April 21, 2016  
*Updated April 29, 2016 with additional signatories.*

**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:**

- 9to5 National Association of Working Women
- Alliance for HOPE International
- Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
- American Association of University Women
- American Dance Therapy Association
- American Psychological Association
- Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence
- Battered Women's Justice Project
- Break the Cycle
- Center for Women Policy Studies
- End Violence Against Women International
- FaithTrust Institute
Futures Without Violence
Hollaback!
Jewish Women International
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 Clearinghouse for Defense of Battered Women
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
UltraViolet
Women of Color Network
YWCA
### State/Territorial and Local Organizations

#### Alabama

**State**
- Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Alabama Coalition Against Rape
- AshaKiran, Inc.

**Local**
- 2nd Chance, Inc.  
  **Anniston**

#### Alaska

**State**
- YWCA Alaska

**Local**
- Sitkans Against Family Violence  
  **Sitka**

#### Arizona

**State**
- Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
- Chrysalis

**Local**
- Apache Behavioral Health Services, Inc.  
  **Whiteriver**

#### California

**State**
- California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- California NOW
- California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
- Coalition for Family Harmony
- Family Violence Appellate Project

**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**
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<td>Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, Inc.</td>
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<td>Walnut Avenue Family &amp; Women's Center</td>
<td>Santa Cruz</td>
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<tr>
<td>W.O.M.A.N., Inc.</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
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**Colorado**

**State**
- Alliance Against Domestic Abuse
- Alternatives to Violence
- Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Deaf Overcoming Violence through Empowerment
- Domestic Violence Initiative

**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
- Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**Local**
- Chrysalis | Meriden
Delaware
State
Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

District of Columbia
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence Washington, DC
DC Rape Crisis Center Washington, DC

Florida
State
Florida Council Against Sexual Violence
Florida NOW
Local
Brevard NOW Satellite Beach
Greater Orlando NOW Orlando
Women's Center of Jacksonville Jacksonville

Georgia
State
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
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

Hawaii
State
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Idaho
State
Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

Illinois
State
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Illinois National Organization for Women
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
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc.

Local
Alternatives Incorporated Anderson
Coburn Place Safe Haven Indianapolis
Council on Domestic Abuse, Inc. Terre Haute
Crisis Connection, Inc. Jasper
Domestic Violence Network Indianapolis
Middle Way House Bloomington
Rush County Victims Assistance, Inc. Rushville
Turning Point Domestic Violence Services Columbus

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

Local
Crisis Intervention Services Oskaloosa
Domestic Violence Intervention Program Iowa City

Kansas
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

Louisiana
State
Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Local
Faith House Lafayette
Metropolitan Center for Women and Children Jefferson
SAFE (Southeast Advocates for Family Empowerment) Hammond

Maine

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

Local
New Hope for Women Rockland, ME
Safe Voices Lewiston
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services Lewiston
Sexual Assault Services of Midcoast Maine Brunswick

Maryland

State
Business and Professional Women of Maryland
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)
Maryland NOW
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
The Women’s Law Center of Maryland, Inc.

Local
Crisis Intervention Center Prince Frederick
HopeWorks of Howard County Columbia
Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse Rockville

Massachusetts

State
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence
Jane Doe Inc., the MA Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

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

**Michigan**

**State**
Michigan State Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

**Local**
Center for Women in Transition Holland

**Minnesota**

**State**
Sacred Hoop Coalition
Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

**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
Missouri NOW

**Montana**

**State**
Adapt Montana
Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

**Nebraska**

**State**
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

**Local**
Crisis Center Grand Island
Project Response, INC Auburn

**Nevada**
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**New York**

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Advocacy Center of Tompkins County  
Ithaca

Center for Safety and Change  
New City

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  
Watkins Glen

Chemung/Schuyler Counties

Grace Smith House, Inc.  
Poughkeepsie

Hope’s Door  
Pleasantville

My Sisters’ Place  
White Plains

Retreat, Inc.  
East Hampton

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

North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault

North Carolina Women United

Local

Families First Inc.  
Whiteville

Family Services of Davidson County  
Lexington

Help, Incorporated: Center Against Violence  
Reidsville

Ohio
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SafeNet
Schuylkill Women in Crisis
SWPA National Organization For Women (NOW)
The Abuse Network, Inc.
The Women's Center, Inc. of Columbia/Montour Counties
Transitions of PA
Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Inc.
Victim Outreach Intervention Center (VOICe)
Victims' Intervention Program
Women In Transition
Women's Resource Center
Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc.
Women's Services, Inc.
YWCA Lancaster
YWCA Northcentral PA

Erie
Pottsville
Beaver
Lewistown
Bloomsburg
Lewisburg
Allentown
Butler
Honesdale
Philadelphia
Scranton
Delaware Water Gap
Meadville
Lancaster
Williamsport

Rhode Island

State
Day One
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Local
Sojourner House
Providence

South Carolina

State
National Association of Social Workers, SC Chapter
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

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

South Dakota

State
South Dakota Coalition Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence
Texas

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

Local
Cross Timbers Family Services
Freedom House
Houston Area Women’s Center
The Crisis Center
The Family Place

Stephenville
Weatherford
Houston
Odessa
Dallas

U.S. Virgin Islands
Virgin Islands Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council
Women’s Coalition of St. Croix

St. Croix

Vermont

State
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Local
AWARE, Inc.
CVOEO/Voices Against Violence
Project Against Violent Encounters
Sexual Assault Crisis Team
Women Helping Battered Women
WomenSafe

Hardwick
St. Albans
Bennington
Barre
Burlington
Middlebury, VT

Virginia

State
True Help Organization
Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Local
Empowerhouse
Prince William County NOW

Fredericksburg
Woodbridge

Washington

State
API Chaya
Crisis Support Network
Legal Voice
Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV)
Washington State NOW

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

Wisconsin

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

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