

Sacred Genders, Sacred Stories:

Trans Allyship & The Church



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Ways that Everyone can Support Trans People

- ▽ **Practice** asking for pronouns (even when you think you know someone's gender identity!), remember them, and use them. Allies can normalize inclusion of trans people by cultivating the habit of asking for pronouns and using their own pronouns in introductions.
- ▽ **Have grace** with yourself and let go of the fear of "saying the wrong thing." If a trans person corrects you about their pronouns, their name, or other gendered language; thank them, adjust your language/behavior, and move on. We will too!
- ▽ **Demonstrate visible support** for trans people (and all LGBTQ+ people!) when possible. Research shows that, especially for young people, knowing just one person who is affirming and supportive of their gender and/or sexual identity can be life-saving (See GLSEN's *School Climate Survey 2017*).
- ▽ **Stay informed** about the constantly shifting political climate for trans people. The past years have been filled with unveiled hostility for many vulnerable communities- trans people not least among them. In fact, many protections secured in the early-21st century for housing and employment, education, healthcare, have been actively rolled back. Some of these are in our own backyard, such as AZ HB2706 which was recently passed by the state House of Representatives. HB 2706 directly targets transgender girls who play sports, and has the potential to negatively affect all children who play sports.

We get written off or not written at all,
labeled freakish, prickled,
rough around the edges.

We learn to thrive
in the dry humor of soil;
carry water in our bellies
to quench our own thirst.

- Amir Rabiya, from "Cactus Flower"
in *Troubling the Line: Trans and
Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics*

let ruin end here

let him find honey
where there once was a slaughter

let him enter the lion's cage
& find a field of lilacs

let this be healing
& if not let it be

- Danez Smith, from "little prayer"
in *Don't Call Us Dead*

- ▽ **Seek out** narratives written by trans people about our own experiences. In a climate both of mainstreaming trans experiences *and* targeted denial/erasure of trans existences, centering trans voices in conversations about trans life is essential. Be critical of narratives written *about* trans people *without* trans people.

Further Resources

Books

- ▽ **Transgender History: The Roots of Today's Revolution**, by Susan Stryker (2016, 2nd edition)
** note: see the introduction of Dr Stryker's book for a thorough "glossary" on common language used by trans people to describe ourselves, and a historical overview of this language*
- ▽ **Trans/Portraits: Voices from Transgender Communities**, by Jackson Wright Schultz (2015)
- ▽ **Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics**, edited by TC Tolbert and Trace Peterson (2013)
- ▽ **Nobody Passes: Rejecting the Rules of Gender and Conformity**, edited by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore (2006)
- ▽ **GENDERqUEER: Voices from Beyond the Sexual Binary**, edited by Joan Nestle, Clare Howell, and Riki Wilchins (2002)
- ▽ **Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink and Blue**, by Leslie Feinberg (1992)

Web Resources

- ▽ **Trans Student Educational Resources**, www.transstudent.org
- ▽ **Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA)**, www.sagatucson.org
- ▽ **Sylvia Rivera Law Project**, www.srlp.org
- ▽ **National Center for Transgender Equality**, www.transequality.org
- ▽ **Transgender Law Center**, www.transgenderlawcenter.org
- ▽ **Trans Day of Resilience Project**, tdor.co
- ▽ **Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)**, www.glsen.org

Visual/Film Media

- ▽ **Pose**, directed by Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk, and Steven Canals (2018–present, available on Netflix)
- ▽ **Happy Birthday, Marsha!**, directed by Tourmaline and Sasha Wortzel (2018, available at tourmalineproductions.com)
- ▽ **When We Win, We Lose: Mainstreaming and the Redistribution of Respectability**, award lecture by Dean Spade (available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMfs77hqqJM))
- ▽ **Queer Liberation: No Prisons, No Borders**, by Dean Spade, Tourmaline, CeCe McDonald, and Angélica Cházaro (2016, available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMfs77hqqJM)).
- ▽ **Our Phoenix**, choral piece written by Mari Esabel Valverde with text by Amir Rabiya (2016, available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMfs77hqqJM>).
- ▽ **MAJOR!**, directed by Annalise Ophelian (2015, available on Amazon)
- ▽ **This Is What Solidarity Looks Like**, photo series by Leslie Feinberg et al (available at lesliefeinberg.net/photos).
- ▽ **Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria**, directed by Susan Stryker and Victor Silverman (2005, available on Amazon & [Kanopy through Pima County Public Library!](http://www.kanopy.com))
- ▽ **Paris is Burning**, directed by Jennie Livingston (1991, available on Netflix)