

# Statement Supporting Transgender Rights

English Graduate Student Association  
Northeastern University

Considering recent threats to the dignity, humanity, and safety of transgender and intersex individuals, the English Graduate Student Association feels compelled to state that we stand in solidarity with and advocate for the rights of all transgender, intersex, and gender non-conforming people. We take this stance especially in defense of the graduate students within the English department, faculty, staff, students, and others across campus.

In 2018, transgender people faced significant backlash to increased mobility and perceived social gains. This backlash has taken the form of Massachusetts' defeated Question 3, which would have limited transgender people's access to public services; the Department of Health and Human Services' planned redefinition of gender which has potentially devastating, far-reaching consequences for transgender and intersex people; and continued attacks on transgender students, laborers, and medical patients. 26 transgender people, almost all women of color, were murdered in the United States in 2018 – the second highest number on record.

In opposition to these and all attacks against transgender, intersex, and gender-nonconforming people the EGSA:

- Recognizes the realities of gender and sex are far more complex than reductive and anti-science definitions which insist on there being only two immutable sexes.
- Recognizes the dignity of transgender, gender nonconforming, and intersex people.
- Recognizes the fantasy of immediate, obvious, uncontroversial, and transparent sex/gender legibility is in part a product of racist legacies including imperialism and African slavery.
- Denounces all rhetoric that leads to transphobic (and often anti-Black and transmisogynist) violence, especially descriptions of trans women as men, rapists, and/or deceivers.
- Affirms the right of gender self-determination and declaration.
- Demands everyone in our community use people's correct names and pronouns.
- Encourages increased accessibility of all facilities and services, especially gender neutral restrooms, gender neutral housing, and gender neutral locker rooms.
- Condemns transphobia, and those oppressions which interlock with it, including but not limited to racism, homophobia, ableism, and sexism.

Most importantly, if you are suffering or know someone who is suffering, please reach out to the members of the EGSA, loved ones, and trusted faculty. We hear you, we see you, we love you.

**ENGLISH GRADUATE  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY