCC revealed that it could heighten harassment and violence against women and couples who don't go by majoritarian views.

She also added that the law could lead to vigilantism by those against live-in relationships.

"It also allows any person to file a complaint to question the validity of a live-in-relationship. Social morality must not be allowed to subvert constitutional morality," Ms. Grover said. She also objected to the mandatory requirement of submission of confidential documents like Aadhaar as part of the registration process.

The court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was appearing for the State government, if the Uttarakhand government had invited any suggestions from the public before introducing the UCC and if those suggestions were incorporated or not.

Mr. Mehta submitted in court that no privacy rights were violated in the UCC and that it was only a regulatory mechanism to protect the interest of women who may suffer injustice. He also pointed out that the statutory scheme is the result of wide consultations with all stakeholders.