



Mathematics for ALL

**Statement in
Support of
LGBTQ+
Persons**



TODOS' Statement in Support of LGBTQ+ Persons

A 2019 report by the American Academy of Pediatrics reported that transgender adolescents had higher rates of suicidal ideation, plans, attempts and attempts requiring medical care, and non-suicidal self-injury than cisgender teens. The report also recommended that transgender adolescents be prioritized to reduce suicidality within this vulnerable population. Yet, 2021 has become a record year for anti-transgender legislation, with over 100 anti-transgender bills introduced in the 2021 state legislative session. The majority of these bills would affect transgender youth through bans on participation in same-gender youth sports, bans on gender-affirming health care for minors, curriculum bans, ID restrictions, and more.

TODOS recognizes the direct impact these bills have on our students' physical and mental health, teachers, and others working in education. We believe that these anti-transgender bills and the discourse surrounding them, even if they do not pass, contribute to a hostile environment for LGBTQ+ persons generally and transgender persons specifically. We have a duty to oppose and counteract these measures, to speak out about these direct attacks on LGBTQ+ Persons, and to protect the well-being of our students, family, friends, and colleagues. We must stand up against transphobia, homophobia, and hate in any form against LGBTQ+ Persons.

As educators, we see the anxiety students have from the pressure to do well academically and fit in - and this pressure can mount even more for LGBTQ+ students of color. In addition, research also shows that LGBTQ+ persons experience marginalization and devaluation in STEM because there is a strong devaluation of femininity in STEM. Therefore, we must do whatever we can to create a welcoming learning environment for LGBTQ+ students by affirming and respecting their intersecting identities. And we must do whatever we can to change perceptions and challenge stereotypes within STEM-based fields.



TODOS acknowledges that we cannot achieve our mission to advocate for equity and high-quality mathematics for all students – in particular, Latina/o/x students – if any students are living in fear of hate and real-life violence. And the violence is real, as evidenced by an incident in April 2021 in which a man in a Manhattan CVS was caught on video attacking another man while allegedly making anti-gay statements, a May 2021 incident in which a 25-year-old gay teacher was shot and burned in a brutal murder in Brazil, and the many other incidents that go unreported every day. One study from Miami-Dade County in Florida found that 85% of LGBTQ+ Immigrants did not report hate crimes. Our charge is to support our LGBTQ+ family, friends, and colleagues by speaking out against such violence in any form. Furthermore, we cannot live up to this mission if anyone working in education is living in fear of hate and real-life violence.

What can you do to take action right now?

Share and familiarize yourself with these resources with your students, colleagues, family, and friends - no matter how difficult it may be for you. We understand that there is the risk of backlash from administration, parents, and others and that not all schools have the support of parent groups and school leadership. To lessen risks, educators are advised to notify the administration and parents of intentions. But If we don't take action, who will?

- Read GLSEN's LGBTQ Inclusive Curriculum Resource, which includes information on best practices, action items on advocacy, and recommendations for suggested LGBTQ-Inclusive Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Opportunities. This resource also provides ideas on how administrators can address families directly and links to resources for other staff, including coaches and athletic directors.
- Read GLSEN's Safe Space Book and then take action to make your school a safe space for LGBTQ+ students. This important resource is not only for educators but also for other school leaders, including support staff, resource officers, food service assistants, and bus drivers.



- Read the GLSEN Blog (<https://www.glsen.org/news-and-stories/blogs>), which includes the posts *How Do We Make Math Class More Inclusive of Trans and Non-binary Identities* by Kyle S. Whipple on the GLSEN Blog and *Why (and How) STEM Curriculum Needs to Be LGBT Inclusive* by Mary Hoelscher.
- Read the article *Supporting LGBTQ+ Students in K–12 Mathematics* by Brandie E. Waid in Volume 113, Issue 11 of NCTM’s *Mathematics Teacher: Learning and Teaching PK-12*.
- Inform yourself about The Trevor Project (<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>), the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning (LGBTQ) young people under 25.
- Join Spectra: The Association for LGBT Mathematicians (<http://www.lgbtmath.org/>). LGBT Mathematicians and their allies are welcome to join. Also, plan to attend the first Spectra Conference on August 18-20, 2021.
- Plan to attend the LGBTQ+Math Day this year on November 18, a free online event hosted by the Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences in Toronto and co-organized by Pride in STEM (<https://prideinstem.org/>)
- Use LGBTQ+ Holidays throughout the year to call attention to issues important to the LGBTQ+ community by creating blogs, highlighting websites on social media, or any activity that invites others to take action to support the LGBTQ+ community. For example, November 18 is the international day of LGBTQIA+ People in STEM, and November 20 is Transgender Day of Remembrance.
- Join Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (oSTEM) (www.ostem.org) as a Professional Member and consider starting a professional or student chapter in your city.
- Check out LGBTQ+ STEM (<https://lgbtstem.wordpress.com/>) and consider attending their 2022 LGBTQ+ STEMinar Conference. The deadline to apply to present at the conference has been extended to December 22, 2021.



- Share the stories of 500 Queer Scientists (<https://500queerscientists.com/>) - a visibility campaign for LGBTQ+ people and their allies working in STEM and STEM-supporting jobs.
- Join Out to Innovate, formally National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals - NOGLSTP (<https://www.noglstp.org/>). Last year, Out to Innovate hosted a joint event with the 10th Annual oSTEM Conference. They have many other opportunities, including a Professional Development Fellowship for Trans, Intersex, and Non-Binary People in STEM.

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