



Issues Alert

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NCTE
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**Now visit us on the web
at www.nctequality.org**

Upcoming Trans Movement Meetings

Omaha, NE

January 23

Contact NCTE for More Info

Lincoln, NE

January 25

Contact NCTE for More Info

Kansas City, MO

January 27

Spirit of Hope MCC
3801 Wyandotte
7:00pm-9:00pm

Columbia, MO

January 28

7:00pm-9:00pm

Contact NCTE for More Info

St. Louis, MO

January 29

MCC of Greater St. Louis
5000 Washington Place
7:00pm-9:00pm

Please call 202.639.6332 for
more information about these
meetings.



**Want to be Added to
NCTE's Mailing List?**



**Know Someone Who
Should be Added?**

Contact

cdempsey@nctequality.org to
be added to our mailing list

Year In Review

This has been a watershed year, not just for NCTE, but for transgender civil rights. We've seen incredible progress, but also undue helpings of tragedy and much caution for the future.

The percentage of people in the U.S. who live in jurisdictions with explicit protections for gender identity and/or expression doubled for the second year in a row to over 24%. For the first time, two states (NM and CA) added statewide protections for us in the same year. Additionally, ten municipalities from San Diego, CA to Scranton, PA added protections.

Governors of two states (KY and PA) issued executive orders protecting transgender people who work for state governments. On the other hand, in two states (AZ and MI), LGBT activists who had worked with their governors for similar orders were surprised and disappointed when gender identity and expression were cut out at the last minute leaving transgender state employees vulnerable to discrimination.

Hate crimes laws protecting people based on gender identity passed in Hawai'i and New Mexico, bringing to seven the number of states that protect us from hate crimes.

On the streets though, transgender people continued to be brutalized and murdered this year. At least seventeen transgender people in the United States were murdered and countless others were attacked. On November 20th of this year, the fifth annual Day of Remembrance (DOR) was commemorated in more cities across the country and around the world than ever before. DOR events continue to grow in significance and participation, drawing attention to this too often invisible massacre of transgender people.

In Washington, a unified lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community came together to ask Congress to support federal anti-discrimination and hate crimes legislation that would protect people based on both sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Over twenty national LGBT groups and thirty statewide and regional groups joined in this request. And while both the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (LLEEA) were introduced without explicit coverage for us, significant advances were made in both Congressional education and in collaboration with allies. And, the newly united LGBT community has come together in recent months to begin to draft a new, more inclusive anti-discrimination bill that would protect all LGBT people.

No review of 2003 would be complete without mention of three important court cases. Specific to transgender people and our rights, Michael Kantaras a female-to-male transsexual won his Florida custody case when a judge ruled him to be legally male. The U.S. Supreme Court's Lawrence decision striking down sodomy laws and the Goodridge marriage case in Massachusetts have also directly affected transgender people as has the continuing extremist right backlash.

Also this year the International Olympic Committee recognized that post-operative transsexuals could compete in the Olympics, while, on the other hand, the Catholic Church decreed that sex change is not possible.

Finally, in 2003, NCTE opened the first Washington, DC offices of a national transgender organization. As you can read on the following page, we are already having an impact. We are proud to be a small part of such a vibrant, growing grassroots movement in which thousands of people around the country are doing the education, and advocacy necessary for our eventual success as a civil rights movement.

Despite all of our mutual success, though, we can still all see and feel the violence, the discrimination, the fear, and the disrespect that so many transgender people face every day. We promise to keep working here in Washington to do our part, to keep fighting for equality, safety and justice for transgender people.

Support NCTE

Founded in 2003, NCTE is a social justice organization working to make all Americans safe from discrimination and violence. NCTE provides a national voice on fairness and equality for transgender and other gender different people in Washington and provides resources and assistance to empower and strengthen localized efforts around the country.

In less than a year we have taken many first steps in working towards transgender equality. Please read about these accomplishments in the adjoining section.

With your support, NCTE is working hard in Washington and around the country demanding equal rights for all people regardless of gender identity or expression.

There are many ways for you to participate in the winning of transgender civil rights: everyone has a contribution to make. NCTE is based on the participation and support of people around the country, and with this support NCTE can continue to work in Washington for transgender people, and continue to support the efforts of local and state activists around the country.

This is your movement and any investment, however small or large is important, needed, effective and honored.

Please contact NCTE at 202.639.6331 or mkeisling@nctequality.org to donate today!

NCTE First Year Accomplishments

- Opened the first office in Washington, DC for a national transgender organization.
- Grew to a fulltime staff of two (plus interns).
Executive Director: Mara Keisling
Field Director: Caeden Dempsey
- Held transgender community meetings in thirteen cities: (Tucson, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Fort Worth, Dallas, Boston, Washington DC, Salt Lake City, Pittsburgh, Miami, Seattle, and Portland, OR). More meetings planned.
- Participating in advocacy coalitions around the full range of transgender issues.
- Initiating two transgender working groups around corporate policies and talked to conservative communities of faith.
- Participating in drafting new transgender-inclusive federal anti-discrimination legislation.
- Co-sponsor Quarterly Update Calls for transgender activists.
- Spoken or presented at 12 conferences including NOW and International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.
- Spoken to or presented to over 5,000 people so far this year.
- Met or facilitated meetings with over 70 members of Congress.
- Participated in a presentation to 13 United State Senators on LGBT issues.
- Co-presented transgender health issues to six presidential campaigns.
- Participating in several DC policy coalitions
- Trained or met with executive directors and/or staff of most national LGBT organizations.
- Providing technical assistance and/or strategic advice to numerous state and local activists.
- Met with representatives of five large corporations regarding anti-discrimination policies.
- Responded to in excess of fifty media inquiries on a range of transgender issues.

NCTE proudly supports TAVA and the First Transgender Veterans March to the Wall

The Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) is organizing the first Transgender Veterans March to the Wall. Transgender veterans and their allies from around the country will gather in DC on May 1, 2004 for this historic event.

Not only will this march allow transgender veterans to come together and reflect upon their experiences, but it will also bring attention to their issues—issues that have been continually overlooked by the government and public.

Tentative Activities for the weekend include:

- March to the Vietnam Memorial
- Tour of Iwo Jima Memorial
- Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery
- Farewell to Arms Dinner

(these activities are subject to change)

Go to www.tavausa.org for updated information about this event.