

JUSTICE FOR TRANS YOUTH IN TEXAS

For The Gworls strongly and loudly stands against the direct attack on transgender youth and the vile criminalization of families of transgender youth by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton. We fervently stand with the transgender youth of Texas and around the globe.

For The Gworls (FTG) was founded and is run by Black transgender people who know how much gender affirmative surgery activates the lives and wellness of trans children and adults.

Our intention from the birth of FTG was, and still is, to connect Black trans people from all over the world who have a shared desire for visibility and justice to transform our communities. We also work to eliminate barriers we face to well-being, including obstacles to gender affirmative surgeries and medical care. The impetus for that commitment is the rampant and deliberate violence inflicted on trans people by the government and others.

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FOR THE GWORLS STANDS WITH THE TRANS YOUTH IN TEXAS

Asanni Armon, Founder of For The Gworls explains, *“Trans and gender-nonconforming people are already incredibly vulnerable. This kind of declaration only paves the way for schools, employers, and other social institutions to legally discriminate against trans, nonbinary, and intersex people on the basis of a warped definition of gender.”* She adds, *“We can no longer sit on the sidelines and allow the government to blatantly discriminate against some of the most marginalized people in our society.”*

Co-founder of For The Gworls, Ahmad Saeed adds, *“Anti-transgender legislation only exacerbates existing health disparities, facilitates risky health behaviors, and leads to preventable deaths in transgender youth. In 2022, we should be expanding gender-affirming care, not limiting it.”*

For The Gworls wants every transgender person in Texas to know that: You matter, You exist, and You deserve better.

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GENDER AFFIRMATIVE SURGERIES AND MEDICAL CARE SAVES LIVES

Research from *JAMA Surgery*¹ found that transgender people who received one or more gender-affirming surgical procedures had a 42% reduction in the odds of experiencing post-month psychological distress, a 35% reduction in the odds of past-year tobacco smoking, and a 44% reduction in the odds of past-year suicidal ideation.

We publicly condemn Texas Gov. Greg Abbott after calling² gender-transitioning or affirming procedures "child abuse," and getting an official declaration from state Attorney General Ken Paxton.³ The attorney general and state governor are using legislation to perpetuate transphobia, which will, in turn, harm transgender youth in Texas.

¹ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamasurgery/article-abstract/2779429>

² <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-directs-dfps-to-investigate-gender-transitioning-procedures-as-child-abuse>

³ <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-declares-so-called-sex-change-procedures-children-and-prescription-puberty-blockers-be>

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