

URGENT ACTION

Stop attacks on trans people's rights

The Trump administration has relentlessly attacked transgender people's basic freedoms. Now authorities are proposing changes to official rules that will deny accurate passports to trans, intersex, and non-binary people by requiring their gender to be recorded as the sex they were assigned at birth. Banning accurate identifications and forcing trans, intersex and non-binary people to out themselves whenever they show an identification will push them out of public life and expose them to discrimination and violence. The administration must reject this policy change and ensure transgender, intersex and non-binary people have equal rights and treatment under the law.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER (IT IS MOST IMPACTFUL TO USE AS MUCH OF YOUR OWN WORDS AS POSSIBLE)

[US State Department public comments website](#)

Website: bit.ly/leavecomment4rights

*I urge you to reject this proposed policy change that threatens the rights of transgender, intersex and non-binary people in the United States of America. President Trump issued an executive order attempting to erase the existence of trans, intersex, and nonbinary people, and denying them equal rights and treatment under the law. But trans, intersex and non-binary people are our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers, and our family members. I do not support this discrimination. **I urge you to reject this policy change.***

All of us, including transgender, intersex and non-binary people, need accurate and consistent identity documents that reflect who we are. That's what identification documents are for. These documents allow us to travel, start new jobs, open bank accounts, and enroll in school.

Every citizen deserves a U.S. passport that matches who they are to ensure they can safely travel with dignity and safety, obtain employment, interact with law enforcement, and go about their daily lives without fear of harassment, undue scrutiny, and discrimination.

It is a burden on passport applicants to be asked for evidence of sex assigned at birth, and it is a waste of government time and resources to require State Department employees to research this information. Such measures amount to a violation of right to privacy.

This new policy targets an already marginalized population of the United States and denies them identification documents they need to safely travel and live their lives.

I urge you to reject this policy change – do not take away the rights of trans, intersex, and non-binary citizens to obtain a passport that reflects who they are, a right they've had in the United States for over 30 years.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since Day 1, the Trump administration has launched a series of attacks against transgender people across the country—these attacks have taken the form of [Executive Orders](#), administrative action, violent and dehumanizing rhetoric, and more.

The administration has now moved to officially change State Department rules and deny accurate passports to trans, intersex and non-binary people. The State Department previously permitted all people to obtain passports with sex designations that reflected their gender identity. This included permitting individuals to use the male or female sex designation that reflected their gender identity and an “X” designation on passports available to individuals who do not identify as female or male or who did not want their sex specified on their passport.

There have been [reports](#) of the State Department suspending the processing of passport applications that seek to change the sex designation on a person’s passport or that selected an “X” sex designation. Now, the U.S. State Department is proposing three new policies that would make it impossible for trans people to have passports that reflect their gender identity. The first proposed change ([DS-11](#)) affects new passport applications and would replace the term “gender” with “sex”, defining it strictly as biological and assigned at birth. This means that trans people applying for a first-time passport would no longer be able to have an ID that aligns with their lived identity. The second proposed change ([DS-82](#)) affects passport renewals and would replace the term “gender” with “sex”. This means that trans folks who already have a passport reflecting their gender identity would no longer be able to renew it with that marker. The third proposed change ([DS-5504](#)) affects corrections to passports within one year of issue. This means that trans folks who need to correct their passports within one year of issuance would be forced to adhere to the new policy. This is part of the administration’s broad attempts to erase transgender people and deny them equal rights under the law.

Everyone needs accurate and consistent identity documents, including passports, that reflect who we are. These policies are part of a broader attempt to erase transgender and non-binary people. Without a passport or any government issued ID that reflects who they actually are, transgender and non-binary people may struggle with simple activities like opening a bank account, going to concerts, checking into a hotel, enrolling in school, traveling through airports, and more. Moreover, these policies will force trans people to out themselves whenever they show an ID which will push trans people out of public life and place them at risk of potential harassment, discrimination, and even violence.

The U.S. State Department has opened a public comment period on the proposed rules changes on passport applications. We have a chance to tell the government that these attacks will not be tolerated.

- Comments on DS-11 can be received until **17 March 2025** at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02648/30-day-notice-of-proposed-information-collection-application-for-a-us-passport?utm_campaign=subscription+mailing+list&utm_medium=email&utm_source=federalregister.gov
- Comments on DS-82 can be received until **20 March 2025** at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/18/2025-02697/30-day-notice-of-proposed-information-collection-us-passport-renewal-application-for-eligible?utm_campaign=subscription+mailing+list&utm_medium=email&utm_source=federalregister.gov
- Comments on DS-5504 can be received until **20 March 2025** at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/18/2025-02696/30-day-notice-of-proposed-information-collection-application-for-a-us-passport-for-eligible?utm_campaign=subscription+mailing+list&utm_medium=email&utm_source=federalregister.gov#

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 17 and 20 March 2025 (see guidance)
Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: transgender people (various pronouns)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: N/A