



National Task Force
to End Sexual and
Domestic Violence Against Women

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

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
South Asian Network	Artesia
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
W.O.M.A.N., Inc.	San Francisco

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
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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

State

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

State

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

State

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.
Jewish Family & Children's Service
New Hope, Inc.
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence
Transition House

Quincy
Waltham
Attleboro
Waltham
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
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
Tubman

Hokah
Minneapolis
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
Project Response, INC

Grand Island
Auburn

Nevada

State

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

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

Turning Points Network

YWCA NH

Local

New Beginnings - Without Violence & Abuse

Laconia

New Jersey

State

New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Local

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County

Washington

Northern New Jersey NOW

Fort Lee

Somerset NOW

Somerset/Franklin Twp

YWCA Union County

Elizabeth

New Mexico

State

New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV)

Local

Community Against Violence, Inc. (CAV)

Taos

DVRC, Inc.

Albuquerque

Valencia Shelter Services

Los Lunas

New York

State

Day ONE

New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Local

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 Chemung/Schuylar Counties	Watkins Glen
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

State

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

Local

Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center Cleveland

Oklahoma

State

Native Alliance Against Violence

Local

Ponca Tribe Domestic Violence Program Ponca City

Oregon

State

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

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
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

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' Center of Fayette County Uniontown
Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. Allentown
Crisis Center North Pittsburgh
HAVIN (Helping All Victims in Need) Kittanning
Network of Victim Assistance Jamison

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
 Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Local

Sojourner House	Providence
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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	Georgetown
People Against Rape	Charleston
Pickens County Advocacy Center	Easley
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition	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