

TRANSGENDER PEOPLE



have the **RIGHT** to **EQUAL TREATMENT** under the **LAW**

All people have the right to be treated equally under the law and to be free from arbitrary decisions by the government and its agents. Everyone deserves equal access to the processes of justice and the protections offered by law enforcement. People should live free from the terror of torture and physical coercion by their governments. And all people should be given a fair and equitable trial if they have been accused of wrong doing. These are among the most fundamental human rights statements from the international community.

Transgender people have been singled out for unfair treatment at times. Our genders have been put on trial, rather than the facts of the case in question. Police officers have misused or even fabricated laws that crossdressing is illegal or inappropriately decided that an alternative gender expression is a sign of mental illness. Courts have used gender identity or expression as a reason to deny parents access to their own children. Transgender people of color have experienced this unfair treatment by the legal system to an even greater degree because of the racism they encounter.

All people, of all identities and expressions, deserve to be treated equally under the law. Transgender people share in the same rights to a fair trial, to protection from harm and to justice as all others in the land.

See *United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 7-15*

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30