



MSJC

Marianist Social Justice Collaborative

A VOICE OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Standing in Solidarity with the Transgender Community: A Marianist Call to Action

The LGBTQ+ Initiative Team of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative is deeply concerned about the well-being and safety of members of LGBTQ+ community, especially our trans siblings, and there is work to be done. With Mary our mother, our hearts are pierced with sorrow for the LGBTQ+ community, especially trans persons, because of several vicious measures taken by the Trump Administration. We stand at the foot of the cross with all LGBTQ+ persons as they are assailed by words and actions. **Our team's mission is to guide the Marianist Family, and the community at large, to be more welcoming and inclusive of LGBTQ+ persons by fostering dialogue, education, and understanding. Our efforts are also informed by Catholic Social Teaching, where the fundamental message is based on respecting the inherent dignity of the human person. Our hope is that the Marianist Family be a prophetic leader in achieving this goal within the larger Church.**

Several actions recently taken by the Trump Administration indicate a lack of knowledge about, and a determination to spread misinformation about, the trans community. **These orders and directives are causing fear in the trans community and require us as Catholics and Marianists to respond. The LGBTQ+ community, especially our trans siblings, need us to stand with them at this moment in time.**

- The January 20 executive order Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government defined the sexes incorrectly i.e., sex is determined by whether a person's body produces large or small gametes, or reproductive cells, suggesting that humans have those cells at conception which is inconsistent with biological understandings.¹

¹ This definition fails to acknowledge the complexity and diversity of human biology and identity and denies the existence of trans and intersex people. This includes many variations of chromosomal combinations and hormone levels that do not fit neat binaries. This lack of understanding seeks to withhold life saving care and information from trans people and youth while allowing non consensual surgeries on intersex babies and children, causing lifelong trauma.

- The attempt in the January 20 executive order to deny that trans people exist (claiming there are only two sexes) has led to reports of passport offices confiscating and/or changing their passports, birth certificates, marriage licenses and state ID's.
- The executive order entitled Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation instructs agencies to revoke funding for medical institutions that research or provide gender-affirming care for youth and to eliminate protections for transgender youth in federal healthcare programs. In the United States, transgender youth typically go through months of rigorous evaluation before any medical interventions are begun (which are rarely surgical). Major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association, support access to this evidence-based, developmentally appropriate care.
- The "T" in LGBTQ+ was taken away from the U.S. National Park Service website for the Stonewall National Monument on February 13. This monument commemorates a gay bar where the Stonewall Uprising began in 1969, when a police raid sparked a civil rights movement led by trans women of color, including Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and others.
- And other targeted attacks against the transgender community continue to come forward from the current administration.

Along with Mary, our hearts and the hearts of all mothers and grandmothers are broken for the LGBTQ+ community, especially trans persons. We call upon our inner strength and the support of our Marianist Family to do what needs to be done and support them as they are assaulted by these hateful executive orders and other actions which have unfortunately emboldened hatred toward their community. Trans and intersex people do exist and the attempts to erase, fear monger, and promote bullying and harassment of gender diverse persons is unacceptable. This climate has substantive effects on trans and gender nonconforming persons' lives. In society, and even at times within our Church, instead of being met with compassion, accompaniment and empathy, they receive negative judgment, hostility and antagonism.

While this is a political debate for many, trans and gender nonconforming people are processing attacks mentally, emotionally, and physically. Anti-LGBTQ+ attacks have increased 112% over 2023-2024. Just after the election, calls to the Trevor Project's national LGBTQ+ youth crisis line jumped 700%. There have been many tragic responses, among which are: 1) On Feb. 9th, Tahiry Broom, a 29 year old trans woman from Ohio, was murdered in a hate crime. 2) Nonbinary veteran, Elisa Rae Shupe, died by suicide on Jan. 27th. She was found wrapped in a trans flag. 3) Sam Nordquist, a 25 year old trans man, was murdered in upstate NY by 7 people who tortured him for a month prior to his death. This hate crime spanned January and February. Trans people are processing these traumatic events while executive orders aim to discredit their existence.

Our Catholic and Marianist values call us to condemn the bullying of anyone, especially the marginalized, and ask us to speak out against anyone who uses harmful rhetoric, in this case, the rhetoric that condones transphobia. The trans community needs the Church **now**. “The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society,” as stated in the document [The Life and Dignity of the Human Person](#).

We ask you, our Marianist Family, in the spirit of our blessed founders, in faith, and under Mary’s loving guidance, to hold the LGBTQ+ community, especially trans persons, in prayer during these difficult times. In addition, we ask that you respectfully dialogue, listen, educate yourselves and then act to bring about a just treatment for our trans siblings.

Here, specifically, are several action items members of the Marianist Family can take right now under the umbrellas of *Advocate, Educate, & Pray*:

ADVOCATE

1. Advocate to both our political and religious leaders for policies that recognize and respect the full spectrum of gender identities, supporting our trans brothers, sisters, and nonbinary siblings in their fight for equality, respect, and dignity.
 - [Here is a list of bishops and dioceses by state](#) (go to the diocese website of your bishop to learn how to contact them).
 - You can [track anti-trans legislation by state here](#), and you can find your political representatives and learn how to contact them at [Congress.gov](#).
2. Write letters to your bishop, school leaders, senators and/or congressional representative. An easy way to contact your congressperson is to use <https://5calls.org/>
3. Locally work to support your LGBTQ+ Centers by donating money, attending information sessions, or volunteering.
4. Speak out when you hear derogatory comments or misinformation.
5. Immediately stop using and challenge the use of the terms *gender ideology*, *gender theory*, and *transgenderism* and the use of de-transitioner stories to delegitimize trans identity.
6. Post only truthful and helpful information on this topic to your social media site, being sure to moderate or turn off comment sections.
7. Fly a pride flag, such as an [intersex inclusive progress flag](#), or wear a rainbow or intersex inclusive progress pin and/or pronoun pins.
8. Follow and join the advocacy work of MSJC’s LGBTQ+ Initiative. Read more about the team’s work at our [website](#) and [fill in our interest form here](#) to be added to our LGBTQ+ inclusion listserv.

EDUCATE

1. Educate yourself on this issue by seeking reliable information from resources from our [website](#) and from [GLAAD](#), [The Trevor Project](#), [PFLAG](#), [Outreach](#), [Fortunate Families](#), [World Professional Association for Transgender Health \(WPATH\)](#).

2. Consider attending workshops or webinars focused on transgender topics.
3. Listen to the stories of trans persons whenever you have the opportunity.
4. Prioritize learning correct terminology and respecting pronouns.

PRAY

1. Organize a prayer service for LGBTQ+ persons, and their friends, and allies.
2. Pray for a country and a church where all people are welcome no matter their gender identities or sexual orientation.

REFERENCE LIST

Impacts on the LGBTQ+ Community

- [Anti-LGBTQ+ attacks nationwide have increased 112% over the last two years](#)
- [LGBTQ+ Youth Crisis Hotline Saw 700 Percent Spike in Calls After Election Day](#)
- [Suspect Charged in Murder of Tahiry Broom, Trans Woman Killed in Southfield](#)
- [Nonbinary Veteran Dies by Suicide](#)
- [Everything We Know So Far About the Disturbing Killing of Black Minnesota Trans Man Sam Nordquist](#)
- [U.S. Bishops Conference Again Praises Trump for Anti-Trans Executive Order](#)

Executive Orders

- [Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government](#)
- [Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation](#)
- [Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling](#)

Other News

- [What to know about President Donald Trump's order targeting the rights of transgender people](#)
- [Trans people flood Pelosi's office with passport issues as Trump order causes travel chaos](#)
- [Protesters decry erasure of transgender references from Stonewall monument website](#)
- [Trump administration bans non-US flags from being flown at embassies](#)
- [Trump Pentagon nominee endorsed extremist Christian doctrine on podcast](#)