

# Trans Pride Shabbat Planning Guide

## 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 community members by crafting 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

- 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 this, 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

The Torah service can often be a part of the synagogue experience when trans people feel unseen. Many congregations have adopted gender-inclusive language for those called up to the Torah that can offer everyone a chance to use their preferred language. Here is one example of [gender-inclusive aliyah cards](#) to use during Pride Shabbat, and perhaps beyond.



## Parashat Korach Sermon Prompts

- Korach frames his rebellion as an act of solidarity and allyship with regular Israelites, but many commentators understand it as motivated by his own personal desire for power. What can we learn from this story about how to truly be in solidarity?
- God plans to punish the whole community for Korach's rebellion, but Moses and Aaron argue that it's unfair to hold everyone accountable for one person's actions. God gives the people an opportunity to distance themselves from Korach before everyone in his vicinity is swallowed by the earth. What responsibility do we as community members have to intervene with individuals or communities who are causing harm? What lesson does God's actions teach us here about collective responsibility?

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## Signage and Decoration

Keshet 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](#)

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## Taking Action

- 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?
- Show up together! Is there an upcoming protest or event you can create signs for?
- Reach out to Keshet to request postcards to write your legislators and tell them trans rights are non-negotiable at [cm@keshetonline.org](mailto:cm@keshetonline.org).
- Write messages of support to trans youth with [Point of Pride](#) to remind someone they are supported, seen, and valid.

## Additional Resources

- [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
- [Federal legal and policy threats timeline](#) - HRC
- [Transgender Health Care FAQ](#) - GLAD Law
- [Know your rights FAQ](#) - GLAD Law