

Being Trans

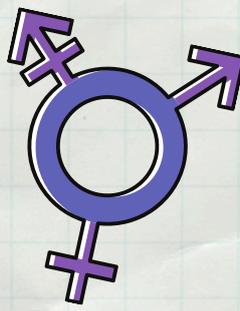
in the Current

Political climate

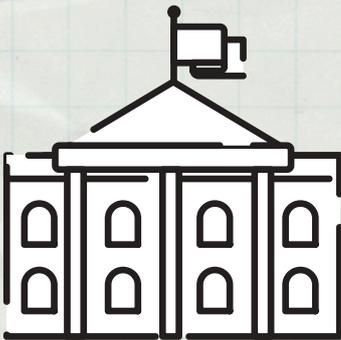


By Faye Cooleage and Cole Lobson

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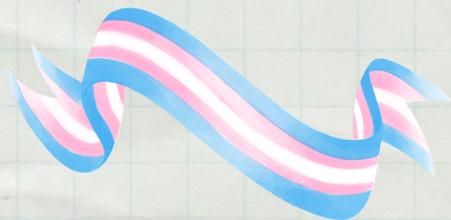


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“We have to
be visible.
We are not
ashamed of
who we are.”
-Sylvia
Rivera



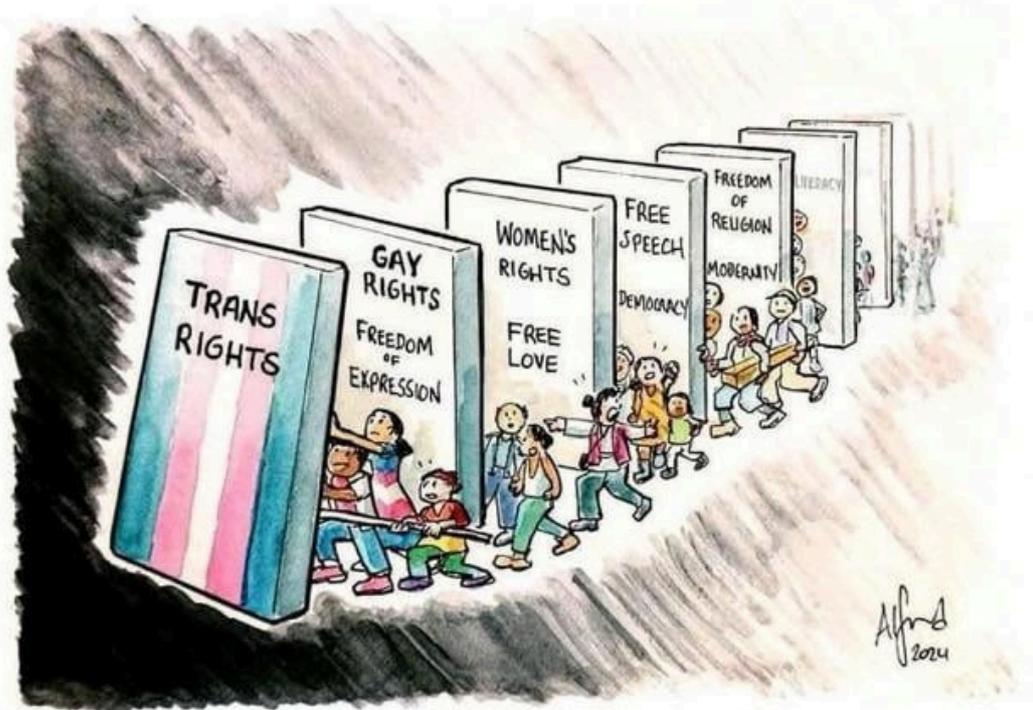
A Brief explanation of trans people

By Faye

Just as our understandings of what it means to be a man and woman have changed over time, who belongs under the transgender label has evolved since its first use in the 1960s (before then transgender individuals were called transsexuals, or often were categorized as homosexual or gay alongside other sexual orientations) into a broader signifier of someone whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond to that person's sex at birth, or which does not otherwise conform to conventional notions of sex and gender. Despite the word transgender only coming into recent use only 60 years ago, transgender people have always existed in some form throughout history and all across the world in various cultures, with examples of what we now understand as transgender people being described within accounts from ancient Sumer, Greece, and Rome, with indigenous cultures all across the globe having third and sometimes fourth social gender roles, some of which we can still see today such as two-spirit people in both Canada and the United States. What being transgender looks like and what it means to each individual trans person varies wildly; some transgender people even wish to leave the trans label behind as they reach their transition goals, whilst others maintain the transgender label as an inseparable part of their identity for the rest of their lives. And while the transgender label covers many different identities, it is not a signifier of one's sexual orientation, and as a word that originates in western culture it is often insufficient in describing the myriad and complex gender identities that exist outside of our western framework of gender expression.

**TRANS RIGHTS ARE
HUMAN RIGHTS** ♡





UNITED WE STAND ★ DIVIDED WE FALL

Some of the ways trans people are being oppressed

By Cole

Trans people face a lot of issues. For example, many trans people are forced into using washrooms that do not fit them. This is due to politicians aiming to control trans people by forcing them to use a washroom they clearly don't fit in, or risk facing legal trouble just for trying to use the washroom, potentially facing harassment either way. This issue also ends up affecting cis people, as people who aren't deemed masculine or feminine enough end up facing harassment also. Additionally many politicians are attempting to make it harder for trans people to transition, whether it be through making the process of beginning HRT more difficult, or even aiming to restrict how trans people can dress with trying to introduce laws that would make it illegal to dress in a way that the government deems "deceiving". On top of these, the current United States government is in the process of trying to shape laws to make it so that trans people are considered sex offenders, while simultaneously aiming to make it so that sex offenders are automatically given the death penalty. Trans people just want to live their lives, yet day by day they face oppression. Being trans in this current political climate can be a bit scary, with it feeling like things are getting worse day by day, and arguably they are. This is why it is important to discuss these issues that trans people are currently facing. Especially because if you give them an inch, they will keep on taking more inches. If they get their way with trans people, they'll move on to non-straight people, and then likely people who are not white and so on. Just because your rights are not currently on the chopping block does not mean they won't come for you eventually if they get their way, so even if you are not trans yourself, protecting trans people's rights is still really important.

Transgender references removed from Stonewall monument website

14 February 2025

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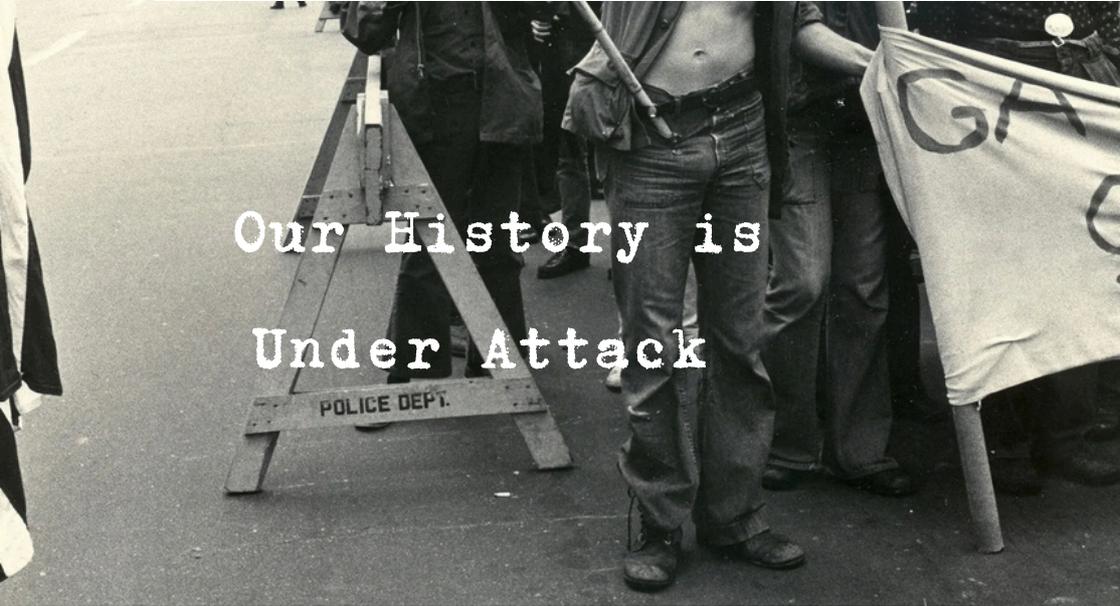
Brajesh Upadhyay
BBC News, Washington



On the [National Park Service website](#), the acronym LGBTQ+ has been shortened to LGB, standing for lesbian, gay and bisexual.



On an older version of the park service website, saved by the digital web archive Wayback Machine, the monument's [main page](#) read: "Before the 1960s, almost everything about living openly as a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ+) person was illegal."



Our History is
Under Attack

The updated webpage now reads: "Before the 1960s, almost everything about living openly as a lesbian, gay, bisexual (LGB) person was illegal."

A few ways trans people are being erased

By Cole

- Trans history is currently being erased, with the stonewall riots monument site being changed by the government to erase any mention of trans people. Trans people are believed to have been some of the first people to start fighting back against the cops when the riots began and were a large part of the movement.
- The US government has been erasing medical and health info related to trans people, eerily similar to how the institute of sexual science had its books and research relating to trans people broken into and burned
- In the US, researchers have had funding cut for most kinds of research relating to queer people, essentially leaving research relating to queer people completely dead in the water
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children site was erased of any mentions of LGBTQ+ youth, erasing key resources for helping identify vulnerable trans youth and implying that their lives don't matter



Pictured above, Marsha P. Johnson & Sylvia Rivera, Prominent Trans members of the Stonewall riots



PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

DEFENDING WOMEN FROM GENDER IDEOLOGY EXTREMISM AND RESTORING BIOLOGICAL TRUTH TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The White House | January 20, 2025

POLITICS ►

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children site scrubbed of transgender kids

The Us government wants to make trans people illegal

**Texas bill would make identifying as
transgender a felony punishable by jail**



PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

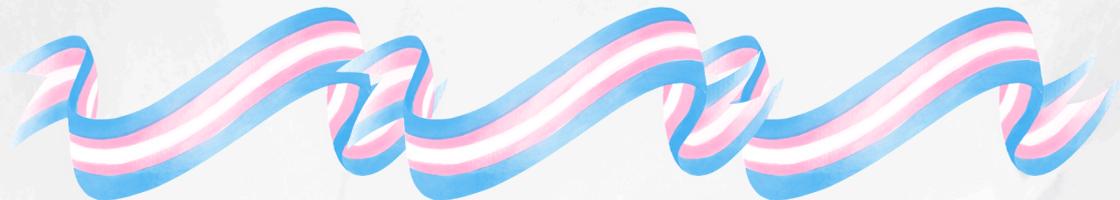
Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports

The White House | February 5, 2025

The ongoing attempted eradication of trans people

By Cole

Currently trans people's rights are under attack, with the threat being particularly serious right now in the US. The current fascist US government is aiming to eradicate trans people, and if you don't believe us then let's look at Dr. Gregory H. Stanton's Ten Stages of Genocide and look at which can be argued are currently happening. Important to note is that stages do not have to happen in order and each stage is itself a process.



I. Classification

People are classified as us and them and this is used to create an idea of separation, such as Jewish and German, or in today's case Cis and Trans.

ii. Symbolization

Names and symbols are given to separate and distinguish the oppressed group, such as under Nazi Germany Jewish people being forced to wear the star of David, or queer people being forced to wear the pink triangle. Today trans people are having their IDs forcibly switched to their AGAB, essentially outing many people as trans whenever they must use something such as a driver's license that lists their gender and acting as a symbol.

iii. Discrimination

Often laws and political power are used to deny rights of the oppressed group. The main people advocating these ideas are often charismatic, expressing the resentments of their followers. Often laws will be enacted to reduce the rights of the oppressed group, such as the Nuremberg laws in Nazi Germany that stripped Jewish people of their citizenship and prohibited their employment by the government. Trump has already removed legal protections against discriminating against hiring and doing business with people based on their race, gender, sexual orientation etc. And who knows what else he will try to do over the course of the next four years.

iv. Dehumanization

The oppressed group is made out to be impure, evil and lesser than. Hate propaganda is spread throughout print, radios and even social media, and lies are spread about the group. Elon Musk has gone full mask off about being a Nazi and continues to use Twitter/X as a platform to allow hate to spread, and there has been a large rise in recent times of harmful lies such as how trans people are assaulting people in bathrooms or how trans people are child groomers, aiming to create a narrative that trans people are some kind of threat and less than human.

v. Organization

Genocide is organized by the government, with plans made for genocidal killings through means such as spying and indoctrination. While the US government has so far not started killing anyone, there is clear seeds being sown, with just recently the government making it legal to spy on people solely based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity and laws continuing to be passed that are stripping protections away.

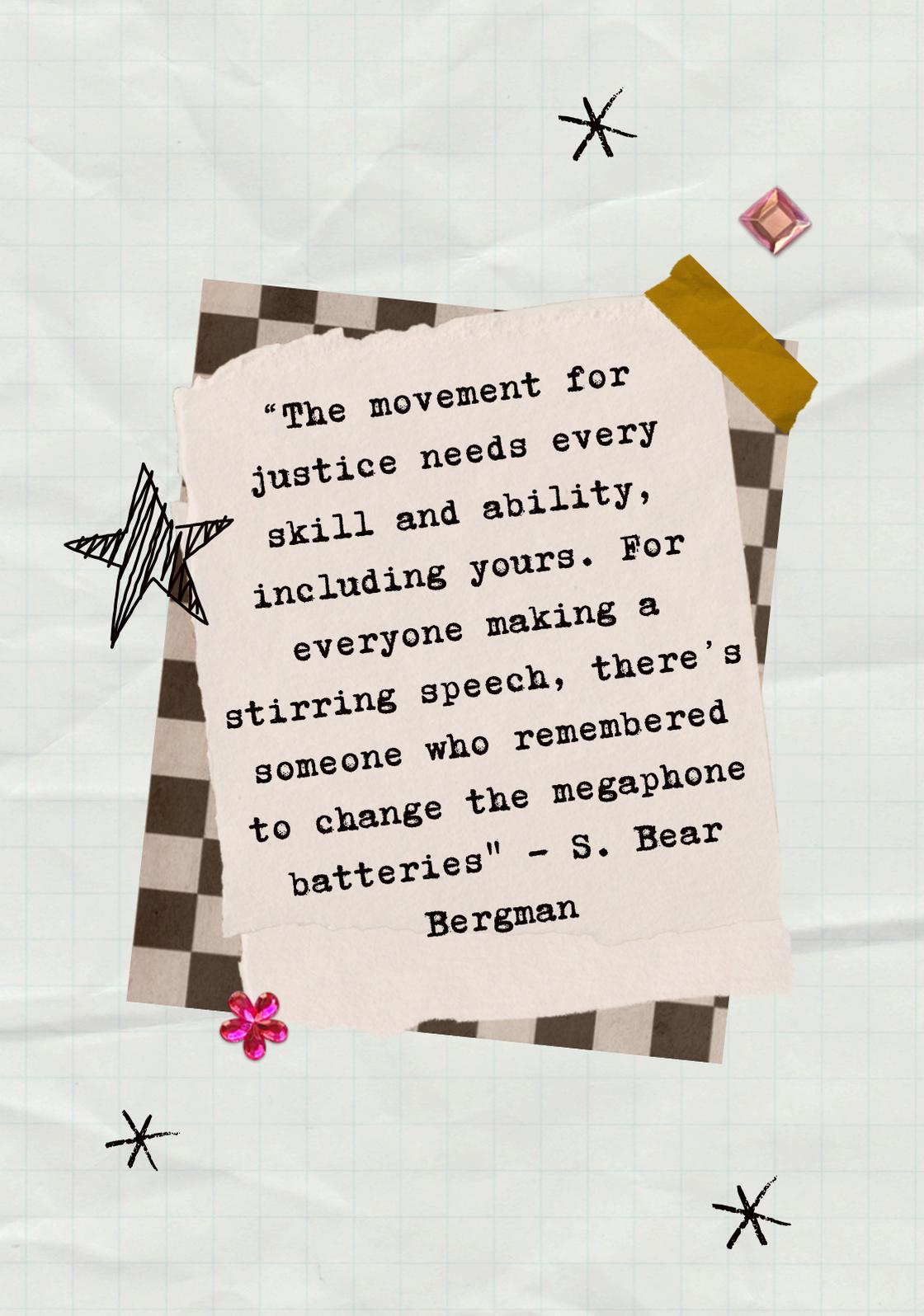
vi. Polarization

Propaganda is spread and extremists aim to create divide and silence those who might stand against the oppression through fear mongering and laws that give the government full control over the oppressed group. Trump is currently in the process of trying to make it illegal to protest against things he does and is trying to create laws that give him dictatorship levels of power, with particular focus currently on going after trans people.

vii. Preparation

The government plans the "final solution", often using euphemisms such as "ethnic cleansing" and "counter terrorism" to cloak their intentions. Trumps government has already talked about sending groups of people to "Detainment camps" and have clearly outlined in project 2025 that they plan to enforce the death penalty on all sex offenders, while also outlining their plan to declare trans people as sex offenders.

I believe it can currently be argued that seven of the ten stages are currently happening, with arguably the last three persecution, extermination and denial looming in the distance if we don't start taking action now.



"The movement for
justice needs every
skill and ability,
including yours. For
everyone making a
stirring speech, there's
someone who remembered
to change the megaphone
batteries" - S. Bear
Bergman

Ways you can help

By Faye

as a bystander

While activism and advocating for a minority you are not a part of can be daunting and extremely difficult (especially without knowing where to start or what actions you can even take to help), starting small by speaking out against transphobia where you see it occurring and sharing your support online for your friends and family to see is better than doing nothing. Any little bit helps, and if you advocate for trans people they are more likely to come to you for support and ultimately can point you in the right direction as to what more you can do for transgender people. Attending protests, being active within your local queer community groups, donating to charities such as the Trevor Project, the Nation Center for Transgender Equality and the Rainbow Railroad, or if there are any local charity/support groups that you trust, volunteering or donating there as well. You can also call or write to your local and or provincial/state leaders to advocate for the rights of transgender people in your communities if you can, and if you can't do that, research your local politicians to see which ones support LGBTQ rights, as well as what political party to support for major elections. If you have a business, make it clear that you support transgender people and that your business is a safe space, as little gestures such as that while not requiring much effort can mean a lot to someone who feels that they lack support in their community. Political activism is hard work, and any little bit counts.

Ways you can advocate

for yourself as a
trans person

By Faye

Living while trans already presents its own challenges, many of which that we've covered in this zine, advocating for not just yourself but others can be a draining to say the least. In many ways, just existing out and proud is an act of resistance. But if you feel you are capable and want to do more, attending local protests, volunteering your time in the queer spaces and organizations within your local community, and attending town halls and other political events within your local community. Most importantly, supporting other trans people, raising awareness of DIY HRT for those whose access to hormones is under attack/impossible, donating what you can to the charities previously listed. Ultimately, do whatever you are able to with the resources you have, and find support where you can as ultimately we're all in this together. Divided we are powerless, together our voices can make radical change.

A Message for Canadians

At the time that this Zine is being initially published in April 2025, if you live here in Canada, we have an upcoming federal election on April 28th. The Conservative party and their leader Pierre Poillievre have made clear that they align with the republicans views on trans people and will oppress trans people if they are given power. Make sure you are registered to vote, spread awareness about this fact and on voting day vote for a party that will not oppress trans people.

You can register to vote at Elections Canada's website by April 22nd or register when you go to vote:



Link to site



A short message from the creators

I first realized I was trans around a year after the pandemic had started, and the fear I had felt for what that would mean for my future and what future difficulties I could face made me worried if I was strong enough to actually transition. Several years of waiting to see a doctor later, I finally was able to receive the life-saving medical care I needed, and am now a year and some change through transitioning, with more confidence now that I can handle whatever the world throws at me, but I am one of the lucky ones. I have a supportive family, I live in a society that tends to uplift and support trans people, my government is not actively trying to erase me and others like me. In recent months, the assault on the rights of trans people in America have made that fear I first experienced mount once again, but I realize that fear doesn't help anyone. Putting on a brave face and fighting hard for my trans brothers, sisters and anyone in between has helped me realize how resilient we are. The love from my community (and my trans boyfriend) has helped me realize that no matter what, we will still exist. No law can ever truly eradicate us, no matter how hard they try. These dark times are tough yes, but I feel it in my heart that we will win, we will fight and protest and love each other until the systems that bind us down are nothing but a distant memory. We faced times just like these and prevailed before, so I have faith that we can again. I will be doing all that I can however, via mutual aid networks, protesting, living life as my authentic self and raising awareness wherever I can. All that I ask is that if you can, you do the same to whatever capacity you can.

- Faye



A short message from the creators

Thank you for taking the time to read through this Zine. I want to give a special thanks to my friends for giving feedback on ideas and for being some of my biggest supporters in life. In particular thank you to my close friends Immy and Mikaela for being some of the first people who I came out to and for supporting me through this complex journey, it means a lot. Additionally I'd like to thank my other close friends Alice, Bobby and Christian for always having my back (and encouraging me to not overthink things and just hit the send button). Things are obviously not looking good and the future is pretty uncertain right now, it may feel a lot easier to just give up, but just because things look bleak does not mean we have to take it sitting down. Trans people have always existed and will always continue to exist, regardless of those who try to erase us. Things may seem hopeless now but the only way they truly are is if we give up. So keep holding onto hope, be there for each other, take care of yourself and in the words of Gerard Way, "In the face of extermination, say Fuck You!"

- Cole (They/She)

