

Trans Pride Shabbat Planning Guide For Organizations

Introduction

Pride is a time to celebrate our resistance and resilience. We stand on the shoulders of our queer and trans Jewish ancestors who survived so that we could thrive. We push back against the harmful rhetoric and policy to show those who don't believe we should exist that we are here, we aren't going anywhere, and that our communities are beautiful, joyous, generative spaces of love and belonging.

This Pride, let's intentionally carve out space to celebrate our trans, nonbinary, and intersex community members by adding Trans Pride-focused Shabbat programming and creating safe, joyful communities that advocate for the world we all deserve.

We invite you to join us on June 27 or any Shabbat in June that works for your community to host a Trans Pride Shabbat.

Planning Pride Shabbat

- This program is designed to supplement an existing Pride Shabbat program and emphasize the trans community. If you are creating an entire program, use this resource [here](#).
- It is crucial to ensure that trans+ community members are involved in the visioning and planning of Trans Pride Shabbat. And just as important is being careful not to expect that they answer every question or do all of the work.
- Get clear on goals! Given the multiple emotional layers of trans identity today, it's essential to define the goals of your community's Trans Pride Shabbat. This may include fostering a sense of belonging, celebrating trans ancestors and community members, taking action together in your community or in your state, etc.
- Make the Trans Pride Shabbat accessible to all members of the congregation, including those with disabilities. Choose an accessible area, provide American Sign Language interpretation if needed, and offer alternative formats for printed materials.

Putting Together the Service

Prayers

Add prayers and relevant readings to your service that span a variety of experiences and tones. Here are some options.

- [Twilight People's Prayer](#) by Rabbi Rueben Zellman
- [A Prayer for Transgender Justice](#) by Rabbi Emily Aviva Kapor-Mater
- [Blessing for Black TGNC Folks](#) by Martin Rawlings-Fein
- [Queer/Chosen Family Gender Neutral Blessing for the Children](#) by Rakhel Silverman

Prayer and liturgy are an expansive category. If you know of a piece of text that is meaningful to you or others planning the service, add it as well!

Torah Service

Below are some inspiration and starting points for Divrei Torah, courtesy of Cantor Sheri Allen/the Social Justice Commission for Conservative/Masorti Judaism!

- [Euphoric Halakha - Laynie Solomon](#)
- [Miriam's Music - Rabbi Micah Buck](#)
- [Trans Sermon Starters for 2025](#)
- [PRIDE sermon starters from 2024](#)

Signage and Decoration

Keshet and SOJOURN has a variety of signage that can help make your Pride clear and designate your space, during Pride month and beyond, as safe and welcoming to LGBTQ+ people.

- [LGBTQ+ Safe Zone stickers](#)
- [Trans Jews Belong Here sign](#)
- [SOJOURN's Pronoun Guide](#)

Taking Action

Here are a few examples of ways your congregation can incorporate action and activism for the trans community into your Pride Shabbat.

- Initiate communal learning, dialogue, and planning with the following questions:
 - What are [the current challenges](#) or protections to trans rights in your state?
 - What bills passed or didn't pass in this past legislative session [in your state](#)?
 - [How can your congregation or community help address the needs/dangers/gaps created by these attacks?](#)
- Facilitate an art build! Is there an upcoming rally or event you can create signs for? Include a Trans Pride Shabbat art table where attendees can make signs, and organize a group from the synagogue to show up together.
- Write postcards to legislators! [Click here](#) to request postcards to write your legislators and tell them trans rights are non-negotiable.
- Write messages of support to trans youth with [Point of Pride](#) to remind someone they are supported, seen, and valid.

Additional Resources

- [Talking About Anti-Trans Legislation Through a Jewish Lens](#) - The Thrive Coalition
- [The Role of Jewish Community Spaces Amid Hostile Legislation for LGBTQ+ Youth](#) - The Thrive Coalition
- [7 Jewish Values for Social Action](#) - Keshet
- [Move to Thrive – Interest-Free Loans](#) - Keshet-Hebrew Free loan Society
- [Towards a Trans-Inclusive Feminism](#) - Keshet
- [Trans Youth and Athletes Belong in Sports](#) - Keshet
- [We're in This Together: A Letter to Trans and LGBTQ+ Jewish Youth](#) - Keshet
- [Services and Resources for Trans People and Their Families](#) - Keshet
- [Southern and Jewish Pronoun Guide](#) - SOJOURN
- [Federal legal and policy threats timeline](#) - HRC
- [Transgender Health Care FAQ](#) - GLAD Law
- [Know your rights FAQ](#) - GLAD Law