

The following statement was issued by Equality NC:

At Equality North Carolina, we have a policy of not uplifting or drawing more attention to damaging rhetoric, because we know it adds to a culture that harms the most vulnerable in our LGBTQ+ community. Unfortunately, over the weekend before Coming Out Day and during Anti-Bullying Month and LGBTQ History Month, national news picked up these types of statements from our own state's lieutenant governor. These types of statements have negative, far-reaching impacts.

In the past year, 42% of LGBTQ+ youth have seriously contemplated suicide; four Black trans women have been murdered in the state, three in Charlotte, making it the second most deadly city in the United States for trans people, and the North Carolina General Assembly attempted to pass three bills directly attacking LGBTQ youth, especially transgender youth.

We want to make it clear to our community: you are part of a legacy of powerful people with a history and culture worthy of your pride. You are not objects of disdain or sympathy, but rather we are all living humans with inherent worth and dignity. We are proud to be in community with you.

It is our responsibility to ensure the Lt. Governor does not get what he wants: more fame for his hateful rhetoric. That's why you will see us taking the power back from his words, as has been our longstanding tradition as queer people. The bullies will not win. We will work to elect leaders who have the material interest of LGBTQ+ people in mind, who uplift our voices and experiences, and who will work with us to pass policies addressing the disparities our community faces. We need state and federal nondiscrimination protections, now!

In the meantime, we call on our state leadership to stop using our schools as battlegrounds and pass a budget that reflects how much we value our public schools and teachers.

At Equality North Carolina, we will continue to build LGBTQ+ power through advocacy, education, and uplifting the stories of queer and trans North Carolinians in pursuit of racial and social justice.

Equality NC Condemns Lt. Governor's Remarks On Transgender and Homosexuality and Refuses to Elevate

By Administrator

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