

Legislative
Bulletin



LGBTQ+ Rights

Promoting Equality and Inclusion



NORTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Faith and LGBTQ+ People

God Loves LGBTQ+ People:

- Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Romans: 38:4
- For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:13-14
- Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1



The Council's View on LGBTQ+ Rights

The North Carolina Council of Churches has long been an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. In a 1992 policy statement (reaffirmed in 2019), we said:

"The North Carolina Council of Churches rejects the fear, prejudice and hatred that foster societal and religious attitudes which either encourage, condone, or ignore violence and discrimination against LGBTQ+. The council stands with people who are LGBTQ+ in their struggle to achieve equal human and civil rights under the laws of North Carolina and of the United States. The Council recognizes that this struggle is not only for the freedom and equality of people who are LGBTQ+, but is also for the emancipation of the whole society from the destructive, emotionally crippling effects of fear and hatred.

We believe in a society that doesn't discriminate based on sexuality or gender identification. We base this on our faith claim that every single person is created in the image of God and loved by God.

The North Carolina Council of Churches will continue our work to create a church and society that welcomes all of us.

Facts about LGBTQ+

North Carolina is home to an estimated

382,000
LGBTQ+
people¹

238,000

TOTAL LGBTQ WORKERS²

4%

PERCENT OF ADULTS (18+)
WHO ARE LGBTQ+³

NORTH CAROLINA IS ONE OF
22 LOWEST-RANKED STATES
TO EXAMINE STATE LAWS AND POLICIES
IMPACTING LGBTQ+ PEOPLE.⁴

BLACK AND TRANS LGBTQ

North Carolinians experience significant barriers
to ACCESSING QUALITY HEALTH CARE.⁵

58% LGBTQ
Youth

in North Carolina who
wanted mental health
care in the past year
were not able to get it.⁶

63% LGBTQ+
students

experienced at least one form of
anti-LGBTQ discrimination at
school during the 2019 school year.⁷

LGBTQ North Carolinians report high rates of not knowing
their **HIV STATUS** and **INFREQUENT HIV TESTING**.⁸

LGBTQ North Carolinians fear and experience **HARASSMENT
AND VIOLENCE** due to their LGBTQ identity at alarming rates,
especially trans respondents and respondents of color.⁹

Enact LGBTQ+ Protections

It is crucial for lawmakers to prioritize and actively engage in the implementation of various measures to ensure equality for LGBTQ+ individuals. By establishing comprehensive non-discrimination laws, we can safeguard the rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ people, fostering an inclusive environment where individuals can live, work, and thrive without fear of discrimination or prejudice.

Additionally, by implementing safer school policies, we can create a supportive educational environment that promotes acceptance, respect, and understanding for LGBTQ+ students, ultimately contributing to their overall well-being and academic success.

Ensuring healthcare access for transgender people is crucial in addressing the unique healthcare needs of this population, promoting their physical and mental well-being, and reducing health disparities.

By focusing on the implementation of these laws and advancing innovative legislation, North Carolina has the potential to serve as a benchmark, showcasing its commitment to protecting and uplifting vulnerable populations and fostering a society that values diversity, equality, and justice for all.

Proposed solutions:

- Enact statewide non-discrimination protections in housing, employment, public places, health, insurance, and education.
- Pass non-discrimination ordinances at the local level.
- Support legislation to protect transgender individuals, ensuring their equal rights, safety, and well-being.
- Enact legislation to ensure access to gender-affirming care.
- Pass comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination in public schools.
- Support inclusive policies that protect the rights of transgender youth in sports, ensuring fair and equal opportunities.
- Support educational and advocacy programs to engage people of faith, fostering understanding and support for LGBTQ+ rights, promoting inclusivity and equality while addressing any misconceptions or biases, and encouraging dialogue and acceptance within religious communities.



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- 1, 2, 3. Movement Advancement Project, North Carolina's Equality Profile,
4. Human Rights Campaign, State Equality Index 2022
- 5, 8, 9. Campaign for Southern Equality, State Spotlight North Carolina, August 2021
6. The Trevor Project, 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health North Carolina, 2022
7. GLSEN, School Climate for LGBTQ Students in NC, 2019

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