



The National Center for Transgender Equality is the nation's leading social justice advocacy organization winning life-saving change for transgender people.

OUR TEAM



NCTE was founded in 2003 by transgender activists who recognized the urgent need for policy change to advance transgender equality. With a committed board of directors, a volunteer staff of one, and donated office space, we set out to accomplish what no one had yet done: provide a powerful transgender advocacy presence in Washington, DC.

Today, NCTE has grown to a staff of ten and works at the local, state, and federal level to change laws, policies and society.



Advances Federal Policy

NCTE has won dozens of federal policy changes, including: access to healthcare, updating gender designations on passports and Social Security records, reducing assault in prisons, and nondiscrimination in employment, housing, and schools.



Educates Policymakers

As a center of expertise, NCTE educates members of Congress, the White House, federal agencies, corporations, and social justice groups. NCTE regularly hosts Trans Lobby Day where people from throughout the country can directly tell their stories to Congress.



“Having identity documents that accurately reflect who people are is so important—for integrating into society, for getting jobs, for enrolling in school.”

Rachel See



Wins Federal Legislation

NCTE is the leading trans voice in Congress, winning the addition of transgender protections into the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act before it passed in 2009 and into the Violence Against Women Act when it was updated in 2013.



Supports State and Local Organizations and Advocates

NCTE provides legal and policy guidance to advance policy wins at the local and state level.



Raises Trans Voices and Experiences


NCTE is conducting a follow-up to our groundbreaking 2011 National Transgender Discrimination Survey which has been cited **over 10,000 times** in the media. NCTE is also a leader ensuring that the voices of transgender people and transgender people of color are represented in the national press.



Networks and Improves Free Legal Services Nationwide

NCTE established the Trans Legal Services Network to connect local organizations so they can exchange information and share best practices.

Photo credit: Tyler Grigsby

A man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt, stands outdoors. The background is a warm-toned, slightly blurred city street with trees and buildings. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing a quote in white text.

“ They have their finger on the pulse of the community and they know what people are experiencing on the ground, and we relied on them extensively for policy assistance.”

*Gautam Raghavan,
Former White House LGBT Liaison*



Shapes National Conversations

NCTE leads the national discussion about transgender equality and culture change.



Advances Racial and Economic Justice

NCTE recognizes the disproportionate discrimination faced by trans people of color and those with low or no income and works in solidarity with other social justice movements.



Empowers Trans People

NCTE has created a clearinghouse of “Know Your Rights” resources about healthcare, employment, ID documents, and other laws and policies.



“When I was transitioning and was really scared, just knowing that there was a national organization making sure I’m protected made me feel hopeful about the rest of my life.”

Andrea Bowen



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