

Joint Statement Against Violence and Hateful Rhetoric Toward the LGBTQ+ Community

Today we are speaking out against violence toward the LGBTQ+ community.

This year alone, we have seen over a dozen attacks against drag artists and drag performances and countless threats of violence toward LGBTQ+ people across North Carolina. These attacks have caused pain, fear, and trauma for LGBTQ+ people, their families, friends, and entire communities. This cannot continue. As LGBTQ+ elected leaders, we cannot stay silent on the continued attacks on our community.

Our community has suffered violent attacks from extremist right-wing groups; hateful rhetoric from elected leaders and candidates at all levels of government; attacks on our rights from legislators and decision makers; and ongoing media attacks from right-wing news outlets spewing hateful and disparaging messages.

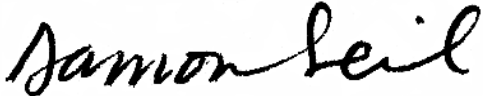
Across North Carolina, we saw hateful, racist threats being used to instill fear in organizers of Drag Queen Story Hour and other drag events, at times causing them to be canceled or relocated to protect young people. We saw vandalism of venues that hosted drag performances. We saw Pride events canceled or rescheduled due to death threats and security concerns. We saw organized efforts to harass and intimidate drag artists, organizers of LGBTQ+ events, advocates, leaders, and even attendees of these events. We saw municipal officials and state legislators attempt to take away the rights and protections of LGBTQ+ people. And within the last month, we saw a transgender policymaker resign from her position after intense harassment by right-wing groups.

Across the United States, we saw a record number of pieces of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, as well as devastating and violent attacks on trans women, especially trans women of color, on transgender and gender-nonconforming youth in schools, and on LGBTQ+ gathering spaces. We saw hateful and dehumanizing messages from anti-equality elected officials and candidates. We saw states attempt to persecute our communities and our families for simply living our truths, lives, and identities.

It is outrageous that, while it has been 50 years since Stonewall, we continue to see the policies and attacks that led to those historic protests happening today. LGBTQ+ people are a vital part of the history and beauty of this state and of this country. Our existence, dignity, and rights are not up for debate. LGBTQ+ peoples' lives and identities are not an opinion or a policy stance or a talking point. We are human beings.

Over the next few months, we will work with other policy makers across the state to pass resolutions affirming our support for the LGBTQ+ community and drag artists. We encourage our state's leaders to proactively address the rise in hateful attacks and rhetoric against LGBTQ+ people.

We are your neighbors, your friends, and your family members. Join us in building safe, inclusive communities where all of us can live without fear.



Damon Seils
Mayor, Town of Carrboro



Eliazar Posada
Council Member, Town of Carrboro



Jillian Johnson
Council Member, City of Durham



Karen Stegman
Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Chapel Hill



Matt Hughes
Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Hillsborough



Jonathan Melton
Council Member, City of Raleigh



Representative Vernetta Alston
North Carolina House 29

Signatories,

LGBTQ Elected Officials

Senator Elect Lisa Grafstein
North Carolina Senate 13

Audra Killingsworth
Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Apex

Representative Allison A. Dahle
North Carolina House 11

Jane Campbell
Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Davidson

Representative Deb Butler
North Carolina House 18

Todd Carter
Council Member, Town of Boone

Representative Marica Morey
North Carolina House 30

Kim Roney
Council Member, City of Asheville

LaWana Mayfield

Council Member, City of Charlotte

Stormie Forte

Council Member, City of Raleigh

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara

Commissioner, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Sarah Smylie

Board member, Orange County Board of Education

Mark Kleinschmidt

Clerk of Superior Court, Orange County

Jenna Wadsworth

Vice-Chair, Wake County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Satana Deberry

District Attorney, Durham County

Elected Officials

Senator Elect Graig Meyer

North Carolina Senate 23

Senator Natasha Marcus

North Carolina Senate 41

Senator Julie Mayfield

North Carolina Senate 49

Representative Kandie D. Smith

North Carolina House 8

Representative Elect Tim Longest

North Carolina House 34

Representative Julie von Haefen

North Carolina House 36

Representative Elect Renee A. Price

North Carolina House 50

Representative Pricey Harrison

North Carolina House 61

Representative Elect Diamond Staton-Williams

North Carolina House 73

Representative Carolyn G. Logan

North Carolina House 101

Representative Tricia Cotham

North Carolina House 112

Representative Caleb Rudow

North Carolina House 114

Representative-Elect Lindsey Prather

North Carolina House 115

Pam Hemminger

Mayor, Town of Chapel Hill

Jennifer (Jenn) Weaver

Mayor, Town of Hillsborough

Elaine M. O'Neal

Mayor, City of Durham

Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin

Mayor, City of Raleigh

Edie Tugman

Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Boone

J. Dalton George

Council Member, Town of Boone

Susan Romaine

Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Carrboro

Barbara Foushee

Council Member, Town of Carrboro

Danny Nowell
Council Member, Town of Carrboro

Carissa Johnson
Council Member, Town of Cary

Amy Ryan
Council Member, Town of Chapel Hill

Paris Miller-Foushee
Council Member, Town of Chapel Hill

Mark Bell
Commissioner, Town of Hillsborough

Kathleen Ferguson
Commissioner, Town of Hillsborough

Lance Munger
Commissioner, Town of Huntersville

Braxton Winston II
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Charlotte

Renee Johnson
Council Member, City of Charlotte

Victoria Watlington
Council Member, City of Charlotte

Malcolm Graham
Council Member, City of Charlotte

Dimple Ajmera
Council Member, City of Charlotte

Javiera Caballero
Council Member, City of Durham

Jane Harrison
Council Member, City of Raleigh

Wendy Jacobs
Vice-Chair, Durham County Board of Commissioners

Heidi Carter
Commissioner, Durham County Board of Commissioners

Nida Allam
Commissioner, Durham County Board of Commissioners

Mary Beth Murphy
Commissioner, Guilford County Board of Commissioners

Susan Rodriguez-McDowell
Commissioner, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners

Mark D. Jerrell
Commissioner, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners

Laura Meier
Commissioner, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners

Arthur Griffin, Jr.
Commissioner, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners

Jamezetta R Bedford
Chair, Orange County Board of Commissioners

Sally Greene
Commissioner, Orange County Board of Commissioners

Cheryl Stallings
Commissioner, Wake County Board of Commissioners

Rani Dasi
Chair, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education

George Griffin
Vice Chair, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education

Mike Sharp

Board Member, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City
Schools Board of Education

Bettina Umstead

Chair, Durham Public Schools Board of
Education

Natalie Beyer

Board Member, Durham Public Schools Board of
Education

Millicent Rogers

Board Member, Durham Public Schools Board of
Education

Carrie B Doyle

Board Member, Orange County Schools Board
of Education

Sam Hershey

Board Member, Wake County Board of
Education

Lynn Edmonds

Board Member, Wake County Board of
Education

Tyler Swanson

Board Member, Wake County Board of
Education

Tammy Brunner

Register of Deeds, Wake County

Community Partners

Equality North Carolina

RAIN, Inc.

Latino Commission on AIDS

Campaign for Southern Equality

El Pueblo

Carolina Migrant Network

Free Mom Hugs High Country Chapter

Watauga Arts Council

Community Worx

Western Youth Network

El Centro Hispano

Sandhills PRIDE

Combat Sexual Assault

SYCC LGBTQ Resource Center

The Freedom Center for Social Justice

Circle of Love Movement

Education Justice Alliance

Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Democracy NC

Action NC

La Fuerza NC

Carolina Jews for Justice

**Fayetteville Police Accountability
Community Taskforce**

NC Gender & Sexualities Alliance (NCGSA)

North Carolinians Against Gun Violence

Fayetteville Freedom For all

Center for Death Penalty Litigation

Durham Beyond Policing

Black Voters Matter Fund

**Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of
North Carolina**

A Better Chance A Better Community (ABC2)

LGBTQ Chapter APRI

Fayetteville PRIDE

Time Out Youth

Down Home North Carolina

Siembra NC

Friends of the Earth

Union County Pride

Pro-Choice North Carolina

Apex Pride

Common Cause North Carolina

Highlander Research and Education Center

Muslim Women For

Women Leading 4 Wellness and Justice

NC Climate Justice Collective

NC Counts Coalition

LGBT Center of Raleigh

Diamante Arts and Culture Center

LGBTQ+ Hearts Place

LGBT Center of Raleigh