

Resolution on Protections for Transgender Students

An official statement from the Global Alliance on Behavioral Health and Social Justice

The Global Alliance embeds its work in principles of human rights, including nondiscrimination, respect and dignity, and fairness. In recognition of this commitment, we wish to express concern related to marginalization and institutional bias associated with transgender students.

Surveys have shown that transgender young people are more likely than their peers to experience verbal harassment, exclusion, and physical attacks at school. Despite these challenges, we do not have a federal law that prohibits discrimination in public schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Further, federal guidance issued during the presidency of Barack Obama has been rescinded.



Federal law does not prevent schools from putting into place protections for transgender and transitioning students, and indeed, many state laws explicitly include gender identity and expression as protected classes. Whether an individual receives such protections, however, should not be determined by his or her zip code.

To ensure equal protection for all, the Global Alliance calls for a federal policy that mandates protections for gender nonconformity, gender identity, gender expression, transitioning and transgender status. These students should have a right to a safe learning environment and to a civil rights, equity-based response should that right be violated.

<p style="text-align: center;">Additional Resources</p> <p>LGBTQ: http://www.bhjustice.org/lgbtq</p> <p>Human Rights Campaign Youth Survey Report: http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com//files/assets/resources/Growing-Up-LGBT-in-America_Report.pdf</p> <p>Transgender Law Center: https://transgenderlawcenter.org/</p> <p>U.S. Department of Education "Examples of Policies and Emerging Practices for Supporting Transgender Students" report: http://bit.ly/2lHXf9z</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Commentary from a special section of the <i>American Journal of Orthopsychiatry</i>, 86(4).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Promoting Health and Well-Being of Transgender Individuals</p> <p>Hope, D. A., Mocarski, R., Bautista, C. L., & Holt, N. R. Culturally competent evidence-based behavioral health services for the transgender community: Progress and challenges. [open access]</p> <p>Redfern, J. S., Barnes, A., & Chang, J. Psychosocial, HIV, and health care management issues impacting transgender individuals.</p> <p>Tanis, J. The power of 41%: A glimpse into the life of a statistic.</p> <p>Scout, NFN. Transgender health and well-being: Gains and opportunities in policy and law.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">How You Can Help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect the terminology LGBT persons use to describe their identities • Challenge anti-LGBTQ remarks or jokes and speak out against bullying • Organize community groups to develop a shared vision of a supportive, respectful community • Advocate for nondiscriminatory laws and policies 	