

P TOWNWEST™

*The mission of Ptownwest is to reconnect,
promote and create gay community*



White House Dedicates Hotline o LGBTQ Youth Affected By Anti-LGBTQ Legislation

You can now call the National Crisis Hotline and dial the number '3' to talk to a counselor who has been specifically trained to support LGBTQI+ kids.

The White House is giving LGBTQ youth a glimmer of hope despite the legislative attacks against them.

White House press secretary [Karine Jean-Pierre](#), the first openly gay White House press secretary, announced Thursday that [the White House is setting up a hotline for LGBTQ Youth](#) who have been affected by recent [anti-trans laws](#) that are being introduced and passed in states across the country.

"I know that these political attacks can really take a toll on people's mental health. So, I want to say directly to LGBTQI+ kids - you are loved just as you are, just the way you are.

And if you're feeling overwhelmed, you call 988," Jean-Pierre said during last week's White House press conference.

<https://gomag.com/article/white-house-dedicates-hotline-to-lgbtq-youth-affected-by-anti-lgbtq-legislation/>

Hillcrest Youth Center Opens its Doors to LGBTQ+ Community

After 22 years of renting, The San Diego LGBT Community Center bought a home to use as a safe place for those ages 10 to 24.

SAN DIEGO – This housewarming party was 22 years in the making. For that long, The San Diego LGBT community center rented space to help serve its youth community. With fundraisers and private and public donations, they could finally purchase the \$1.6 million home called the Hillcrest Youth Center.

"So many of us were LGBTQ youth, and we struggled thru that time," said Cara

Dessert, CEO of The San Diego LGBT Community Center.

For Cara Dessert, it's more than just a place to hang out. She talked about the hurt and fear that many teenagers in the LGBTQ+ community endure.

In the LGBTQ youth community, the [Trevor Project](#) reports 45 percent have seriously considered suicide, and 60 percent who wanted help with mental health couldn't get it.

"A space like this where youth can be themselves with other youth like them and for those in crisis get the help they need is just an incredible resource," Dessert said.

Acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community has grown, according to a [UCLA study](#), and leaders like Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins have led the way, but everyone has a story.

"I came out in a rural community. I had a love for my parents, and that made the difference. Not all kids have that," Atkins said.

With resources like a computer lab, meeting rooms, and lounge areas, the 25-hundred-square-foot property expects to serve up to a hundred a day. Since 2016, there have been more than 17,000 youth service visits at the Youth center.

The center is open Monday thru Friday from 3-7 p.m., serving different ages on different days. They hope to expand those hours in the summer but need more donations.

<https://thecentersd.org/>. Click for more details about the center.

Putin's Homophobia is Advancing LGBTQ Rights in Ukraine

Many have begun to associate anti-gay bigotry with imperial aggression.

"A brother from our community died today," read the caption on a viral [Instagram](#) post shared by a Ukrainian LGBTQ military group last week. A silhouetted image of a soldier offering a military salute to a rainbow flag paid tribute to the unnamed man, who "never had time to come out in his lifetime."

Though publicly closeted, the man was reportedly out to close friends and was known for providing anonymous interviews to the media about his experience as a queer soldier in the Ukrainian military. The news of his life being cut short without him ever being able to ever to fully celebrate his identity served as a grim reminder about the realities faced by Ukraine's LGBTQ soldiers: The same country that they are willing to take up arms to defend does not provide them the same rights as it does their straight comrades. "Let's cement the achievements of such anonymous boys and girls who gave their lives for a free Ukraine," the Instagram post continued, and "legalize the right to marry."

Ukraine became the first post-Soviet country to decriminalize homosexuality when it gained independence in 1991. But more than 30 years later, the Eastern European nation still lags on LGBTQ rights and does not provide a legal pathway for state recognition of same-sex partnerships.

Russia's war in Ukraine has brought that gap into sharp focus. Partners of LGBTQ Ukrainian soldiers who are wounded—or worse, killed—in action do not have the same rights as their married heterosexual counterparts. Hospital visits, identifying

the deceased, or collecting state benefits are all impossible for LGBTQ couples.

In March, however, equal partnership rights inched one step closer to becoming reality. That month, Ukrainian lawmaker Inna Sovsun introduced a bill to [parliament](#) that would recognize same-sex civil partnerships and grant LGBTQ civil partners the same rights as their married heterosexual counterparts.

This recent step appears to be part of a larger trend of increasing acceptance toward and rights for LGBTQ Ukrainians since Russia's full-scale invasion of the country in February 2022. Sovsun said that proposing her legislation "definitely would have taken longer" if not for the war. While the liberal lawmaker has always been a strong advocate for gender and sexuality rights, she believes the recent conflict has brought LGBTQ issues to the fore and increased the likelihood that her bill will be passed.

LGBT Charter Adopted in 60% of Scotland Secondary Schools

In Scotland, about 60 per cent of the secondary schools have adopted the 'LGBT charter' which aims to [promote acceptance](#) among teachers and students [The Herald](#) reported.

The initiative, introduced by the non profit organisation 'LGBT Youth Scotland', aims to foster acceptance among teachers and students.

The initiative has been introduced by the non profit organisation 'LGBT Youth Scotland', which claims to be the Scotland's national charity and is aimed to foster acceptance among teachers and students alike through training sessions

that challenge prejudice and promote diversity and equality.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/lgbt-charter-adopted-in-60-of-scotland-secondary-schools-why-is-it-important-101682413405427.html>

LGBT Community Pins Hopes on Supreme Court Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage in India

By [Annika Burgess](#)

Posted Mon 24 Apr 2023 at 3:08pm Monday 24 Apr 2023 at 3:08pm, updated Mon 24 Apr 2023 at 5:35pm

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-04-25/india-same-sex-marriage-legalise-supreme-court-hearing-lgbt/102245312>

GLAAD Responds to Twitter's Roll-Back of Long-Standing LGBTQ Hate Speech Policy

April 18, 2023

Contact: press@glaad.org

Earlier this Month, Twitter Covertly Removed Section of Hateful Conduct Policy Protecting Transgender People Targeted Misgendering and Deadnaming

GLAAD: "Twitter's decision to covertly roll back its longtime policy is the latest example of just how unsafe the company is for users and advertisers alike"

<https://www.glaad.org/releases/glaad-responds-twitters-roll-back-long-standing-lgbtq-hate-speech-policy>

Thousands of Catholic Nuns Issue Support for Trans People and Make call to “dismantle the systems” that Reinforce Violence Against the Community

On Transgender Day of Visibility approximately 6,000 nuns from several Catholic organizations wrote a [letter](#) “wholeheartedly” affirming the Church’s embrace of trans and nonbinary people.

Approximately, 27 organizations signed onto the letter, which says: “As members of the body of Christ, we cannot be whole without the full inclusion of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive individuals.”

<https://www.glaad.org/blog/thousands-catholic-nuns-issue-support-trans-people-and-make-call-dismantle-systems-reinforce>

Follow LGBTQ Elected Officials Across the USA

OUT FOR AMERICA

<https://outforamerica.org/?sourceid=1058235&emci=7768aa10-d3e2-ed11-8e8b-00224832eb73&emdi=8592fb6d-36e4-ed11-8e8b-00224832eb73&ceid=10775192>

Michael Denny, 80, Dies: Editor Created Outlets for Gay Literature

In a largely closeted era, he was a founder of a magazine devoted to gay and lesbian writing and an imprint devoted to L.G.B.T. fiction and nonfiction.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/25/books/michael-denny-dead.html>

“Writing Our Own Dictionary”

From the It Gets Better Project

Hear first-hand from LGBTQ+ people about what their various labels and identities mean to them, in their everyday lives. Join us for the four-part web series, “Writing Our Own Dictionary.” All episodes available to view NOW!

<https://itgetsbetter.org/writing-our-own-dictionary/>

IT GETS BETTER! Take a look.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BThRZbCs-p8>

President Erdogan Slams LGBT Community, Accuses Opposition of Undermining the Family

April 25, 2023

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has accused presidential candidate Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu and opposition parties of being pro-LGBT and undermining the family, local media reported.

<https://stockholmcf.org/president-erdogan-slams-lgbt-community-accuses-opposition-of-undermining-the-family/>

San Francisco Repealing Boycott of Anti LGBT States and California May do the Same

San Francisco is repealing a ban on city-funded travel to 30 states that it says restricted abortion, voting and LGBTQ rights.

Posted Thu, Apr 27, 2023 at 10:36 am PT | Updated Thu, Apr 27, 2023 at 10:41 am PT

San Francisco is repealing a ban on city-funded travel to 30 states that it says restrict abortion, voting and LGBTQ rights after determining the boycott is doing more harm than good.

<https://patch.com/california/san-francisco/san-francisco-repealing-boycott-anti-lgbt-states-california-may-do-same>

