



City of Seattle



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The Seattle LGBTQ Commission Recognizes Transgender Day of Remembrance

The Seattle LGBTQ Commission recognizes Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20, 2017. This is a day to remember and honor those who have lost their lives due to anti-transgender hatred and violence.

Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded in 1999 by a handful of trans individuals, including [Gwendolyn Ann Smith](#), who shares:

"The Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people -- sometimes in the most brutal ways possible -- it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice." (quoted from <https://www.glaad.org/tdor>)

With deep sadness, we acknowledge that at least 25 trans people have been killed in 2017. We celebrate and honor their lives while we continue to push for legal protections and social inclusion for trans and nonbinary individuals.

- Candace Towns, 30
- Stephanie Montez, 47
- Ally Lee Steinfeld, 17
- Derricka Banner, 26
- Kashmire Redd, 28
- Kiwi Herring, 30
- Gwynevere River Song, 26
- TeeTee Dangerfield, 32
- Ebony Morgan, 28
- Ava Le'Ray Barrin, 17
- Josie Berrios (also known as Kendra Adams and Kimbella Rosé), 28
- Kenne McFadden, 27
- Sherrell Faulkner, 46
- Brenda Bostick, 59
- Chay Reed, 28
- Alphonza Watson, 38
- Jaquarrius Holland, 18
- Ciara McElveen, 21
- Chyna Gibson, 31
- Keke Collier, 24
- JoJo Striker, 23
- Mesha Caldwell, 41
- Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow, 28
- Scout Schultz, 21
- Sean Hake, 23

We invite you to [read more](#) about the lives of these individuals and their accomplishments.

Transgender individuals are brave and resilient. Transgender individuals are standing up each and every single day to fight for the liberation and freedom of all. We appreciate our many transgender community leaders, both local and national, both contemporary and in our past, such as [Marsha P. Johnson](#), [Danni Askini](#), [Jennicet Gutiérrez](#), [Montserrat Padilla](#), [CeCe McDonald](#), [Janet Mock](#), [Kylar Broadus](#), [Danica Roem](#), and so many others.

As Laverne Cox says, “It is revolutionary for any trans person to choose to be seen and visible in a world that tells us we should not exist,” and as Alok Vaid Menon writes, “even though colonization would have you believe that we are new -- we have always been here. even though my own people continue to harm & erase me -- i am still here.” (quotes from https://www.buzzfeed.com/saeedjones/laverne-cox-is-the-woman-weve-been-waiting-for?utm_term=.jnV5eoxPXm#.py5yNkY9VI and <https://www.instagram.com/alokvmenon/?hl=en>)

We still have a lot of work to do here in Washington State and in Seattle. Transgender individuals experience disparities across all sectors of daily life, as outlined in the [2015 U.S. Transgender Survey](#). **Within our state:**

- 26% of respondents experience some form of housing discrimination in the past year, such as being evicted from their home or denied a home or apartment because of being transgender.
- 37% have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives.
- 8% of respondents reported that someone denied them access to a restroom in the past year.
- Respondents experienced high levels of mistreatment and harassment by police. In the past year, of respondents who interacted with police or other law enforcement officers who thought or knew they were transgender, 60% experienced some form of mistreatment. This included being verbally harassed, repeatedly referred to as the wrong gender, physically assaulted, or sexually assaulted, including being forced by officers to engage in sexual activity to avoid arrest.
- 58% of respondents said they would feel uncomfortable asking the police for help if they needed it.
- Only 14% of respondents reported that all of their IDs had the name and gender they preferred, while 62% reported that none of their IDs had the name and gender they preferred.
- The cost of changing IDs was one of the main barriers respondents faced, with 32% of those who have not changed their legal name and 30% of those who have not updated the gender on their IDs reporting that it was because they could not afford it.
- 32% of respondents who have shown an ID with a name or gender that did not match their gender presentation were verbally harassed, denied benefits or service, asked to leave, or assaulted.

We invite you to be involved.

- Participate in an event to recognize Transgender Day of Remembrance, such as [U.T.O.P.I.A Seattle and The Campbell Center’s event](#).
- Support efforts to create a non-binary gender marker and reduce barriers for changing gender designations on Washington State birth certificates [DOH Call for Comments](#), [Previous Comment Script from Gender Justice League](#)
- Within Seattle, submit a complaint for any business you think may be violating the [All-Gender Restroom Ordinance](#)
- Volunteer for organizations that are advocating for and providing resources to trans and gender-nonconforming individuals such as [Gender Justice League](#), [Ingersoll Gender Center](#), [Gender Odyssey](#), [Camp Ten Trees](#), and [U.T.O.P.I.A](#)
- Support and utilize forms of community safety that do not involve policing, such as [Q Patrol](#).