



NAME

National Association for Multicultural Education

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NAME Statement on Governor Abbott's Anti-Trans Call to Violence

The effects of anti-Transgender legislation on Transgender students and their families is [well-documented, with around 75% of Transgender students reporting feeling unsafe at school because of their gender expression](#). Despite the [clear evidence](#) that shows that Trans kids are psychologically healthier and less likely to engage in self-destructive behaviors when their gender is affirmed, Texas Governor Greg Abbott [doubled-down on the attack against Transgender children](#) recently with a [directive](#) that equates gender-affirming care as “child abuse.” Even worse, the directive orders teachers, doctors, and other licensed professionals to report the parents of any child who is undergoing gender-affirming treatment to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) for prosecution.

NAME strongly condemns this action by the Texas governor. Children should not be subjected to the bigoted and baseless opinions of elected leaders, and teachers should never be in the position of having to go against their own values—and the safety of Transgender children—to satisfy a directive that deliberately denies facts and intentionally causes harm to Transgender kids and their families. This directive will only ignite fear and anxiety among all those who help Transgender children become their full and authentic selves and increase the already high rates of suicidality among Transgender children.

Such efforts to criminalize humans are not new, and indeed, are the foundation of the United States. From colonization to slavery, from Chinese exclusion laws to banning Jewish immigrants during the buildup to WWII, the United States has continued exclusionary, exploitative, and violent ways, always in the service of white supremacy. 30 years ago, [California voters passed Proposition 187 in 1994, which effectively required public servants \(teachers, social workers\) to report suspected undocumented immigrants](#). While Prop 187 was held up by the courts as unconstitutional, such efforts align in a long arc of white supremacy, eugenics, sexism, heteronormativity, and ongoing state-sanctioned oppression, specifically by requiring public servants to aid in the criminalization of an already targeted group of people.

NAME recognizes and encourages educators to teach about Governor Abbott's current attempt as just the latest in a long line of efforts to ultimately end the existence of Trans people. This is a call to violence that is [paralleled by other states, athlete bans across the states and Olympics](#), and can be seen in the intentional isolation of [Trans people fleeing violence in Ukraine](#). Educators must resist these anti-Trans actions, in part through teaching, but also through policy, praxis, and elevated calls for direct action to support and affirm Trans community rights.

NAME would like to elevate the work of Catalano, Haslerig, Jourian, and Nicolazzo, whose [Association for the Study of Higher Education convened report](#), “[An Affirmation of Trans Livelihood In and Beyond Postsecondary Education](#)” offers immediate actions for scholarship, pedagogical praxis, and policy efforts. This report, and [others like it](#), map transformation from the violence of educationally enforced gender binaries, towards a full affirmation and support of Trans people and communities in all areas of society, and most particularly, schools and colleges.