

November 20, 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 232 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

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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.

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All Families Healthcare- Montana

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

Asian Women's Shelter

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

BRAVO, a Division of Equitas Health

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

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Clinton County Women's Center dba Roads to Peace  
Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence  
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
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  
El Centro Del Pueblo- California  
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

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Family Violence Program of St Bernard

FORGE, Inc.

Friends, Inc.

Friendship Center of Helena, Inc.

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.

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Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center

Jewish Family & Children's Service Journey to Safety

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles

Jewish Family Services, Inc.

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

Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

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Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Montana NOW

Montgomery County DHHS – Trauma Services

Mutual Ground- Aurora, Illinois

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

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

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PCADV

Pearl Crisis Center

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

RCC Sexual Violence Resource Center

Reach Counseling Services

Regional Family Crisis Center- Missouri

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

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Sheedy Consulting LLC  
Sierra Community House  
Solace Sexual Assault Services  
South Peninsula Haven House  
South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center  
Spanish American Center, Inc.  
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  
Thai Unity Community  
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: Advocating Against Domestic Violence  
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.

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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

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

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YWCA Central MA

YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts

YWCA of San Gabriel Valley

YWCA USA

YWCA West Central Michigan

YWCA York

ZeroV

7 Directions of Service