

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-018

Proclaiming March 31, 2024 as Transgender Day of Visibility in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. March 31st, marks International Transgender Day of Visibility, a day to celebrate and elevate the voices and contributions of our gender expansive community of Transgender, Two Spirit, Non-Binary, Genderqueer, Gender Expansive, Gender Non-conforming, Gender Fluid, Agender, and Intersex people, among others, here in Multnomah County and around the world.
- B. This day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments and victories of our gender expansive community and creating a moment of visibility, in order to raise awareness of the discrimination and violence transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming individuals experience globally, and to inspire action to end anti-transgender violence, and achieve lived equality for all.
- C. Members of the gender expansive community of Multnomah County actively engage in every aspect of life in our community, yet continue to face discrimination, harassment, and violence at rates much higher than cisgender community members. We recognize that these levels of hate and violence disproportionately affect Trans Femme individuals, particularly those who are Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander, and other Trans Femmes of color, especially Trans femme sex workers of color. We recognize that trans and gender expansive people are valuable members of our community, deserving of the same freedoms and protections as any other, as well as special accommodations to empower and preserve their way of life, and honor their unique perspectives.
- D. The United States has a long history of anti-transgender violence and discrimination, while open hatred and intentional targeting of the transgender community is on the rise across the nation. The American Civil Liberties Union and other advocacy organizations are tracking record-breaking numbers of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation year after year, including several here in the state of Oregon. HB4037, HB4054, and HB4143 seek to restrict the rights of transgender individuals to use the bathroom, receive gender-affirming healthcare, receive appropriate accommodations within public institutions, and participate in regular life activities that all people should be allowed to enjoy. These bills would criminalize the very existence of transgender and non-binary individuals, their family members, and healthcare providers seeking to provide gender-affirming

care for their patients. We must make no mistake - these efforts and others like them pose an active threat to the life and safety of transgender and non-binary individuals by aiming to eliminate their presence in our communities.

- E. Youth in Multnomah County are still living in fear of isolation and violence. Transgender and non-binary youth continue to report that they have been verbally or physically harmed due to their identity. Locally and throughout the U.S., Trans-inclusive schools are under attack. Gender-affirming teachers, curricula, and policies that are vital to the safety and well-being of transgender and non-binary students are being systematically dismantled. Trans students have been targeted, assaulted, and even killed merely for attempting to use the restroom.
- F. Multnomah County and the Office of Diversity and Equity are committed to honoring the contributions of our gender expansive employees and supporting the organizations that work tirelessly as we strive for a workplace that fosters Safety, Trust, and Belonging. As we “Inclusively Lead with Race”, we recognize that our BIPOC gender expansive employees face unique multiple barriers due to institutional racism and transphobia. We also recognize that Trans Visibility, in the workplace and beyond, is vital to shaping the narrative that gender expansive individuals can be their authentic selves and thrive.
- G. Multnomah County calls for an end to the persecution, oppression, and targeted annihilation of all marginalized peoples, both here at home and abroad. We oppose any group in power that enacts or condones state-sanctioned violence against subjugated people with intent to eradicate their lives and destroy their cultural identity. As individuals and systems, we must do everything in our power to name and resist this violence.
- H. Multnomah County is committed to fighting against this type of discrimination and supporting all members of our community. We also recognize that our progressive policies and speaking out against anti-transgender legislation and rhetoric do not make us impervious to the inequities caused by hate and oppression.
- I. Multnomah County will continue to translate our values into action, lifting up and prioritizing the needs of our gender expansive community as we seek to ensure every community member has access to the services and resources they need in order to live and thrive.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

March 31, 2024 as Transgender Day of Visibility in Multnomah County, Oregon, and with this proclamation affirms commitment to support our gender expansive community.

ADOPTED this 21st day of March, 2024.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jessica Vega Pederson, County Chair

REVIEWED:

JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Sharon Meieran, District 1 Commissioner.