

Local Resource: Transformations KC



Transformations is a local organization supporting trans communities of color and youth in the Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri regions. As an organization, it is trans women of color led and centered and has built trainings and programs that explicitly focus on affirming Black and Brown trans youth and femmes of color.

These include:

-Liberation camp: A week-long event organized at a safe retreat space in the Ozarks that is focused on trans-BIPOC leaders. This event focuses on leadership and skill-building workshops, intergenerational conversations, mentorship models, and breakout sessions for those who attend.

The Dolls are Thriving: A national summit on trans women of color in leadership, advocacy, and mentorship with both virtual and in-person workshops and panel discussions.

Hey, Sis: A virtual sisterhood and mentorship program with trans women of color, trans youth, and their support systems.

In addition to these programs, Transformations also has microgrants to support TGNC youth with housing stability, medical costs, community programs, and educational/leadership programs. They have recently launched a tour across these three states to raise awareness about anti-trans bills and elevate the voices of trans girls and women of color.

Georgina Beyer



She/Her

Georgina Beyer was a New Zealand (Indigenous: Aotearoa) labour party politician. She was elected the mayor of Carterton in 1995, making her the world's first openly transgender mayor. In 1999, she became the world's first transgender member of parliament. Beyer was also Māori, the indigenous Polynesian people of Aotearoa, and fought tirelessly for Māori rights. Prior to her political career, Beyer worked as an actor, drag queen, singer, and sex worker. After experiencing sexual assault and feeling unable to seek help from the police, she began considering a political career. Beyer supported progressive policies, including sex work law reform, civil unions, anti-discrimination, and Māori rights. Georgina Beyer retired from parliament in 2007, as she no longer aligned with her party over Māori land rights. She recently passed in March 2023 at the age of 65.

Gilbert Baker Pride Flag



The original Pride flag, the Gilbert Pride Flag

Gilbert Baker, an artist, activist, and out-gay former military servicemember, developed it in 1977. Harvey Milk, a legendary advocate for LGBTQ rights, asked Baker to design a flag for the queer community. Baker came up with a rainbow flag with eight different colors.

Baker designed a rainbow flag to represent LGBTQ people, drawing inspiration from the well-known song "Over the Rainbow" from the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*. The flag's colors each have a distinct meaning.

- Hot Pink symbolizes sex
- Red equals life
- Orange symbolizes healing
- Yellow stands for sunlight
- Green represents nature
- Turquoise equals magic & art
- Indigo stands for serenity
- Violet represents the spirit of LGBTQ people

6-Color Pride Flag



One of the most well-known and frequently used LGBT flags in history is the 6-Color Pride Flag. Red, orange, yellow, green, indigo, and violet are all present on this flag.

Due to the difficulty in locating the fabric, hot pink was not used to make these flags. Following the murder of gay San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk on November 27, 1978, demand for the flag began to increase.

The flag was once more altered in 1979. Gilbert Baker decided to divide the theme in half with an equal amount of stripes surrounding each lamp pole to cover the streetlamps along the parade route with hundreds of rainbow banners. He removed the turquoise stripe from the seven-stripe flag to accomplish this result. The outcome was the six-stripe version of the flag, which would later become the norm for manufacturing.

Philadelphia Pride Flag



The Philadelphia Pride Flag was created in response to the LGBTQ+ community's call for more inclusivity. The flag was created by a tiny Philadelphia-based PR firm and was unveiled in 2017 as part of the "More Color, More Pride" Campaign.

The classic pride flag was given black and brown stripes to represent people of color, who historically weren't always represented in the mainstream gay rights movement.

At the 2018 Met Gala, American actress Lena Waithe donned the Philadelphia Pride Flag as a cape. She is a strong proponent of African American people in the entertainment sector, and as she increased the flag's prominence, its popularity skyrocketed.

Transgender Flag

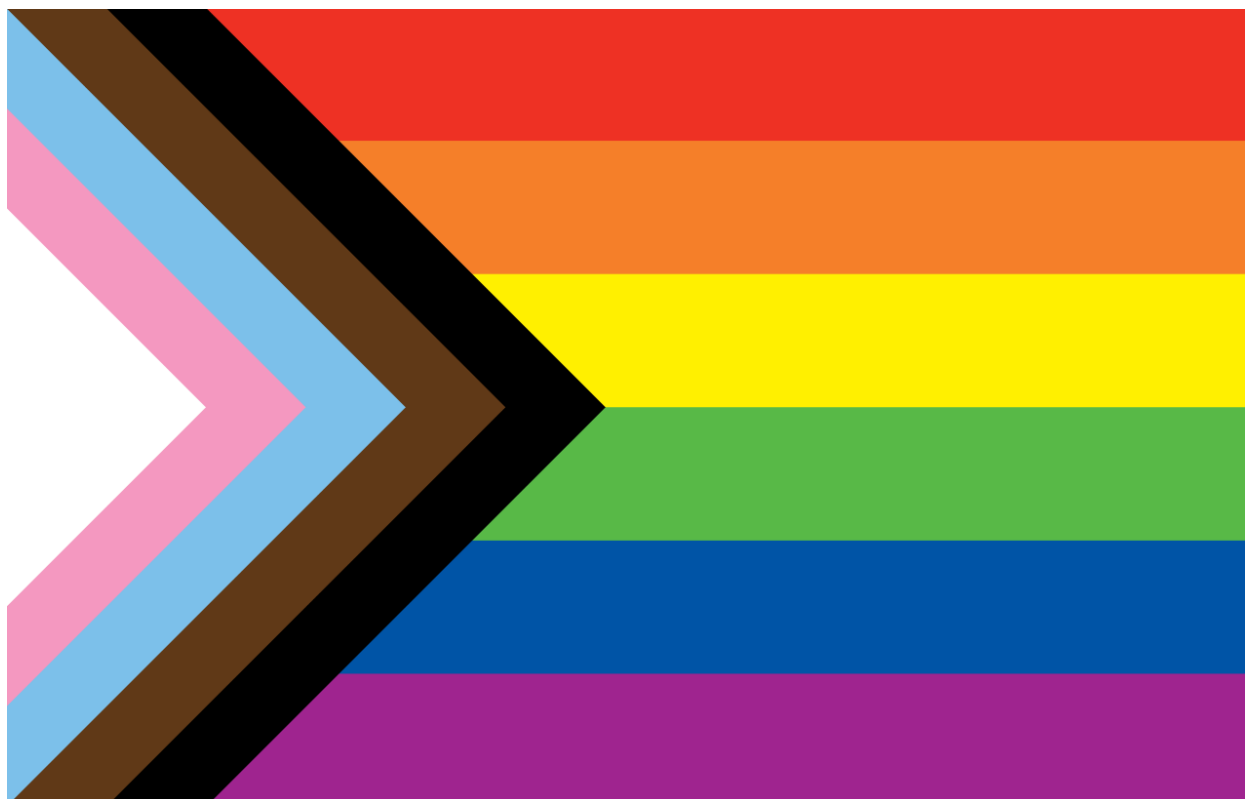


A transgender woman named Monica Helms first designed the transgender flag in 1999. Due to their historical associations with baby boys and girls, respectively, light blue and pink are prominent. The color white stands for transgender people, intersex people, and people who don't identify with any particular gender.

People who identify as transgender do not necessarily fit into the sex they were assigned at birth. Amnesty International estimates that 1.5 million transgender people are living in the European Union, or 0.3% of the total population. Additionally, there are 1.4 million or around 0.5% of all adults in the United States who identify as transgender.

Trans individuals of color are significantly impacted by violence against the queer community. The Transgender Flag is crucial! For the trans community to be visible without fear, it needs support and resources.

Progress Pride Flag



The Progress Pride Flag combines several of these flags into one because it reflects how the LGBTQ+ community and society as a whole are constantly growing. Thankfully, it has been updated to focus more on "inclusion and progression." Our community is such a vast melting pot of many types of individuals, and this is what makes us so exceptional, so different, and so strong.

The current pride flag now has stripes to symbolize those who identify as transgender, gender nonconforming (GNC), and/or undefined, as well as stripes to represent the experiences of people of color.

The flag designed by Daniel Quasar incorporates the trans flag's colors and black and brown stripes from the 2017 Philadelphia Pride Flag, which aimed to better represent the gay and trans identities of people of color. The two stripes also stand for those with HIV/AIDS, those who have died from the disease, and the ongoing stigma associated with the disease.

Nonbinary Flag



In order to reflect persons whose gender identity does not fit into the conventional male/female dichotomy, Kye Rowan developed the Nonbinary Pride Flag in 2014. Yellow, white, purple, and black make up the nonbinary flag. Each of the colors represents a specific subgroup of nonbinary persons.

Yellow denotes something unique or individuals who identify as neither male nor female in the cisgender binary. A person whose gender identity corresponds to the sex they were assigned at birth is said to be cisgender. Multi-gendered humans are symbolized by the color white, which is created by blending all other hues. People who identify as a fusion of the male and female genders are represented by the color purple, which is similar to the lavender in the genderqueer flag.

Last but not least, black (the absence of color) represents agender people who believe they are neither male nor female.

Some non-binary/genderqueer individuals use gender-neutral pronouns. The most frequent usage is for "they," "their," and "them" in the singular.

Anti-Trans Laws in MO and KS



As you may know, there has been a significant increase in bills proposed and passed in the past couple of years that are targeted at transgender people. These laws have been enacted nationwide, including some proposed and passed in Kansas and Missouri. While many laws existed prior to this legislative push that made these states less friendly than others to transgender and other queer people, there are additionally new legislative pieces that further impact the safety and quality of life of transgender people in these two states.

Recently, in KS, the legislature passed a transgender "bathroom ban" - this was overturned after Gov. Laure Kelly vetoed this bill originally. This bill is set to go into effect next week, in July, and bars transgender and intersex women from restrooms, locker rooms, rape crisis centers, and other women-specific spaces. It defines a woman as someone who has the "ability to produce eggs for reproduction," which many have identified as excluding not only trans and intersex women but

any cis women who are post-menopause, post-hysterectomy/oophorectomy, or have fertility issues. In addition to this, it classifies any intersex people and others with developmental differences as being disabled. Since 2019, Kansans have had the ability to change their gender marker on various forms of identification, including driver's licenses, social security cards, and birth certificates. However, KS AG Kris Kobach has additionally filed a request to bar these gender marker changes in the future. He stated that the state's permanent records of birth certificates and driver's licenses would reflect the sex assigned at birth, regardless of whether a person has already filed to change their gender.

Earlier in June, Gov. Mike Parson signed two bills into law targeting the rights of transgender people in the state. These included a ban on gender-affirming care for minors and a sports ban for trans women and girls. Under the ban for gender-affirming care, puberty blockers and hormone therapies are banned until August 2027. Gender-affirming surgery is also banned for minors, despite the instances of surgery occurring for folks under 18 being extremely rare (typically only utilized as a life-saving measure). Any healthcare provider who violates this law, which takes effect 8/28/23, will have their license revoked. Parsons' sports ban prohibits any public or private school, including colleges, from allowing students to participate in athletic competitions on any team that does not match their sex assigned at birth. A violation of this law will result in the institution being barred from receiving any state aid.

Keep in mind that the legal landscape related to legislation targeting transgender people tends to change quickly and often. Further, they are constantly challenged in court, and recently, there have been some victories - the emergency order placed by the MO-AG was dropped, and a federal judge recently blocked Arkansas' ban on gender-affirming healthcare for children. However, the number of anti-trans bills that have been drafted/introduced to the legislature in the past couple of years has seen a steep increase, and unfortunately, we can likely expect more. The ACLU is a good source for keeping track of this legislation, as they are typically involved in legal cases: <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights>