

FAITH FOR PRIDE 2023

This June, show your support for LGBTQ+ equality.

The majority of faith groups and congregations across the country are inspired by their traditions to celebrate the inherent dignity and worth of all people, including the many beloved LGBTQ+ members of their communities. But an extremist minority is working to distort the meaning of religious freedom to discriminate against those who identify or believe differently than they do.

Across the country, state legislatures are debating nearly 500 bills that would limit the rights of LGBTQ+ people. From using Christian nationalist ideologies to restrict the use of pronouns and discussion of sexuality and gender in schools, to denying gender-affirming care and limiting trans athletes' participation in sports to denying service to LGBTQ+ individuals under the guise of religious freedom, these bills threaten the lives of our friends, family, and neighbors based on their identities. These bills also create a hostile environment for LGBTQ+ people and give permission to the rising violent threats that plague the LGBTQ+ community.

As people of faith, it's vital that we fight back against these heinous efforts and voice our support for our LGBTQ+ siblings' right to live with full dignity and safety.

What is Faith for Pride?

This Pride Month, we are inviting people from every tradition and background to join together to participate in **Faith for Pride**: an annual month-long effort to organize and push back against anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric, fight anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, and support grassroots organizations that work with LGBTQ+ communities. Our goal is to bring people together to demonstrate that congregations and communities across faith and place vehemently oppose the bills that threaten the lives and livelihoods of our LGBTQ+ friends, family, and neighbors. Together, we can organize and mobilize against anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and hateful rhetoric that threaten the lives of LGBTQ+ people. This June and beyond, we must build an interfaith movement that fights for the rights and safety of the LGBTQ+ community.

What Do I Need to Know about Anti-LGBTQ+ Bills?



In state legislatures across the country, leaders are introducing, debating, and enacting targeted bills shaped by national right-wing Christian organizations that would drastically limit the freedoms of LGBTQ+ people. So far this year, over 540 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced in state legislatures. Forty-five laws targeting LGBTQ+ people have been enacted, including 13 laws banning gender-affirming care, three requiring or allowing misgendering of transgender students, and three laws creating a license to discriminate.

Through extremist rhetoric and religious messaging, there is a movement that seeks to prevent LGBTQ+ people from accessing essential medical care, discussing their identities in schools, and more. But across the country, people of faith are fighting back.

How Can I Help?

- **Host a Faith for Pride Event.** By hosting a Faith for Pride event, you are raising your voice as a person of faith against anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and for the inherent dignity and worth of LGBTQ+ people. Ask leaders in your faith community to dedicate a service to demonstrating that people of faith, including your group or congregation, vehemently oppose bills and rhetoric that threaten our LGBTQ+ friends, family, and neighbors. If you yourself are a faith leader, use your platform to spread a message of love, equality, and justice.
- **Learn about anti-LGBTQ+ extremism and how to fight against it.** Too often, Christian nationalist ideology is used as a cover for anti-LGBTQ+, extremism, and discrimination. Take some time this Pride month to learn about where and how anti-LGBTQ+ extremism is showing up in your state and community and what LGBTQ+-led organizations - including faith-inspired LGBTQ organizations are doing and show up for and with them.
- **Mobilize to strike down anti-LGBTQ+ legislation.** Under the guise of religious freedom, the Religious Right and their elected allies are pushing legislation targeting LGBTQ+ children, parents, and educators. You can organize a media campaign or show up in person to let your legislators and community know that you stand for full rights for LGBTQ people and organize to create ways to show up in meaningful ways in June and in the months to come.