



April 21, 2016

National Consensus Statement of Anti-Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Organizations
in Support of Full and Equal Access for the Transgender Community

We, the undersigned sexual assault and domestic violence organizations, oppose anti-transgender initiatives. These initiatives utilize and perpetuate the myth that protecting transgender people's access to restrooms and locker rooms endangers the safety or privacy of others. As organizations that care about reducing assault and violence, we favor laws and policies that protect transgender people from discrimination, including in accessing facilities that match the gender they live every day.

States across the country have introduced harmful legislation or initiatives that seek to repeal non-discrimination protections or restrict transgender people's access to gender-specific facilities like restrooms. Those who are pushing these proposals have claimed that these proposals are necessary for public safety and to prevent sexual violence against women and children. As rape crisis centers, shelters, and other service providers who work each and every day to meet the needs of all survivors and reduce sexual assault and domestic violence throughout society, we speak from experience and expertise when we state that these claims are false.

Nondiscrimination laws protecting transgender people have existed for a long time. Over 200 municipalities and 18 states have nondiscrimination laws protecting transgender people's access to facilities consistent with the gender they live every day. In some cases, these protections have been in place for decades. These laws have protected people from discrimination without creating harm. None of those jurisdictions have seen a rise in sexual violence or other public safety issues due to nondiscrimination laws. Assaulting another person in a restroom or changing room remains against the law in every single state. We operate and advocate for rape crisis centers and shelters all over the country, including in cities and states with non-discrimination protections for transgender people. Those protections have not weakened public safety or criminal laws, nor have they compromised their enforcement.

Nondiscrimination laws do not allow men to go into women's restrooms—period. The claim that allowing transgender people to use the facilities that match the gender they live every day allows men into women's bathrooms or women into men's is based either on a flawed understanding of what it means to be transgender or a misrepresentation of the law.

It may be hard to understand the experiences of transgender people, especially if you have never met a transgender person. We believe in respecting the identities of transgender people. Transgender people live in a society that often discriminates against them and

makes it much harder for them to participate in the routines of daily life.

The efforts to ban transgender people from using public restrooms obscures the fact that all of us, including transgender people, are deeply concerned about safety and privacy in restrooms. Transgender people already experience unconscionably high rates of sexual assault—and forcing them out of facilities consistent with the gender they live every day makes them vulnerable to assault. As advocates committed to ending sexual assault and domestic violence of every kind, we will never support any law or policy that could put anyone at greater risk for assault or harassment. That is why we are able to strongly support transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination protections—and why we oppose any law that would jeopardize the safety of transgender people by forcing them into restrooms that do not align with the gender they live every day.

It is natural to be concerned about safety and privacy. As advocates and survivors, we know the threat of sexual assault is real and pervasive. Every time we hear of someone who speaks of their assault or abuse, we feel their pain. The safety fears that many have, especially those who are survivors, are not baseless or irrational, nor should they be dismissed. However, discriminating against transgender people does nothing to decrease the risk of sexual assault.

Discriminating against transgender people does not give anyone more control over their body or security. Those who perpetuate falsehoods about transgender people and nondiscrimination laws are putting transgender people in harm's way and making no one safer. We cannot stand by while the needs of survivors, both those who are transgender and those who are not, are obscured in order to push a political agenda that does nothing to serve and protect victims and potential victims. We will only accomplish our goal of ending sexual violence by treating all people, including those who are transgender, with fairness and respect.

National Organizations:

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

American Association of University Women

American Dance Therapy Association

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence

Battered Women's Justice Project

Break the Cycle

Center for Women Policy Studies

FaithTrust Institute

Futures Without Violence

Hollaback!

Just Detention International

Know Your IX
Legal Momentum
Men As Peacemakers
Men's Story Project
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Center for Victims of Crime
National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Housing Law Project
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
National Latina@ Network: Casa de Esperanza
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Men Against Sexism
National Organization for Women
National Organization of Asian Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence
National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault
National Organization for Victim Assistance
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Women's Law Center
Praxis International
Resource Sharing Project
Stop It Now!
Support Network of Advocates for Protective Parents
YWCA

State/Territorial and Local Organizations

Alabama

State

Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence
AshaKiran, Inc.

Montgomery
Huntsville

Alaska

State

YWCA Alaska

Anchorage

Local

Sitkans Against Family Violence

Sitka

Arizona

State

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Phoenix

Chrysalis

Phoenix

Local

Apache Behavioral Health Services, Inc.

Whiteriver

California

State

California Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Sacramento

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

Sacramento

Coalition for Family Harmony

Oxnard

Local

A.M.E. Counseling Services

Los Angeles

Alliance for Community Transformations

Mariposa

Asian Women's Shelter

San Francisco

Building Futures with Women and Children

San Leandro

Center for Community Solutions

San Diego

Family Service Agency of Burbank

Burbank

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles

Los Angeles

Lassen Family Services, Inc.

Susanville

Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

Los Angeles

Rural Human Services: Harrington House

Crescent City

San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium

San Francisco

Shepherd's Door Domestic Violence Resource Center

Pasadena

STAND! For Families Free of Violence

Concord

Strength United

Van Nuys

Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, Inc.

Valley Center

Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center

Santa Cruz

Colorado

State

Alliance Against Domestic Abuse	Salida
Alternatives to Violence	Loveland
Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Denver
Deaf Overcoming Violence through Empowerment	Denver
Domestic Violence Initiative	Denver
Local	
Advocate Safehouse Project	Glenwood Springs
Advocates for Victims of Assault	Dillon
Estes Valley Crisis Advocates	Estes Park
Project Safeguard	Denver
RESPONSE	Aspen
SafeHouse Denver	Denver
Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence	Boulder

Connecticut

State

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence	East Hartford
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Local

Chrysalis	Meriden
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Delaware

State

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Wilmington
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District of Columbia

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Washington, DC
DC Rape Crisis Center	Washington, DC

Florida

State

Florida Council Against Sexual Violence	Tallahassee
Florida NOW	Indialantic

Local

Brevard NOW	Satellite Beach
Greater Orlando NOW	Orlando
Women's Center of Jacksonville	Jacksonville

Georgia

State

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence Decatur
Local
Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center Dalton
Columbus Alliance for Battered Women, Inc. d/b/a Hope Harbour Columbus

Guam

Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence Hagatna

Hawaii

State
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center Honolulu

Idaho

State
Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence Boise

Illinois

State
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence Springfield
Illinois National Organization for Women Springfield
Local
Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network Chicago
Connections for Abused Women and their Children Chicago
HOPE of Ogle County Rochelle
Mano a Mano Family Resource Center Round Lake Park
Mujeres Latinas en Accion Chicago
Rape Advocacy Counseling and Education Services Urbana
Rape Victim Advocates Chicago
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling Inc. Rockford

Indiana

State
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. Indianapolis
Local
Alternatives Incorporated Anderson
Coburn Place Safe Haven Indianapolis
Council on Domestic Abuse, Inc. Terre Haute
Crisis Connection, Inc. Jasper

Domestic Violence Network
Middle Way House
Rush County Victims Assistance, Inc.
Turning Point Domestic Violence Services

Indianapolis
Bloomington
Rushville
Columbus

Iowa

State

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Monsoon United Asian Women of Iowa

Des Moines
Des Moines
Des Moines

Local

Crisis Intervention Services
Domestic Violence Intervention Program

Oskaloosa
Iowa City

Kansas

State

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

Topeka

Louisiana

State

Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Baton Rouge

Local

Faith House
Metropolitan Center for Women and Children
SAFE (Southeast Advocates for Family Empowerment)

Lafayette
Jefferson
Hammond

Maine

State

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
Wabanaki Women's Coalition

Augusta
Augusta
Lincolntonville

Local

New Hope for Women
Safe Voices
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services
Sexual Assault Services of Midcoast Maine

Rockland, ME
Lewiston
Lewiston
Brunswick

Maryland

State

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)	Silver Spring
Maryland NOW	Silver Spring
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence	Lanham
Local	
HopeWorks of Howard County	Columbia
Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse	Rockville

Massachusetts

State	
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence	Boston
Jane Doe Inc., the MA Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence	Boston
Local	
A Safe Place, Inc.	Nantucket
Alternative House	Lowell
Casa Myrna Vazquez	Boston
DOVE, Inc.	Quincy
Jewish Family & Children's Service	Waltham
New Hope, Inc.	Attleboro
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence	Waltham
Transition House	Cambridge

Minnesota

State	
Sacred Hoop Coalition	Duluth
Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women	St. Paul
Local	
Bluff Country Family Resources	Hokah
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center	Minneapolis
Tubman	Twin Cities

Missouri

State	
Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	Jefferson City
Missouri NOW	Columbia

Montana

State

Adapt Montana
Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Missoula
Helena

Nebraska

State

Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Lincoln

Local

Crisis Center

Grand Island

Project Response, INC

Auburn

Nevada

State

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

Reno

Local

S.A.F.E. House

Henderson

Safe Nest

Las Vegas

Tahoe SAFE Alliance

Incline Village

New Hampshire

State

NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Concord

Turning Points Network

Claremont

YWCA NH

Manchester

Local

New Beginnings - Without Violence & Abuse

Laconia

New Jersey

State

New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Lawrenceville

Local

YWCA Union County

Elizabeth

New Mexico

State

New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV)

Santa Fe

Local

Community Against Violence, Inc. (CAV)

Taos

New York

State

Day ONE New York City
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence Albany
New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault Albany

Local

Advocacy Center of Tompkins County Ithaca
CONNECT New York City
Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center Albany
Delaware Opportunities Safe Against Violence Hamden
Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence Buffalo
First Step Victim Services at Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties Watkins Glen
Hope's Door Pleasantville
My Sisters' Place White Plains
Safe Homes of Orange County Newburgh
Safe Horizon New York City
Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service, Inc. (Crisis Services) Buffalo
The Family Counseling Center Gloversville
The Safe Center LI, Inc. Bethpage
Vera House, Inc. Syracuse
VIBS Islandia
Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County Watertown
Violence Intervention Program, Inc. New York
Willow Domestic Violence Center Rochester
YWCA of the Niagara Frontier Lockport, Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda

North Carolina**State**

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence Durham
North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault Raleigh
North Carolina Women United Raleigh

Local

Families First Inc. Whiteville
Family Services of Davidson County Lexington
Help, Incorporated: Center Against Violence Reidsville

Ohio

State

ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women	Columbus
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence	Cleveland

Local

Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center	Cleveland
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Oklahoma

State

Native Alliance Against Violence	Norman
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Local

Ponca Tribe Domestic Violence Program	Ponca City
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Oregon

State

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	Portland
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Local

Bradley Angle	Portland
Lake County Crisis Center	Lakeview
Safe Harbors	Enterprise
Sexual Assault Resource Center	Beaverton
Southern Oregon University Women's Resource Center	Ashland

Pennsylvania

State

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Harrisburg
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape	Enola

Local

Abuse & Rape Crisis Center	Towanda
Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center, Inc.	Tarentum
Berks Women in Crisis	Reading
Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence	Greensburg
Clinton County Women's Center	Lock Haven
Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Inc.	Philadelphia
Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.	Allentown
Crisis Center North	Pittsburgh
HAVIN (Helping All Victims in Need)	Kittanning

SafeNet	Erie
Schuylkill Women in Crisis	Pottsville
SWPA National Organization For Women (NOW)	Beaver
The Abuse Network, Inc.	Lewistown
The Women's Center, Inc. of Columbia/Montour Counties	Bloomsburg
Transitions of PA	Lewisburg
Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Inc.	Allentown
Victim Outreach Intervention Center (VOICe)	Butler
Victims' Intervention Program	Honesdale
Women In Transition	Philadelphia
Women's Resource Center	Scranton
Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc.	Delaware Water Gap
Women's Services, Inc.	Meadville
YWCA Lancaster	Lancaster
YWCA Northcentral PA	Williamsport

Rhode Island

State

Day One	Providence
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South Carolina

State

National Assn. of Social Workers, SC Chapter	Columbia
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	Columbia

Local

Family Justice Center of Georgetown and Horry Counties	Georgetown
People Against Rape	Charleston
Pickens County Advocacy Center	Easley
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition	Spartanburg

Texas

State

The Texas Council on Family Violence	Austin
Texas Association Against Sexual Assault	Austin

Local

Cross Timbers Family Services	Stephenville
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Freedom House
Houston Area Women's Center
The Crisis Center
The Family Place

Weatherford
Houston
Odessa
Dallas

U.S. Virgin Islands

Women's Coalition of St. Croix

St. Croix

Vermont

State

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Montpelier

Local

AWARE, Inc.

Hardwick

CVOEO/Voices Against Violence

St. Albans

Project Against Violent Encounters

Bennington

Sexual Assault Crisis Team

Barre

Women Helping Battered Women

Burlington

WomenSafe

Middlebury, VT

Virginia

State

True Help Organization

Reston

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Richmond

Local

Empowerhouse

Fredericksburg

Washington

State

API Chaya

Seattle

Crisis Support Network

Raymond

Legal Voice

Seattle

Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs

Olympia

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV)

Seattle

Washington State NOW

Olympia

Local

Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse, Inc.

Pullman

Asian Counseling and Referral Service

Seattle

Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence

Seattle

DAWN	Kent
Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County	Everett
Emergency Support Shelter	Longview
Forks Abuse Program	Forks
Jewish Family Service	Seattle
Seattle NOW	Brier
New Beginnings	Seattle
Programs for Peaceful Living	Bingen
SafePlace	Olympia
The DoVE Project	Vashon
YWCA Clark County	Vancouver
YWCA Olympia	Olympia
YWCA Pierce County	Tacoma
YWCA Seattle King Snohomish	Seattle
YWCA Yakima	Yakima

West Virginia

State

West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Elkview
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Wisconsin

State

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin	Madison
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA)	Madison

Local

People Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse	Jefferson
Rainbow House Domestic Abuse Services, Inc.	Marinette
The Bridge to Hope	Menomonie

Wyoming

State

Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	Laramie
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