

THE NEW
PRIDE
AGENDA
PRESENTS

THE COMMUNITY'S VOTE.
THE COMMUNITY'S VOICE.

THE COMMUNITY'S 2023 NEW YORK STATE

ADVOCACY AGENDA

NO EQUALITY FOR
SOME OF US WITHOUT
EQUITY FOR ALL OF US

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The mission of NEW Pride Agenda is to advance the economic, health, racial, and gender identity justice needs of marginalized LGBTQIA+ individuals in the state of New York. We fundamentally believe that LGBTQIA+ rights are civil rights and impact the most important aspects of everyday life from housing to employment. Collaborating with a diverse network of communities and elected officials, NPA serves to educate members of the LGBTQIA+ community, our allies, and the general public about our legal protections, real-time needs, and pathways to strengthen our rights.

Introduction

NEW Pride Agenda's mission to advance the economic, health, racial and gender identity justice needs of marginalized LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers has never been more important.

Despite our states' robust anti discrimination protections, no one is safe from the unprecedented levels of anti LGBTQIA+ and anti trans hate that we are facing today. Make no mistake, there is a well organized and well funded effort to roll back our rights and attack our identities for political gain. Since the start of 2023, over 100 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills have been introduced across the country. The rise in anti LGBTQIA+ hate has made its way into our very own backyards.

This hateful rhetoric is being amplified by the highest levels of government, emboldening bigots all across the country. LGBTQIA+ friendly establishments from Rochester to New York City have been on the receiving end of attacks. Library Boards on Long Island voted to remove Pride flags from their buildings. Right wing extremists have violently protested Drag Queen Story Hour all across New York City - and have used tactics of intimidation and harassment against openly LGBTQIA+ elected officials. But we're fighting back!

Resting on our laurels isn't an option for us. Not when we are living in a post Roe world. Where so many of our siblings have been stripped of their right to privacy and bodily autonomy. When LGBTQIA+ Americans lack non discrimination protections in 30+ states. When we're facing record breaking murder rates of our Black and Brown trans siblings. Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and take up space. To not allow the normalization of transphobia and homophobia. To take their threats seriously and be strategic about how we respond. More importantly, from our perspective, to ensure that New York continues to lead on LGBTQIA+ equality and equity in America.

Despite the wave of transphobia and homophobia in the United States, there is much to celebrate, including the fact that 91% of anti LGBTQIA+ bills in 2022 failed to become law. That's our power. We also have some recent promising wins right here in New York.

This month, the Governor indicated her support for the expansion of the Lorena Borjas Transgender and Non Binary Wellness & Equity Fund - setting the stage for a historic launch later this year. Organizations like NPA have worked in partnership to pass legislation advancing an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to our State Constitution. Once approved by voters through a statewide ballot initiative next year, the ERA will create new protections against discrimination based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, disability, and sex — including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes.

But there is so much more to fight for. That's why we're proud of our decision to democratize our 2023 legislative agenda. Hundreds of LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers voted to create the **2023 Community Agenda**. These four bills - which received the most votes - are issues we are committed to advancing with all of our capacity in addition to lending support to other legislative priorities that impact the LGBTQIA+ community and the intersectional identities we hold.

We are thankful to our **Platform Partners** for supporting the **2023 Community Agenda**: Make the Road NY, New York Transgender Advocacy Group, The LGBT Center, and Housing Works. Together, in solidarity with many other LGBTQIA+ advocacy organizations, advocates and allies, we will work to protect sex workers' rights by making New York the first state to decriminalize consensual sex work. We will fight to make New York a Safe Haven for Transgender youth and their families, for both native New Yorkers and those fleeing persecution in other states. Finally, we will be principled, but relentless in our efforts to create policies that protect Transgender, Non Binary and Intersex people in custody.

We may be experiencing challenging times, but **I have never doubted our community's ability to show up and show out**. To stand up and fight back. To be visible, to be numerous, and to demonstrate our collective power – the way we were taught to.

I look forward to seeing you out there.

Towards Equity,

Elisa Crespo
Executive Director

2023 NYS LGBTQIA+ Community Agenda

Hundreds of LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers voted and made their voices heard about the issues most pressing to them. We're proud to have democratized the process for determining what we advocate for, **becoming the first statewide LGBTQIA+ advocacy organization** to do so. Our 2023 Advocacy Agenda is truly **The Community's Agenda!**

Let's organize. Let's win! **TOGETHER!**



DECRIMINALIZING CONSENSUAL SEX WORK

S4396(Salazar)

Amends statutes so that consenting adults who trade sex or patronize adult sex workers will not be criminalized.



SAFE HAVEN FOR TRANS YOUTH & FAMILIES

S8842(Hoylman-Sigal) / A10138(Bronson)

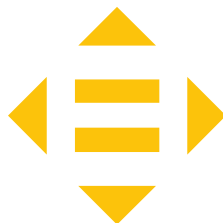
Protects trans families facing persecution across the country.



GENDER IDENTITY RESPECT, DIGNITY & SAFETY ACT (GIRDS)

A709(Rozic) / S2860(Salazar)

Ensures culturally competent treatment and gender-aligned housing placements of trans people experiencing incarceration.



NYS EQUAL RIGHTS AMMENDMENT

S.8797B(Krueger) / Seawright(A.10468A)

A state constitutional amendment that creates new protections against discrimination based on SOGI, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive health care.

Extended 2023 Legislative Priorities

Our ears are also to the ground on other important issues that have an impact on our communities. Together with our organizational partners, we look forward to elevating and lending support to these additional issues and community needs.

01

REPEAL STI Discrimination Act

S3347(Hoylman-Sigal) / TBD(Gonzalez-Rojas)

Repeals HIV / STI Criminalization in NYS.

02

The LGBT Long-Term Care Facility Bill of Rights

S2912C(Hoylman-Sigal) / A866(Bronson)

Protects queer elders from discrimination.

03

Repealing 340B Medicaid Carveout

S8509-A(Cleare) / A9693(Rosenthal)

Saves NY's community healthcare safety net.

04

Comprehensive Sex Education

S2584(Brouk)

Requires curriculum to be comprehensive and inclusive of SOGI in NYS public schools.

05

Intersex Education Bill

AB7527(Seawright)

Requires DOH to conduct public education and outreach on Intersex bodily autonomy.

Extended Legislative Priorities, Continued

06

Good Cause Eviction

S305(Salazar) / A5573(Hunter)

Enshrines tenant protections into law.

07

Housing Voucher Access Program

S2804A(Kavanagh) / A3701A(Cymbrowitz)

Creates a transformative program for low-income New Yorkers who are homeless.

08

Modern Families Act

S9280(Hoylman-Sigal) / A10523(Gonzalez-Rojas)

Recognizes the value of and protects diverse, nontraditional family structures.

09

Clean Slate Act

S211(Myrie) / A1029(Cruz)

Gives second chances to formerly incarcerated New Yorkers.

10

Equality Act (Federal)

H.R. 5 - 117th Congress (2021 - 2022)

Explicitly extends federal non-discrimination protections to LGBTQIA+ Americans.

Towards Equity

Queer and trans lives are on the line - even here in New York State. Equality isn't enough: it's doesn't trickle down to communities most susceptible to inequalities that are only exacerbated, and enabled, by grossly disproportionate inequities. BIPOC LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers are being left behind in policies, funding, and progress made to protecting our civil rights. As a movement, the time is long overdue for us to move beyond equality towards achieving equitable realities.

While there's a notable lack of measurable data and substantive research on the issues most impacting our lives, there's a historic effort underway to ensure gender expansive people are not erased from history. Organizations like the National Center for Transgender Equality, the Trevor Project, Funders for LGBTQ Issues, Center for American Progress, Williams Institute, and CUNY's own Public Science Project are working to reveal the nuances of social disparities through science-backed research and ethically-sourced statistics.

Information like this is crucial to organizing efforts here in New York and around the country to create lasting change and bring about a more equitable, just, and liberated future – for everyone. We greatly appreciate the efforts of these organizations, and many others, to raise awareness about our lived experiences and the struggles our communities endure. In this chapter, we've compiled sources, references, and hardline data to highlight insightful research that underscores the need for our **2023 Community Agenda**.



In 2022, the [Center For American Progress](#) found that **nearly half** of LGBTQIA+ people of color and LGBTQIA+ people with disabilities, **more than half** of transgender or nonbinary individuals, and **2 in 3** intersex individuals **experienced some form of discrimination in just the past year.**¹

Stop Violence In The Sex Trades Act

We get hired less, we get paid less, all while receiving less opportunities based on who we are. Worse, our over representation in the criminal justice system is systematically connected to heightened levels of poverty, homelessness, violence, discrimination and – again – unemployment.

Sex Work is Work!

Education, unemployment, housing insecurities, police and court interactions, health care and HIV status, along with mental health and suicide are topline issues outlined in NCTE's *Meaningful Work Report* as some of the leading components of consenting adults who either trade or patronize sex work across the nation.² We get hired less, we get paid less, all while receiving less opportunities based on who we are. Worse, our over representation in the criminal justice system is systematically connected to heightened levels of poverty, homelessness, violence, discrimination and – again – unemployment. SVSTA makes explicit that consenting people who patronize adult sex workers or trade sex will not be criminalized. Survival sex work, especially, should not be criminalized. Engagement in this trade of work is often a vital and necessary means of survival for many people who lack steady income and housing stability. Continued criminalization and the stigma around sex work leads to harm and often stops people from seeking help when in need. Removing the threat of arrests based on sex work creates more opportunities for people who are being coerced or experiencing violence to report it and seek justice safely.

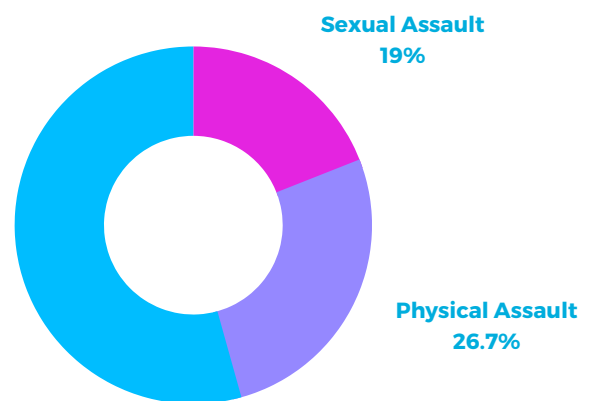
31.8%

of sex workers report feeling very uncomfortable seeking help from the police

Uncomfortable Seeking Help
54.3%

64.1%

of sex workers reported being mistreated at the hands of police

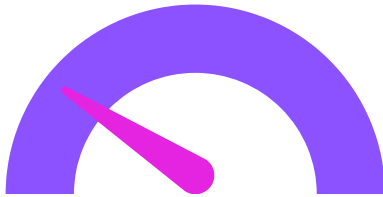


* seeking help from the police / assault by police

The Gender Identity Respect, Dignity, and Safety Act (GIRDS)

All of the inequities facing gender diverse people lead to pipelines of poverty and incarceration. When trans, non-binary, and intersex people come into contact with the criminal justice system, they experience a disproportionate lack of cultural competence and trauma-informed, evidence-backed care. This too often leads to unsafe conditions and harmful outcomes that can last a lifetime.

According to The Sentencing Project:³

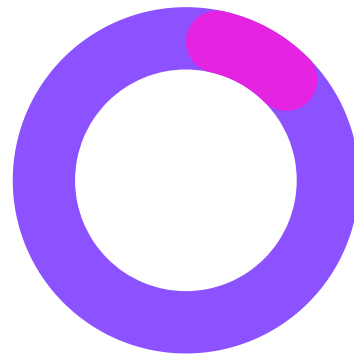


One in five (21%) trans women have experienced incarceration at some point in their lives



Nearly half (47%) of all Black trans people have experienced being incarcerated at some point

According to the National Center For Transgender Equality:⁴



16% of all trans people have been incarcerated at some point in life

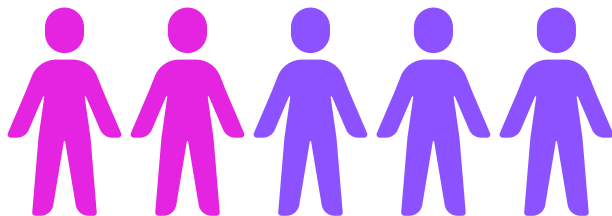
GIRDS is a lifesaving intervention to some of the most pressing issues impacting TGNCNBI people in local, county, and state prisons and jails. When trans, non-binary, and intersex people come into contact with the criminal justice system, they experience a disproportionate lack of cultural competence and trauma-informed, evidence-backed care. There are innumerable horror stories of gender expansive people being detained in the wrong gendered housing facilities and of the ways they are neglected by correction officers, medical staff, and other incarcerated people. This too often leads to unsafe conditions and harmful outcomes that can last a lifetime. The Gender Identity, Respect, Dignity & Safety Act guarantees gender expansive people in custody are housed consistent with their gender identity and have access to gender affirming clothing, commissary items, mental health care, medical care, and other services and resources that align their self attested gender identity.

Safe Haven For Trans Youth & Families

In an unparalleled time when conservative states are attacking trans youth, their families, and their ability to survive, New York is stepping up and fighting back. We're here for. Your life matters and we'll stand alongside you in the fight for dignity, safety, and justice.

Our lives are quite literally on the line. In 2022, over three hundred and fifty anti-LGBTQIA+ legislative initiatives were introduced in state legislatures across the country – and in just the first month of 2023, over one hundred additional such bills have been taken up⁵ for debate. The vast majority of these bills are an unprecedented onslaught of state legislation targeting transgender children and families. From Alaska to Florida, state lawmakers are relentlessly undermining any existing protections for gender identity and expression and are advancing pieces of legislation that would allow legal discrimination of individuals, families, and entire communities that aren't aligned with the gender-binary. As New York braces for a mass-arrival of trans youth and their families, the Safe Haven For Trans Youth & Families Act aims to address this specific crisis that will inevitably compound the ongoing refugee crisis straining New York City and State. While making our state a safe haven is necessary, and fundamental to our progressive values, we recognize that equitable investments must also be made to ensure adequate resources and services are available to trans youth and families in need when New York becomes their home. Sustaining in the Lorena Borjas Wellness & Equity Fund is another common-sense solution to this issue that will make resources and services readily available, while also building the capacity of trans-led and serving organizations to meet the real-time needs of gender-expansive New Yorkers who already, and have historically, called New York home.

According to the Trevor Project:⁶



2 in 5 LGBTQ youth report living in a community that isn't accepting

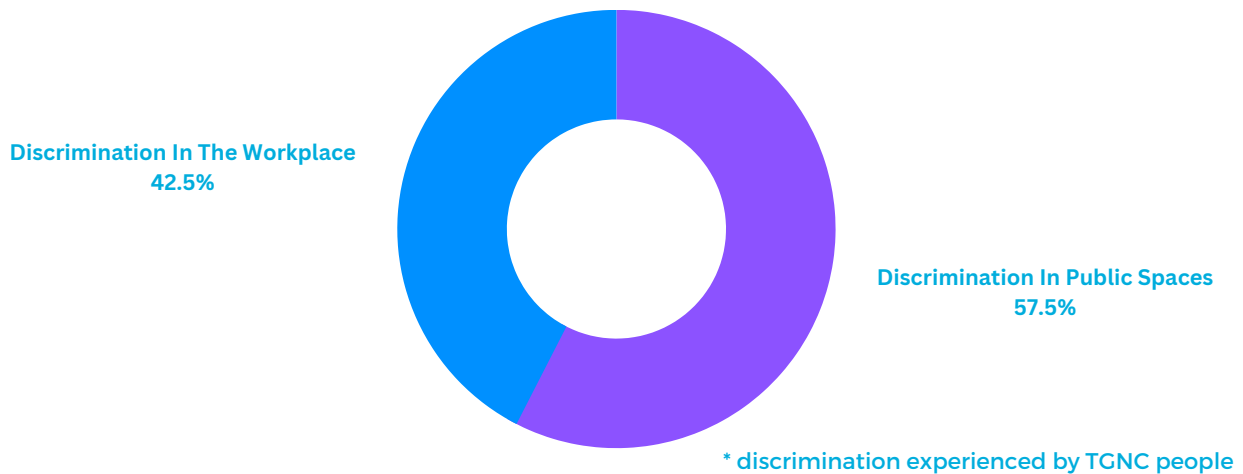
LGBTQ youth who lived in an accepting community, had access to affirming spaces, and / or felt supported from family and friends reported significantly lower rates of attempting suicide.

20% of trans and non-binary youth reported attempting suicide at home in the last year. 21% said they attempted suicide because school was not a gender-affirming space.

New York State Equal Rights Amendment

This moment in history calls for progress. Discrimination and acts of hate are on the rise in our very own backyards. Even in a state as progressive as New York, expanding and codifying equal rights and non-discrimination protections couldn't be more crucial – especially post Roe v. Wade.

Discrimination too often leads to barriers to wellness, and incredibly high numbers present increasing concern for successful survival rates. According to the Center for American Progress, in 2022 78% of trans people reported experiencing some form of discrimination that affected their mental health on a scale from moderate to significant. 62% stated the same in regards to spiritual well being, and another 41%-51% regarding physical and financial well being.⁷



Passing the State Assembly and Senate for a second time at the beginning of this year, the New York State Equal Rights Amendment is now headed to the ballot for next year's general election. This state constitutional amendment creates new protections in New York State against discrimination based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, disability, and sex — including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive health care and autonomy. This year and next, we'll work with our partners across the state to educate LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers on the importance of this gender-identity and sexual-orientation inclusive ballot initiative. At an unprecedented time when rights and protections are being rolled back and stripped away across the country, New York is setting a precedent by enshrining our progressive values into law.

Conclusion

America's political climate towards gender non-conforming people who refuse to assimilate with cisgender or heteronormative identities is escalating more and more towards indifference to our lives, actively threatening the very survival of our mere existence.

What's being done in response to persistent and relentless atrocities impacting our lives, even here in New York State – the home of Stonewall – isn't working. The trickle-down approach of our movement's LGBTQIA+ state-based advocacy and mainstream national organizing hasn't resulted in the advancement of greater equity or solutions proven to address issues impacting trans, nonbinary, and intersex communities. The unfortunate reality for lower-income, gender-expansive BIPOC communities is that structural disenfranchisement has only worsened and pushed us even further to the outermost margins of inequity, poverty, and marginalization.

As New York braces for the mass arrival of gender expansive young people and their families fleeing discrimination and criminalization in other states, NEW Pride Agenda is meeting the moment with effective leadership and tangible solutions to position **New York State as the nation's frontline defense** to civil liberties and fundamental freedoms, while also holding our state's leaders accountable to addressing the longstanding needs and disparities of trans communities who have called New York home for all or most of their lives. Together – in proud partnership with **The Center, Make The Road, Housing Works, and New York Transgender Advocacy Group** – we're holding the line and daring to be innovative in taking a different approach: **eradicating poverty and disproportionate inequities withholding BIPOC queer communities from the New York Promise!**

In 2023, we're working to lift every voice in our community-family and champion equitable realities for LGBTQIA+ people from Buffalo to the Hudson Valley, throughout the five boroughs, and across Long Island. **Our lives are under attack! We're standing up and fighting back, with you!**



As a grassroots statewide organization lead by directly impacted people, we will be resolute in our resolve to move our movement beyond the superficial and failed symbolism of equality towards one of **expanding and guaranteeing equity for those of us most in need**. We will also work tirelessly to mitigate the tradition of negligence towards our Upstate and Long Island community-families who are suffering from decades of lackluster investments and disproportionately inadequate resources and services compared to those available in New York City. **We must invest the most in communities with the least**. Lifting every voice means leaving none of us behind, no matter where we live in New York State.

We will not be deterred in the difficult but necessary and life-saving work to advance equity. If we've learned anything as a community, and as a movement, over the past several years it is that we are far from the tipping point. Equality doesn't equal equity and visibility doesn't equate to lived realities of equitable gains. Equitable policies, funding, and services will, however, lead to all of our collective liberation.

Our **2023 LGBTQIA+ Community Advocacy Agenda** is righteously ambitious – and achievable. We sincerely thank our state and national organizational partners for standing in solidarity with us and BIPOC LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers. Thank you for endorsing **the community's vote, the community's voice, the community's advocacy agenda**. This year, let's organize and win together.

We hope the broader LGBTQIA+ community and movement will join us as we rise to the occasion this moment demands of all of us to advance equity, civil liberties, and fundamental freedoms for our lower-income gender-expansive BIPOC siblings who have – and inevitably will – call New York home.

I trust we'll be united on the right side of history, family. **Onward to a safer, healthier, more equitable future for all LGBTQIA+ BIPOC New Yorkers!**

In Solidarity,

Shéár Avory
Lead Statewide Community Organizer

Endorsements



CalLEN-LORDE



Harlem Pride



Sex Workers Project



Endorsements, Continued



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

Greater
New York



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and the hundreds of LGBTQ+ New Yorkers who voted to make their voices heard and helped us determine what to advocate for this year!



BEYOND EQUALITY TOWARDS EQUITY PERIOD.

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