

Trans Erasure

(and how to avoid being next)



The “trans gender”

Transgender people have existed for as long as the United States, and much before. Now, the first few generations of openly **transgender** Americans are growing up, and in the wake of the **LGBT+** rights movements in the 1960s and 1970s, they are more visible than ever before.

This newly visible, relatively small group of people has attracted the ire of politicians, and they have been made a tool, a common enemy to unite the political machine.

However, the bold moves made against the **transgender** community are having, and will continue to have, far-reaching effects felt far beyond the confines of one minority group.

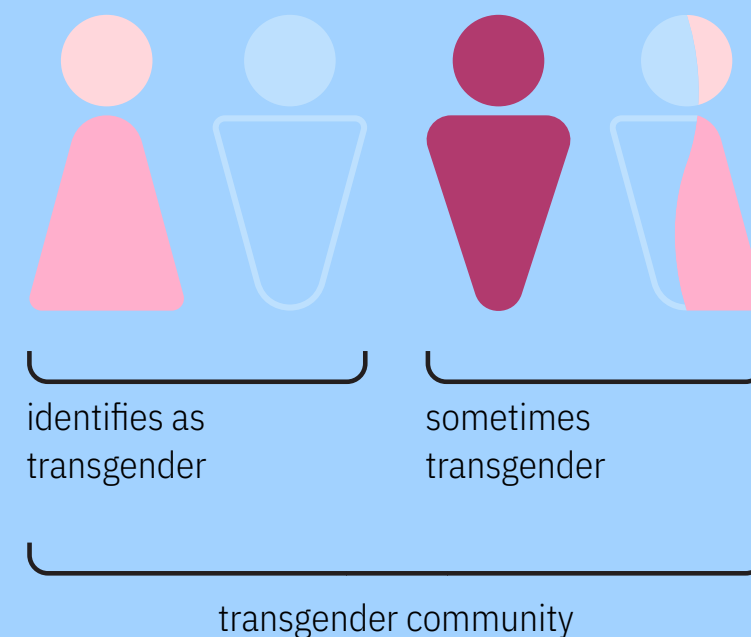
The “trans community”

Who exactly fits under the umbrella term of **transgender**? Obviously, this includes the people you likely think of first, **trans** men (Female-to-Male, or FtM) and **trans** women (Male-to-Female, or MtF). In reality, though the **transgender** umbrella can include anyone who identifies as non-cisgender. This doesn't always, but often can, include those who don't abide by the binary: genderfluid people, nonbinary people, two-spirit people, and more.

Although many **trans** people embrace gender-affirming care, one doesn't need anything like hormone replacement therapy, sexual reassignment surgery, or anything like that to be **trans**. A common colloquialism used by **trans** women is,

“If you wish you were a woman, you **already are one.**”

Identifying the Trans Umbrella



The “trans agenda”

What is happening to **trans** people? Well, **transgender** people are under attack by right-wing politicians and a number of different anti-**LGBT+** (or just anti-T!) groups.

According to WPATH, the World Professional Association for **Transgender** Health, in 2021, over 25 states moved to pass, or did pass, some legislation preventing **trans** youth from accessing gender-affirming care. Among these states are some extreme examples that serve to show how bad things are really getting.

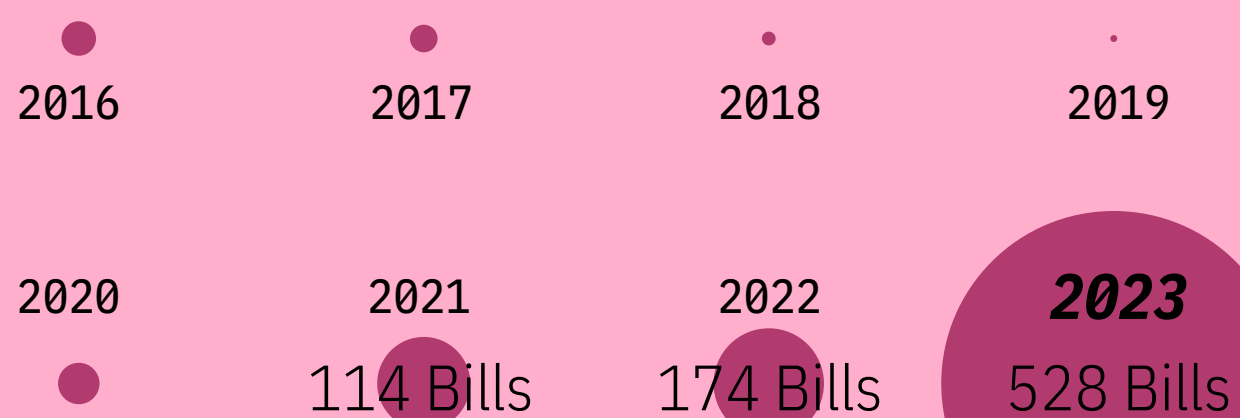
Governor Greg Abbott of Texas issued an executive directive in February of 2022 that essentially made providing gender affirming care for children a basis for child abuse. This was, of course, followed by outreach to his followers that they should turn on their neighbors and report any **transgender** children living nearby to Child Protective Services.

Florida has a law mockingly called the “Don’t Say **Gay**” bill, mandating that teachers are forbidden from teaching about gender or sexual identity in the state. As well, in April of 2023, the state passed a bill to make it a felony to provide gender-affirming care to minors.

Right-wing politicians are making it their mission to go after minority groups like **transgender** and queer people, stripping away their rights and using them as a common enemy to unite their constituents.

Anti-Transgender Laws by Year

Anti-Trans bills have been introduced in countless states in the past years, but when did they start to ramp up?



The “trans issue”

Trans minors are losing access to gender-affirming care. So what? After all, WPATH even recommends waiting until 18 years of age to start hormone replacement therapy. The problem is that minors are only the first group to go.

“Legislation that bans gender-affirming care is frequently based on **misinformation** and **false statements** meant to stir **unfounded fears** resulting in harmful and baseless laws about what happens between a doctor and their patient.”

Dr. Marci Bowers, President, World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)

“**Think** of the children!” has been an incredibly powerful argument for as long as there has been politics, and we are seeing politicians abuse it right before our very eyes. Florida’s “Don’t Say **Gay**” bill originally only applied until fourth grade upon publication, but not even a year after it was ratified, the bill was extended to all grades kindergarten through high school. With that precedent set, even more laws are being set into place restricting drag shows, which bathrooms a person can use, and more, all under the pretense of saving the children. Of course, this is just a pretense.

In fact, these laws actively harm children in multiple ways. In the case of Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Directive, **trans** children could be forcibly removed from their supportive families by Child Protective Services. Gender dysphoria is also a serious problem, especially among youth. Gender dysphoria is closely linked with suicide and depression, and relieving feelings of dysphoria can significantly help these other feelings.

The “cis issue”

Why should you personally care about **transgender** and **LGBT+** people being discriminated against? Even if you can't empathize with **transgender** people, this whole debacle has other far-reaching issues.

“The liberty interest at issue in this case—the interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children—is perhaps **the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests** recognized by this Court.”

Sandra Day O'Connor, Former Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States

Bans on gender affirming care for children, and especially Texas' crackdown on **trans** youth via Child Protective Services, are stripping parents of their right to decide what is best for their children. By so intently attacking **trans** youth, politicians are undermining one of the oldest fundamental liberties upheld by the supreme court.

Alongside the slow encroaching of these laws to ban more and more people from practicing bodily autonomy, it seems ironic that right-wing politicians, known for being champions of small government, are stepping so far into the realm of social authoritarianism to decide what is and isn't okay for so many. Even the least empathetic of cisgender people should be questioning where this will stop.

Could you be next?

The “trans rights”

Despite how overwhelmingly bleak things seem, there is still hope in despair. Organizations like WPATH and USPATH are fighting day and night for the **transgender** community, and are constantly doing research on **trans** healthcare, responding to and rebuking anti-**trans** legislation, and providing resources and education on **transgender** people and **transgender** issues worldwide.

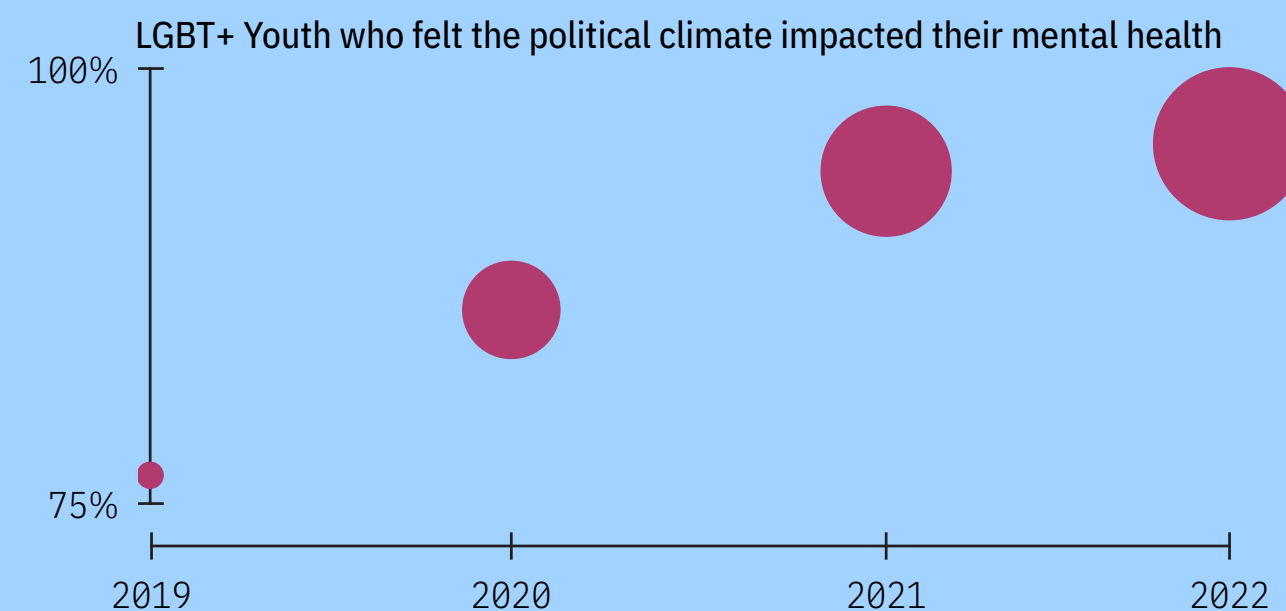
“Anti-transgender health care legislation is not about protections for children, but about **eliminating transgender persons on a micro and macro scale.**”

Dr. Marci Bowers, President, World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)

There are countless **LGBT+** organizations who are also pushing back and providing support to **trans** people in these trying times. The Trevor Project is conducting countless surveys and publishing a lot of **LGBT+** positive research, as well as being an impressive compendium of **LGBT+** terminology and articles for parents or children who may want or need to learn about them.

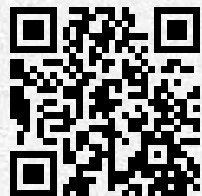
Effects of Anti-LGBT+ Legislation

The Trevor Project, an American nonprofit working to better mental health among **LGBT+** youth, publishes its findings yearly from a national survey started in 2019.



The “trans action”

Trans people need your help. Right-Wing politicians are using them as a tool for political gain. **Trans** youth are losing their rights at an alarming rate, and parents’ rights are quick to follow. As more and more socially authoritarian laws pass, the rights of everyone are at stake. One has to ask themselves: Where will this stop? In the face of this overwhelming push to strip groups of their rights, some organizations are helping to make a difference:



The Trevor Project (thetrevorproject.org), an indisputably important resource for learning more about **LGBT+** people, and the community at large.



The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (wpath.org), and by extension the US Professional Association for **Transgender** Health, are setting continuously improving guidelines for **trans** healthcare. These guidelines are based on facts, and not fearmongering rhetoric.

Most importantly, though, **make your voice heard**: Speak up and spread the word, vote for pro-**trans** politicians, go to rallies, marches, and show your solidarity with the oppressed. Show the ones at the top that this will not be tolerated.