

10 Things You Can Do NOW for Trans Allyship

In moments of rising attacks on transgender, nonbinary, and intersex communities, it is essential that cisgender people, especially those within Jewish spaces, show up boldly and consistently for trans rights. Transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people should not bear the burden of fighting alone for our dignity, safety, and humanity. Jewish tradition calls on us to pursue justice, *tzedek tzedek tirdof*, and to show up for one another in times of need. While many of the steps listed here are things that transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people do routinely to advocate for and protect ourselves, this resource is primarily intended for cisgender allies. Allies have a powerful role to play: listening deeply, speaking out, challenging injustice, and leveraging our platforms, relationships, and communities to build a world where trans people can thrive.

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TAKE ACTION

- Join [Thrive: The Jewish Coalition to Defend Trans and LGBTQ+ Youth](#)
- Take the [Jewish Pledge to Affirm the Dignity of Trans, Nonbinary, and Intersex People](#)
- Contact Your Elected Officials
 - Find out who [your elected officials are](#) and research their [voting record](#)
 - If they are in support of LGBTQ+ rights, thank them [here](#)
 - If you aren't sure of their stance, ask them for their support [here](#)

2

EDUCATE YOURSELF AND STAY INFORMED

- If you are an ally, make sure that you know the basics of [trans, nonbinary, and intersex identities](#), as well as some of the [core issues](#) historically and currently facing these communities
- With this context in mind, stay aware of the specific threats as they emerge
- You can stay connected to Keshet's [national](#) and [state-level](#) work here
- Follow and subscribe to updates from quality information sources such as the [Movement Advancement Project](#), [Advocates for Trans Equality](#), and your local [Equality Federation](#)
- Given the amount of anti-trans misinformation that is circulating, it is important to ask critical questions of news coverage of the trans, nonbinary, and intersex communities, and always to wonder, "who might be trying to benefit from this law/regulation/portrayal of the community?"
- Seek out information and analysis from trans-run sources

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EDUCATE OTHERS

- If you are an educator or public figure, you have an opportunity to share accurate information from that platform
- Whether or not you are a formal educator or public figure, you have the opportunity to educate others in one-to-one conversation, advocate for learning and action opportunities in your community, and correct misinformation when you hear it
- You can share with others the information sources you are using, and also model for them your journey of learning. In a world where so many people feel called to be “either with us or against us,” you can be a powerful role model for learning and change and create a safer space for others to ask questions and begin to shift their perspectives. This is a particularly powerful way for allies who are not themselves part of the trans, nonbinary, and intersex communities to show up.
- Center trans voices through trans-authored articles, podcasts
- Learn how to share feedback and advocate effectively. People and organizations are much more receptive to feedback that comes from a place of empathy, shared values, and concrete recommendations. It can take real emotional resources to translate hurt and anger into empathetic, kind, and results-oriented feedback, and this is an area where it is particularly helpful for allies to take up the emotional labor in partnership with those who are directly impacted.
- Remain firm in your commitment to belonging for all people, including transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people. State and share this commitment publicly, and advocate for your communities to make their commitments public as well.
- The flurry of executive orders and actions that are impacting the LGBTQ+ community are part of a coordinated effort to confuse lawmakers and businesses. It is important that we listen to the experts and don’t comply in advance.

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ADVOCATE FOR EQUITY AND BELONGING WITHIN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Jewish organizations, such as synagogues, Hebrew schools, day schools, camps, and JCCs, are private religious institutions. That means there are limits to the extent that the government can regulate your programs and policies. Your Jewish organization might be one of the only places where LGBTQ+ people, especially trans people, especially youth, can find affirmation. You have a unique role to play — a unique opportunity to live out your values — in supporting our trans, nonbinary, and intersex community members when many secular institutions can’t by being a safe haven for them.

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KNOW ABOUT AND SHARE RELEVANT RESOURCES

- Especially if you are an educator, care provider, clergy, or community leader, advocate in your synagogue, school, and workplace, learn what issues are facing trans folks in your community
- Advocate for practices and policies that affirm trans dignity and full participation
- Thank leaders who have been working on these things
- Organize with other stakeholders
- Emphasize connection to Jewish and/or organizational values

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ORGANIZE YOUR COMMUNITY

- Bring in other community members to take action alongside you!
 - Learn what strengths and resources are already in your community, and leverage them to deepen your work.
- Follow your state's Equality Federation chapter for local advocacy opportunities
 - Pay attention to their action alerts and participate in hearings, actions, and meetings
 - Take advantage of these opportunities to speak up — supporting and centering those who are most impacted, while also recognizing the role of allyship in amplifying calls for justice

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KNOW AND USE THE POWER OF YOUR OWN LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOR

- Always use language for people that they ask you to use
- Share your own pronouns when able — this takes pressure off trans/nonbinary folks to be the only ones who need to do so
- Learn about common anti-trans microaggressions and what language commonly is understood as respectful
- Respond and intervene when you hear anti-trans comments, microaggressions, jokes, or stereotypes
- Strive for authentic relationships, remembering that while many transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people consider these identities important in how we navigate the world, each person is more than any one identity
- Accept feedback graciously, knowing that relationships are messy and that's OK! If someone lets you know that your well-intentioned words or actions did not have the positive impact you wanted, they are trusting you enough to be vulnerable and allow you to grow.
- Be responsive in the moment and do your best
- Don't make it primarily about you — we use the word “allyship” to describe the experience of showing up with and for another person, centering their needs and truths
- But DO care for and sustain yourself, get support, and know that you are building a world in which others can also be your allies when needed



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CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AND JEWISH MEDIA

- Ask or thank for robust and, accurate coverage
- Write Letters to the Editor in response to dangerous, misinformed coverage

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SUPPORT TRANS-OWNED AND -RUN PROJECTS AND BUSINESSES

- This is a time that is financially precarious for many in the transgender, nonbinary, and intersex communities. One concrete way to help is with your business. Look for local (or online) trans-run businesses and projects, and when possible, direct your purchases and subscriptions to them.

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DONATE MONEY AND VOLUNTEER TIME TO ORGANIZATIONS WORKING FOR TRANSGENDER, NONBINARY, AND INTERSEX RIGHTS

- Donate to support Keshet's work to educate and mobilize our Jewish community for LGBTQ+ rights and belonging
- Research relevant local organizations to support in your city and state

Thank you for showing up, for learning, and for choosing to act. When cisgender people speak out, organize, and take meaningful steps in solidarity, it helps shift culture, policy, and hearts. Your voice matters, especially when it's used to uplift and protect those most under attack.

We're so grateful you're in this with us. Keep going! Have the hard conversations. Show up. Advocate in your communities. And keep listening to and following trans leadership. **Together, we can build a Jewish and LGBTQ+ future where every person is seen, safe, and celebrated.**