

Hello all,

My name is Oliver Bonnema, I'm a senior in high school and my pronouns are he/they.

I'm here in opposition of NH HB 377 and 712. Today I will be talking about the ongoing genocide of transgender people in the United States.

To start I want to share a couple personal anecdotes. One: I was walking out of a doctors appointment, attempting to care for my mental health, and encountered dozens of people with posters, t-shirts, pins, and other things bearing transphobic messages such as "no child is born in the wrong body" or "gender clinics harm children" or "gays are groomers" with people staring at me and muttering "freak" and various queerphobic and homophobic slurs that I am fairly certain I will not be allowed to say in this setting. Two years ago, in 2023 a queer cafe Teatotaller in Concord was surrounded by masked neo-nazis holding signs and shouting slogans such as, "defend white communities", "gays are groomers", "no child is born in the wrong body", and "gender clinics harm children". All of this because there was a drag queen story hour, aka they were reading children's stories to children. And just this week I was walking into Gibsons bookstore down the street when two grown men screamed at me "The f-slur convention is that way" as I was crossing the street, they were so loud people inside the store could hear them.

This hatred and discrimination is merely an indicator of the broader social, legal, and political implications of transphobia within New Hampshire, the United States of America, and the entire world.

Before I delve deeper into details and statistics I want to clarify some things and provide some definitions, transgender people are people whose gender identity does not align with the gender they were assigned at birth, this label includes transgender men, transgender women, and people under the nonbinary umbrella as well as various gender identities in certain ethnic groups such as two-spirit people. Transgender people have existed for the entirety of human history. Now they may not have used the word "transgender" but the experiences and

presentations of these people can fit under the modern label sufficiently. Firstly, trans people have been leading the LGBTQ rights movement since the beginning, Marsha P. Johnson led the efforts at Stonewall, and was instrumental in pushing for queer rights. Marsha P. Johnson was a trans woman, she was born in 1945. Before her was Christine Jorgenson, in 1952 she was one of the first visible trans people in the media. In Germany 1919, the "Institute for Sex Research", which researched trans, gay, and intersex people was established. It was one of the first libraries burnt by the Nazi party. James Berry was a surgeon, and in fact the first European surgeon to perform a cesarean section in which both mother and child survived. The fact that he was assigned female at birth was only discovered after his death. King Henry III of France, born in 1551, was reported to have dressed in feminine clothing and had those around him call her "Her Majesty". Galli priests of ancient Greece would wear women's clothes and makeup. Hatshepsut, the Egyptian pharaoh born around 1500 BCE, was depicted as male, wore a false beard, and masculine clothing.

And after millennia of this existing transgender people are globally facing verbal, mental, physical, legal, medical, academic, creative, and social discrimination. Now to get to the bill itself, nearly every single major medical association and organization supports gender affirming care, including but not limited to: the [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](#), [American Academy of Dermatology](#), [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [American Academy of Physician Assistants](#), [American Medical Association](#), [American Nurses Association](#), [American Association of Clinical Endocrinology](#), [American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry](#), [American College Health Association](#), [American College of Nurse-Midwives](#), [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#), [American College of Physicians](#), [American Counseling Association](#), [American Heart Association](#), [American Medical Student Association](#), [American Psychiatric Association](#),

American Psychological Association, American Society of Plastic Surgeons, American Society for Reproductive Medicine, American Urological Association, Endocrine Society, Federation of Pediatric Organizations, GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality, The Journal of the American Medical Association, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, National Association of Social Workers, Pediatric Endocrine Society, United States Professional Association for Transgender Health (USPATH), World Health Organization (WHO), World Medical Association World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

Despite all this the degree of this discrimination has led many transgender people and cis allies to believe that we may be witnessing a genocide. The official definition of genocide as defined by the UN is as follows "Genocide means any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such: a) killing members of the group; b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within a group; e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

I use the term genocide here in no way meaning that this has reached the extent of the holocaust or the ongoing genocides in Palestine and the Congo and in no way intend to delegitimize those fights, but instead to draw necessary attention to this cause.

Any time I cite a piece of legislation it is coming from the official state legislation.

I will now address each of these criteria one at a time, though some nuance is required as being transgender is not something that is passed down through families. Firstly killing members of the

group, 350 trans people were murdered because they were trans in 2024, an increase from last year by nearly 10%.

Second is causing serious bodily or mental harm to the group, numerous states have either put restrictions on or outright banned trans healthcare which as I mentioned has been approved by almost every single related healthcare organization as the necessary course of treatment for trans individuals who experience significant dysphoria, additionally gender affirming care has been proven by countless studies again by numerous organizations to reduce rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicidal ideation by over 90%, comparably anti-depressants reduce symptoms in only 20% of people (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK361016/>).

Third, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part. There are several examples of this, the shootings directed at queer spaces, once again the lack of gender affirming healthcare allowed to trans people, and the discrimination against trans people in housing and employment which explicitly contributes to the homelessness of trans people (<https://transequality.org/issues/housing-homelessness>, <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/trans-workplace-press-release/>). Additionally there are trans people who are kicked out of their homes for being trans which is part of the reason queer youth have such high rates of homelessness. As was aforementioned all of this also greatly increases suicide rates.

Fourth, imposing measures to prevent births within the group, up until 2013 trans people in the US had to be sterilized before receiving gender affirming care. In other countries this requirement is still in effect. Additionally many trans people are prevented from adoption because they are trans, this phenomenon is described by the Human Rights Campaign in both studies they have done and in stories they have recorded, these reports involve people who are

financially, mentally, and physically able to support a child. Though this is not explicitly preventing births it is preventing trans people from forming families.

Fifth, forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. There is legislation in several states including Florida and Texas which defines parents who are supportive of a child's gender-nonconformity or transgender identity as child abuse. The New Hampshire legislature has also tried to impose such laws. Which as the child of a award winning psychologist who specializes in childhood trauma and abuse, gender-affirming care is quite literally the opposite of child abuse. These children are often removed from their homes and placed into transphobic environments.

Additionally the legislative restrictions on gender affirming healthcare often prevent autistic people completely from access, and require autism and anxiety or depression be "cured" before access is allowed despite lack of gender affirming healthcare being the recognized treatment for transgender people with depression and anxiety and autism not having nor needing a cure.

To give a broad idea of the sheer amount of anti trans legislation, in 2024 there were 647 bills, in 43 states, with 50 bills that passed in 2023 there were 600 bills in 49 states, 87 of which passed, 323 of which failed, others have been postponed or tabled but are still active. This broke the record from 2022 in which there were 174 bills in 13 states, 26 of which passed, in 2021 there were 144, in 2020 there were 66, in 2019 there were 19. There has been a drastic increase in anti-trans legislation in the past 5 years.

I would like you all to guess how many bills have been introduced so far in 2025

There have been 633 proposed bills, in 48 states, 13 of which have passed, 598 of which are still active, and 22 of which have failed. I have had to update this statistic every time I edit this document because the number still is rising.

This legal discrimination on top of discrimination faced by individuals on a personal level drastically increases rates of depression, anxiety, self harm, and suicidal ideation. The following information all comes from a study done by the Trevor Project, LGBTQ+ youth are more than 4 times as likely to attempt suicide than their cisgender heterosexual peers. More than 1.8 million LGBTQ+ youth consider suicide each year, that's 45%. This number jumps to more than ½ for transgender and nonbinary youth. Transgender youth are 2 to 2.5 times as likely to experience depression and seriously consider and attempt suicide than their cisgender LGBQ peers. All of these suicide and depression rates are higher for BIPOC queer youth. LGBTQ+ youth who reported experiencing minority stress (LGBTQ+ based physical harm, discrimination, lack of housing, and parental discrimination) were 12 times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers who did not experience these stressors. Parental rejection increases suicide rates by a factor of 8 and high levels of depression by a factor of 6. Nearly half of LGBTQ+ youth do not have a supportive school, and nearly ⅔ do not have supportive parents, greater than ½ of trans youth do not have supportive schools. 36% of LGBTQ youth report being physically threatened or harmed which tripled attempted suicide rate. 52% of LGBTQ+ report being bullied in the past year. Youth undergoing conversion therapy, which uses torture methods to “turn people straight” which is impossible, were reported to be twice as likely to attempt suicide and 2.5 times as likely to have attempted suicide multiple times in the past year. Once again, parental acceptance and gender affirming care are the most effective ways to combat these numbers.

The stages of genocide are listed by the Holocaust memorial day trust as classification, symbolization, discrimination, dehumanization, organisation, polarisation, preparation,

persecution, extermination, and denial. There is debate amongst the trans community as to whether we are at stage 6, 7, or 8. Polarization, stage 6, has already occurred, trans people used as a political weapon throughout the globe, look no further than the current American government which uses trans and LGBTQ+ people as a selling point, with one side promising to protect the public from trans people calling us “groomers”, “predators”, “abominations”, etc. and the other promising (and usually failing) to protect trans children. Stage 7, preparation, is the official action to remove and relocate people, it has essentially been made illegal to be trans as described in the aforementioned legislation in several states causing trans people to try to flee. Stage 8 is persecution, the beginning of murders, property theft, and trial massacres, murders have already begun and shootings or threatened shootings of queer spaces are incredibly common. One of the more recent murders was of 16 year-old Nex Benedict, who, after consistent bullying for a year, was attacked by a group of their classmates in a bathroom, they were left unconscious from the beating and later died from their injuries. Their death was ruled a suicide.

There are political figures saying “for the good of society ... transgenderism must be eradicated from public life entirely”. Transgenderism is not a thing, what he is referring to is the eradication of trans people. And you know what if you do want to go through with that, then no more watching The Matrix movies, because they were written and directed by two trans women Lana and Lilly Wachowski, no more The Shining, A Clockwork Orange, Tron, or electronic music because they were composed and shaped by Wendy Carlos, a trans woman. No more X-men movies or The Umbrella Academy because that has Elliot Page, a trans man. No Euphoria because that has a trans woman too. No more pride for all you cis LGB people because that was started by trans people. And that’d just be the start.

The arguments being used now are just recycled from the arguments that were used against gay people in the 90s and those are recycled from those used against BIPOC people, etc. If you need a reason to care beyond what I have already said, it will not stop with trans people, the general LGBTQ+ community is next, and gender-nonconforming people, and eventually anyone who does not perfectly fit into what politicians and people in power define as “normal”. LGBTQ people are already facing hate for the inherent gender-nonconformity and have already been called dirty, abominations, and against nature. Women, especially women of color and masculine women and strong women, are already being targeted for their gender and being called trans women as a way to delegitimize their womanhood because white, feminine womanhood has historically been seen as “true” womanhood.

If this seems too impersonal and far away then hear my experiences, being called those slurs downtown was far from the first time, I got called transphobic and homophobic slurs in elementary school. When I went to driver's ed my fellow students made repeated transphobic jokes and spoke about how they thought trans people were better off dead, and less kindly deserved to die which my driver's ed teacher defended. My driver's ed instructor debated me on whether or not I deserved rights while I was driving on the highway at night for the first time.

If none of this has convinced you that transphobia is a problem, please consider that in being transphobic you are taking the side supported by Nazis over a community that works to promote acceptance and freedom of expression.

To any younger queer and trans youth who have been understandably scared by this speech, I want you to know that this is not the only part of the trans experience. Everytime I see another person with a nonbinary or trans sticker on their phone case and I show them mine and in that split second we see each other and feel a sense of solidarity with the people around us. Last

summer I was fortunate enough to go to a queer camp. To say that the experience changed me is an understatement, I have an increased confidence, happiness, sense of self, and appreciation for the world around me. Twice now I've gone to a prom for queer kids and we all are just welcoming of each other. Though I spent most of this speech talking about queer and trans pain, I ask you all to focus on queer and trans joy, to oppose this bill, and support trans communities

What I ask of you legislators, is to vote no to NH HB 377 and 712, as well as any past and future bills. And to everyone else that to the best of your abilities you support the trans people around you, donate to organizations like the Trevor Project aiming to prevent suicide in LGBTQ+ youth, to PFLAG, Queerlective, Seacoast Outright, and Granite Pride NH. Make the effort to contact representatives and oppose discriminatory legislation, and attend protests in support of the LGBTQ+ community. If that is too much then I ask that you speak out against transphobia when you hear it such as jokes or comments about trans women dominating sports, or comparing the very real existence to being "transracial" or "trans-age" or jokes that rely on gender non-conformity as a punchline such as man-in-a-dress jokes. If that is too much then I ask you to provide trans people the basic respect of using the correct pronouns and names, unless explicitly asked not to by the trans person or in a space where it would risk the safety of said trans person. I ask that you don't ask trans people intrusive questions that you would not ask a cisgender person, such as questions about their genitals and medical history, and I ask that you not make transphobic or homophobic jokes. I ask that you not apologize excessively when you mess up a trans person's pronouns or name, don't draw attention to it, apologize, move on, and work to do better in the future.

For support queer youth can contact the Trevor Project by texting 678-678, calling 1-866-488-7386 or starting a chat at the Trevor Project website

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/>.

For more information I strongly recommend looking again at the trevor project at

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/> for both guides and information. To get involved with the trevor project one can volunteer or donate at the Trevor Project website. If you would like to look at other transphobic legislation I recommend looking at translegislation.com and official documentation of these laws such as the bill text and the process that led to the legislation.