

January 28, 2025

President Trump,

We, the undersigned organizations that advocate for and support women's rights and gender justice, strongly condemn the cruel and lawless executive order (Executive Order 14166) you issued on January 20 that claims to "defend[] women." The order, which directs the federal government to regulate, control, and police gender, does absolutely nothing to protect women and girls. We know that the true intent of this order is to demonize, stigmatize, and discriminate against transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people and to enforce gender roles and gender stereotypes. It is appalling you wage these attacks in the name of "defending women," and particularly because of your repeated attacks on women's rights.

We reject your false and harmful assertions that cisgender women and girls need to be protected from sharing spaces, such as housing and bathrooms, and activities like sports, with transgender women and girls. As advocacy groups with long histories of advocating for and supporting the rights of women and girls, we unequivocally affirm that transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people, including women and girls, deserve the same basic rights and respect as everyone else.

Far from "protecting" women from any real threat, your order actively endangers women, including both cisgender and transgender women. Through stereotypes and disinformation, it attempts to exploit unfamiliarity with transgender people to promote the myth that the rights and safety of cisgender women and girls are somehow in tension with the rights of transgender women and girls. We know this is untrue, and that the safety of all women and girls indeed depends on reaffirming that transgender women and girls are treated with equal dignity. We are not fooled by your administration's attempts to undermine transgender people's rights, as an invitation to perpetuate wider attacks on sex discrimination protections for everyone.

This is so because the divisive policies espoused by the order would endanger women and girls by aggressively subjecting anyone who doesn't conform to sex-based stereotypes to invasive scrutiny to verify their gender, leading to privacy violations and harassment. Indeed, there have already been numerous, alarming examples of cisgender women in [public bathrooms](#) being threatened, or cisgender high school girl athletes being [investigated](#) and [harassed](#), because of questions about whether they were transgender after anti-trans policies were enacted in their states.

The executive order's definitions of "women" and "female" as "belonging, at "conception", to the sex "that produces the large reproductive cell" are not only scientifically incoherent; they also reduce women to their reproductive traits and disregard the existence of many women, including [intersex women](#) who are born with variations in sex-related traits. And by suggesting that a fertilized egg is a person, the executive order advances the anti-abortion extremist strategy to assign rights and benefits to fetuses and embryos, with the ultimate goal of banning abortion

nationwide and sharply undermining a range of other reproductive health care, from maternal care to fertility care to birth control.

Furthermore, the flagrant hypocrisy of the claim that this order protects women coming from a president who has a long track record of attacking women's rights, is astounding. You have [boasted](#) of your role in taking away the federal constitutional right to abortion—a foundational right women relied on for nearly five decades. You have been [accused](#) by dozens of women of sexual assault and harassment and [found liable](#) by a jury in one case. In both [this administration](#) and your [previous one](#), you have nominated men to powerful positions despite reports of their harms to women, including sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and domestic violence. And you have repeatedly demonstrated your hostility to [core sex discrimination protections](#) and to [programs](#) that mostly women – particularly single mothers – rely on to make ends meet.

We will not let this executive order deter us from fighting for the rights of *all* women. We will strive to ensure that this executive order, the cruel policies it proposes, and the false narrative it tells about our rights will not last.

National Women's Law Center, *joined by*:

9to5

Abortion Action Missouri

Advocates for Trans Equality

Advocates for Youth

AFT Women's Rights Committee

AIDS Foundation Chicago

American Association of University Women

American Atheists

American Humanist Association

Arab American Family Services

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

AWAKE Tennessee

Bans Off Miami

Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice

Bradbury Sullivan LGBT Community Center

CAMP Rehoboth

Care in Action

Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)

CenterLink: The Community of LGBTQ Centers

Centre LGBT+
Charlotte Trans Health
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE)
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Cobalt
Collective Futures
Compass LGBTQ Community Center
Council for Global Equality
Detroit Disability Power
Eastern PA Trans Equity Project
EdTrust
Education Law Center Pennsylvania
End Rape On Campus
Equal Rights Advocates
Equality California
Equality Community Center
Equality Federation
Equality Florida
Esperanza United
Fem Alliance Uganda
Feminist Majority Foundation
Florida National Organization for Women
Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center
Gender Equality Law Center
Gender Inclusive Schools
GenderNexus
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality
GLSEN
Grand Rapids Pride Center
HEAL Plus NM
Her Justice
Hugh Lane Foundation
Human Rights Campaign
If/When/How

Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Illinois Families for Public Schools
Illinois Federation of Teachers
Indivisible
interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth
Just Solutions
Justice + Joy National Collaborative
KWH Law Center for Social Justice and Change
Ladder Consulting
Latino Equality Alliance
Legal Momentum
LGBT Community Network
LGBTQ Center of the Cape Fear Coast
LGBTQI+ Rights Clinic, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault
Louisville Youth Group
Maine Women's Lobby
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity
Midwest Access Coalition
Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable
MomsRising
Montana Chapter of the National Organization for Women
Montgomery Pride United/ Bayard Rustin Community Center
MoPride
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ+ Center
Naples Pride
National Abortion Federation
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
National Black Justice Collective
National Council of Jewish Women
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Education Association

National Employment Law Project
National Employment Lawyers Association- NY
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Organization for Women
National Organization for Women - Pasco County Chapter: FL0365
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Liberation
National Women's Political Caucus
Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
NOW of Marion County
Oasis Legal Services
Omaha ForUs LGBTQ+ Center
one-n-ten
OutCenter Southwest Michigan
OUTreach Denton
OutReach LGBTQ+ Community Center
Partners in Abortion Care
Pensacola Abortion Rights Task Force
People For the American Way
PFLAG National
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
PowHer New York
Pride Action Tank/AIDS Foundation Chicago
Pride At Work, AFL-CIO
Pride Community Center of the Brazos Valley
PRISM FL
Prism United
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Advocates Inc.
Public Justice
Queer Keys

Red Wine & Blue
Reproductive Freedom Collective Broward County
Reproductive Freedom for All
Reproductive Justice Maryland
RI Abortion Fund
Rocky Mountain Equality
SAGE
Sakhi for South Asian Survivors
San Diego Pride
Serving At-risk Families Everywhere, Inc.
Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
Silver State Equality
SMYAL
Solano Pride Center
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
Southwest Women's Law Center
Spencer Pride, Inc.
State Innovation Exchange (SiX)
Stop Sexual Assault in Schools
Support FHPS Action
The Center for HIV Law and Policy (CHLP)
The Center Project
The GLO Center
The International Partnership for Reproductive Health
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center
The Pride Center at Equality Park
The Pride Center of New Jersey
The Prideful Path Project
The San Diego LGBT Community Center
The Source LGBT+ Center
The TransLatin@ Coalition
The Voices and Faces Project

TransFamily Support Services

Transgender Law Center

Transgender Michigan

Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico

Transinclusive Group

UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health

Union for Reform Judaism

We Are Family

Women Connection Taskforce on Behalf of AFC

Women Employed

Women of Reform Judaism

Women's Law Project

Women's Rights and Empowerment Network

Youth Oasis

Youth Pride Association