



Center For
POLICING EQUITY

Deprioritizing enforcement of anti-abortion, anti-trans, and anti-LGBTQ+ laws

Community Toolkit

At the Center for Policing Equity (CPE), we aim to reduce the footprint of law enforcement by urging the removal of police from places where they do not belong — such as people’s health care, their pregnancies, and their gender identities. **These are areas where law enforcement can and should step back, as it traditionally has done.**

In the past two years, many states have imposed civil penalties and criminal bans on [where trans people can go](#), on [gender-affirming health care](#), on people’s [clothing](#) and [drag performances](#), and on their right to [access abortion](#). These laws threaten the health, rights, and safety of community members and do nothing to advance public safety. While we advocate and protest for the legal restoration of such rights, **law enforcement agencies can protect the people they serve by deliberately not enforcing these laws.**

Local and state governments and police do not have unlimited resources: they **do not need to deploy any time or funds to enforce laws that create victimless crimes** when they and their communities want to **prevent and investigate more serious crimes that actually affect community safety**. Enforcement of conventional gender norms and so-called sexual morality do not fit within the scope of law enforcement and are an inefficient use of limited police resources.



These laws harm vulnerable populations, and their effects are not limited to states that have passed anti-abortion, anti-trans, or anti-LGBTQ+ laws. These laws embolden bigots and extremists, who now have reason to think the law is on their side, leaving trans and queer people, pregnant people, and health care providers [even more unsafe](#). Anti-abortion, anti-trans, and anti-LGBTQ+ laws also risk [authorizing intrusive surveillance](#) of pregnant, queer, trans, and gender-expansive people. Emergency physicians have delayed and denied care in life-threatening pregnancy emergencies because they feared being prosecuted. If police and prosecutors enforce these laws, they will endanger the health, rights, and lives of the people targeted by these laws.

Local government holds the power to make decisions that affect everyone's daily lives. As constituents, **YOU hold the power** to elect leaders who represent your values, and demand local government to better protect and care for your community. **This is what you can do:**

- **Support local organizations** that serve pregnant, trans, and queer people.
- **Vote for leaders** who protect the rights of persecuted and vulnerable populations.
- **Urge police leaders to deprioritize these laws.**
- **Attend city council meetings; call, write to, and meet with your elected leaders to demand that they do not fund enforcement of these laws;** and forbid law enforcement agencies from using city funds to enforce them.
 - Leaders include your police chief, sheriff, local city council, mayor, and city manager. You can get started with legislative advocacy using [this toolkit](#).
- **Urge police and government leaders to publicly state that these laws are not a practical use of city funds.**
 - Demand your city government consult affected community members and pass policies that prevent city funding from being spent on enforcing these laws.
- **Demand that police protect and support people and communities** against violence and or harassment by those who feel emboldened by these laws.
- **Tell city government and police leaders not to investigate people's gender identities or their health care.**
- **Demand that police focus on serious violent crimes** that actually affect community safety.

A complete list of these recommendations can be found [here](#).