

Universal Declaration of Transgender Rights

Proclaimed by Civil Society and Human Rights Advocates

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Abstract

This Declaration affirms the inalienable rights of all transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse individuals to dignity, equality, and full participation in society. Rooted in universal human rights principles and mindful of historical and ongoing injustices, it serves as a global framework for legal, social, and cultural recognition and protection of transgender people. The articles herein are intended to guide governments, institutions, and communities in implementing inclusive, affirming, and just policies and practices worldwide.

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Preamble

Recognizing that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights,

Affirming that gender diversity is a natural and valuable part of human experience,

Acknowledging the systemic discrimination, violence, and marginalization faced by transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse people across cultures and histories,

Determined to ensure the universal recognition, protection, and fulfillment of the rights of transgender people in all spheres of life,

This Declaration is proclaimed as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and institutions, to promote respect, justice, and dignity for transgender individuals worldwide.

1. Right to Dignity and Equality

All transgender people are entitled to live with dignity and enjoy all human rights and freedoms without discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of gender identity or expression.

2. Right to Legal Recognition

Everyone has the right to recognition before the law. This includes the right to legal gender recognition through simple, accessible, and non-discriminatory procedures, without requirements such as medical treatment, diagnosis, or sterilization.

3. Right to Bodily Autonomy and Integrity

Transgender individuals have the right to make decisions about their own bodies, including access to gender-affirming healthcare and the right to refuse unwanted or coerced medical interventions.

4. Freedom from Violence and Discrimination

All forms of violence, harassment, and discrimination based on gender identity or expression are violations of human rights. States must prevent, investigate, and punish such acts, whether committed by state or non-state actors.

5. Right to Healthcare

Transgender people have the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. This includes timely, respectful, and competent access to gender-affirming healthcare without discrimination or gatekeeping.

6. Right to Education

Transgender individuals have the right to education in safe, inclusive, and affirming environments, free from bullying, exclusion, or erasure of identity.

7. Right to Work and Economic Inclusion

Everyone has the right to work, to fair and equal employment opportunities, and to labor protections without discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

8. Right to Privacy

Transgender people have the right to privacy in matters related to their gender identity, medical history, and personal decisions, including protection from involuntary disclosure.

9. Freedom of Expression and Identity

All people have the right to express their gender identity and presentation freely, including through name, pronouns, clothing, and behavior, without censorship or punishment.

10. Cultural and Community Belonging

Transgender individuals have the right to participate in cultural, spiritual, and community life without discrimination, and to see their identities and histories affirmed within cultural narratives.

11. Intersectional Protection

States and institutions must recognize that transgender people may face intersecting forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, disability, age, class, religion, or immigration status, and must address these realities in all efforts to ensure equality.

12. Implementation and Accountability

Governments and institutions must adopt laws, policies, and practices to uphold the rights in this Declaration, including:

- Enacting legal gender recognition laws
- Funding accessible healthcare
- Training professionals in trans-competent care and inclusion
- Promoting public awareness and anti-stigma education

- Creating mechanisms for reporting and redressing rights violations

13. Global Solidarity

All nations, regardless of economic or political context, are called upon to recognize and promote transgender rights as universal human rights, and to collaborate in sharing best practices and supporting trans communities worldwide.