

October 4, 2023

National Sign on Letter of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Trafficking Organizations and Programs in Support of Full and Equal Access to Services and Shelter for Transgender Survivors

We, the undersigned 224 sexual assault, domestic violence, and trafficking organizations, strongly oppose proposed legislation and laws that limit the rights of transgender individuals. With missions to end domestic violence and sexual assault, we condemn the rhetoric that any such laws will increase safety or exist to protect women. Anti-trans laws do not increase safety and such proposals are opposed by the movement to end gender-based violence.

Though we oppose all legislation that targets the transgender community, we specifically oppose anti-transgender legislation that seeks to bar transgender and nonbinary survivors from support services and shelter spaces. States across the country have introduced harmful legislation that seeks to erode non-discrimination protections and prohibit transgender and nonbinary survivors from accessing public spaces that align with their gender identity, including restrooms, locker rooms, prison facilities, and more. These proposals seek to prohibit transgender and nonbinary people from accessing domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers, thereby eliminating their ability to seek safe shelter space to escape an abusive relationship or healing services to recover from an experience of sexual violence.

These types of legislation are in violation of federal non-discrimination provisions in the Violence Against Women Act and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, two primary sources of federal funding that domestic violence and sexual assault service providers rely on to provide services. Anti-trans legislation burdens service providers, forcing them to navigate contradictory laws that threaten access to federal funding.

Groups supporting anti-trans proposals claim that the proposed legislation is necessary for public safety and to prevent sexual violence against women and children. As sexual assault service providers, domestic violence 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. As organizations whose missions are to reduce abuse and violence, we support laws and policies that protect transgender people from discrimination, including in accessing facilities that match the gender they live every day. We call on legislators to focus on survivors' real needs - housing, advocacy, legal support, counseling, children's services, and more.

Transgender and nonbinary individuals are already at higher risk of domestic violence and sexual assault due to the discrimination, stigma, and barriers to financial and housing security that the transgender community experiences, with transgender women of color disproportionately impacted. Transgender people already experience unconscionably high rates

October 4, 2023

of sexual assault—and forcing them out of facilities consistent with their gender makes them vulnerable to assault and abuse. Transgender people are also three times more likely to experience homelessness than their cisgender lesbian, gay, and bisexual counterparts, and eight times more likely than cisgender straight people—which speaks to the enormous need for shelters to be welcoming and affirming to transgender survivors. Limiting shelter access for transgender individuals would exacerbate this problem. Placing further legal restrictions on LGBTQ people’s access to safe shelter and supportive resources would make it even harder for LGBTQ survivors to exit abusive relationships safely and seek support in the aftermath of domestic and sexual violence.

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 abuse. That is why we strongly support transgender-inclusive non-discrimination protections and oppose any law that would jeopardize the safety of transgender people by forcing them into shelters, facilities, and restrooms that do not align with their gender or excluding them from shelters based on their gender identity.

Discriminating against transgender people does not give anyone more control over their body or safety. Those who perpetuate falsehoods about transgender people and non-discrimination laws are putting transgender people in harm’s way and making no one safer. We cannot stand by while survivors, both those who are transgender and those who are not, are endangered by these laws. We will only accomplish our goal of ending sexual assault and domestic violence by treating all people, including those who are transgender, with fairness and respect.

Respectfully submitted,

A Safe Place

A Window Between Worlds

Abbie Shelter

Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services (ADWAS)

Abused Women’s Aid In Crisis

Advocates of Ozaukee

Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center

Alexandra House, Inc.

October 4, 2023

Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence

Alternative Horizons

Alternatives to Violence

Arise Lawrence County

Arise Sexual Assault Services

Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Artemis Center

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence

Battered Women's Shelter and Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties

BeLEAF Survivors

Blackburn Center

Bolton Refuge House, Inc.

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)

Boston Medical Center Domestic Violence Program

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

CASA

Casa Myrna Vazquez

Catalyst Domestic Violence Services

Center for Abused Persons

Center of Hope

Centre Safe

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

Clinton County Women's Center dba Roads to Peace

Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault

October 4, 2023

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County
Community Against Violence, Inc.
Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Congreso De Latinos Unidos
Crisis Center North
Crisis Support Network
CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Community United Against Violence
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Domestic Violence Escape (DOVE), Inc.
Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Dove Center
DOVE Inc.
Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center
Embrace Services, Inc.
Empower Yolo
End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
Esperanza United
Family Advocates
Family and Community Resources, Inc.
Family Violence Appellate Project
Family Violence Law Center – California
Family Violence Program of St Bernard
FORGE, Inc.
Friends, Inc.
Friendship Center of Helena, Inc.

October 4, 2023

Futures Without Violence

GA Coalition Against Domestic Violence

GreenHouse17

Hands of Hope Resource Center

HarborCOV

Haven- Montana

Haven Hills, Inc.

Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Health Imperatives, Inc.

Healthy Alternatives to Violent Environments

Heartly House, Inc.

HELP of Door County

Helpmate

Humboldt Domestic Violence Services

Huntingdon House

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Illinois Accountability Initiative

Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The Initiative- Colorado

INPACT Boston

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Jane Doe Inc.

Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center

Jewish Family & Children's Service Journey to Safety

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles

Jewish Family Services, Inc.

October 4, 2023

Just Solutions

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center

Kiran Inc.

Latinx In Action

Laurel House

LGBTQ+ Rural Resource Center

Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund

Leah Foster Therapy

Life Crisis Center, Inc.

Lutheran Settlement House

Los Angeles LGBT Center

Love Doesn't Hurt

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

Missing Murdered Indigenous Women Coalition of NC

Missions Inc. Programs

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Montana NOW

Montgomery County DHHS – Trauma Services

Mutual Ground- Aurora, Illinois

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

October 4, 2023

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
National LGBTQ+ Women's Community Survey
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women
National Organization for Women, Hollywood NOW Chapter, CA
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
New England Learning Center for Women in Transition
Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
New Beginnings APFV, Inc
New Hope Inc
New Horizons Crisis Center
New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence
New Mexico Asian Family Center
New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
New Mexico Women
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence
North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence
NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA)
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
PCADV
Pearl Crisis Center
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
RCC Sexual Violence Resource Center

October 4, 2023

Reach Counseling Services

Relationship Safety Alliance

Resolve

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Riverview Center- Illinois

RurAL CAP

Ruth's House

Saahas for Cause

Safe Haven of Pender, Inc.

Safe Haven Shelter and Resource Center

Safe Horizon- New York City

Safe Journey

Safe Passage, Massachusetts

Safe Space, Inc.

Safelight Inc.

SafeSpace Anti-Violence Program at Pride Center of Vermont

Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments Inc. (SAVE)

Schuylkill Hope Center for Victims of Domestic Violence

Second Bloom of Chatham, Inc.

Sexual Assault Center

Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico

Sheedy Consulting LLC

Sierra Community House

Solace Sexual Assault Services

South Peninsula Haven House

South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center

Spanish American Center, Inc.

October 4, 2023

Standpoint

Stepping Stones, Inc.

St. John's Community Health Transgender Health Program

Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program

Tahirih Justice Center

Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

The Advocates for Human Rights

The Bridge to Hope

The Center for Women & Community

The Center for Women and Families, Inc.

The Cocoon

The Key Program, Inc. Children's Charter Division

The LeeShore Center- Alaska

The Network/La Red

The People Concern

The Resource Connection

The Women's Center

The Women's Center, Inc. of Columbia/Montour

The Women's Community, Inc.

Transition House

Tubman

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Inc.

UNIDOS

Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault Help Center, Inc.

Utah Domestic Violence Coalition

VALOR

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

October 4, 2023

Victim Outreach Intervention Center (VOICE)

Violence Free Colorado

Violence Free Minnesota

Violence Prevention Center

Violence Recovery Program, Fenway Health

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Women Against Abuse

Women and Children's Horizons

Women Helping Women

Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc.

Womens' Shelter and Support Center

Women's Shelter of Long Beach

West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Wild Iris Family Counseling and Crisis Center

Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

YWCA Central MA

YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts

YWCA of San Gabriel Valley

YWCA USA

YWCA West Central Michigan

YWCA York

ZeroV

7 Directions of Service

October 4, 2023