



Senate Resolution No. 2024/2025 - 015

Resolution to Foster an Inclusive Environment: Protecting Queer/Trans Rights and Ensuring Hate Speech Doesn't Promote Unsafe Environments

Primary Sponsor

Ayden Reading (ASUC Senator) Carlos González (Latine and QT+ Endorsed ASUC Senator)

Cosponsors

Tony Ordoukhanian (ASUC Transfer Community Endorsed Senator) China Duff (ASUC Environmental Community Endorsed Senator) Ellen Tong (ASUC Senator) Ethan Hu (ASUC Senator), Abigail Verino (Pilipinx & Southeast Asian Community Senator), Allyson Alavez (Internal Development Facilitator of Latine Caucus), Ripley Uranga-Matthews (Our Monologues Production Team; Gender Equity Resource Center Intern; T-Cal President), Leticia Alvarado-Franco (ASUC Cultural Diversity Affairs Committee Director), Zoe Flemate (Formula Electric at Berkeley Operations Lead; Cal Sailing Member), Addison Pickrell (ASUC Disabled Students Commission Research/Policy Co-Lead), Greta Mixon (Formula Electric at Berkeley Business and Operations Division Lead), Anita Campo (Chancellor's Advisory Committee on LGBTQ+ Communities at Cal Member) Dante Drolet (Cal Sailing Team TIDE Rep), Ethan Lisle (Cal Sailing President), Michael McCulloch (Past Formula Electric at Berkeley President, Cal Sailing Team Member), Sandra Ding (Lavender Alliance at Berkeley President), Hannah Cairo, Jasmine Angle, Julie Menz, Benjamin Magaña (ASUC Senator Carlos LGBTQIA+ Affairs Executive Director), Owen Thompson (BERKE1337 President), Riley Hayes (T-Cal Facilitator) Mario Telo' (Professor of Rhetoric), Alex Suggs, Yichen Li (Spectrum: Autism at Cal board member), J Bui (Disability Cultural Center Program Assistant), Adrita Chakraborty (Formula Electric at Berkeley Battery Lead), Medina Danish (MEMSSA endorsed ASUC Senator), Annabel Wang (East Asian Community ASUC Senator), Kaila Dufour (ASUC Senator), Max Rodman (ASUC Senator), TJ McGee (Office of ASUC Senator Carlos Gonzalez's Office LGBTQ+ Affairs), Jonathan Ngai (ASUC Senator), Shrinidi Gopal (ASUC President), Maitri Halappa (South Asian Community Endorsed ASUC Senator), Isabel Prasad (Chief of Staff of the ASUC President), Shaya Keyvanfar (ASUC Senator), Jonathan Franco (Latine Community Endorsed ASUC Senator), Isha Chander (ASUC Senator) My-Tien Tran (Office of ASUC Senator Ayden's LGBTQIA+ Executive Director) Alex Green (Office of ASUC Senator Ayden's LGBTQIA+ Director) Owen Knapper Jr (ASUC Senator) Jayla Jerro (Office of ASUC Senator Ayden's Executive Chief of Staff), Jonathan L (Officers of Aro/Ace Space at Berkeley, Board Games at Berkeley, Gaming at Berkeley, Kink Club at Berkeley, and Valve at Berkeley), Angeni Lieben (Transgender Student Wellness Initiative Intern), Carbon Wolf (Furries at Berkeley President), Nhi Huynh (Mio Mag), Tawny Hoang (Mio Mag)

WHEREAS, UC Berkeley is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for all students, regardless of gender identity or expression; and,

WHEREAS, recent reports indicate a troubling increase in hate speech and discriminatory behavior directed toward transgender and gender non-conforming individuals on campus; and,

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2024, Berkeley College Republicans released a flier and promoted an event titled "ERADICATE TRANSGENDERISM" which consisted of rhetoric regarding hate towards this marginalized community as they held a watch party of Michael Knowles to spread hate speech upon the Transgender community; and,

WHEREAS, following the hateful speech created by Berkeley College Republicans, on October 24, 2024, members of the WalkAway Foundation set up camp on Sproul Plaza and held signs that promoted hateful messages such as "You're not trans you're just autistic," "There's no such thing as a non-binary person," and "Do Black lives really matter?"; and,

WHEREAS, freedom of expression is a fundamental right, but it must be balanced with the responsibility to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all members of the campus community; and,

WHEREAS, the presence of hate speech creates a hostile atmosphere that negatively impacts the mental health and academic success of targeted individuals and communities; and,

WHEREAS, UC Berkeley has a legal and ethical obligation to protect its students from harassment and discrimination, as outlined in federal and state laws; and,

WHEREAS, empowering the campus community to report and address hate speech incidents is vital for maintaining a safe and inclusive educational environment; and,

WHEREAS, "The number of trans people who were murdered in the U.S. nearly doubled between 2017 and 2021"; and,

WHEREAS, "93% increase in tracked homicides of trans and gender-nonconforming people in the United States and Puerto Rico over the last four years. In 2021, 56 people were killed, compared to 29 reported deaths in 2017; and,

WHEREAS, while only 13% of the transgender community is estimated to be Black, according to UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute, Black trans women accounted for nearly three-quarters of the known victims." QT+ people are 2.5 times more likely to experience violence than cisgender people; and,

WHEREAS, "One in four (25%) Black transgender and nonbinary young people reported a suicide attempt in the past year.(2023)"; and,

WHEREAS, "Black transgender and nonbinary young people reported higher rates of all indicators of poor mental health compared to their Black cisgender LGBTQ peers"; and,

WHEREAS, “Among Black transgender and nonbinary young people, those who were assigned female at birth reported higher rates of both seriously considering suicide in the past year (60%) and attempting suicide in the past year (26%) compared to Black transgender and nonbinary young people assigned male at birth (43% and 18%, respectively), similar to overall patterns among transgender and nonbinary young people”; and,

WHEREAS, "40% of trans youth reported attempting suicide in their lifetime. That's nearly nine times the national average"; and,

WHEREAS, nearly half (46%) of respondents were verbally harassed in the past year because of being transgender; and,

WHEREAS, nearly one in ten (9%) respondents were physically attacked in the past year because of being transgender; and,

WHEREAS, nearly half (47%) of respondents were sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime and one in ten (10%) were sexually assaulted in the past year. In communities of color, these numbers are higher: 53% of Black respondents were sexually assaulted in their lifetime and 13% were sexually assaulted in the last year; and,

WHEREAS, 72% of respondents who have done sex work, 65% of respondents who have experienced homelessness, and 61% of respondents with disabilities reported being sexually assaulted in their lifetime; and,

¹**WHEREAS**, more than half (54%) experienced some form of intimate partner violence, including acts involving coercive control and physical harm; and,

WHEREAS, there has been a 15% increase in Anti-Trans bills in the field of Education from 2023-2024; and,

²**WHEREAS**, increase in Anti-Trans bills in the field of Bathrooms of 300% from 2022-2024; and,

WHEREAS, there has been a total of 662 Anti-Trans Bills in the year 2024, a 7.6% increase from last year; and,

³**WHEREAS**, the fatal violence against the transgender and gender-expansive community in 2024 show that 74% of victims were people of color, 48% were Black Transgender Women, 63% were killed with a gun, 38% of victims with a KNOWN killer were killed by a romantic/sexual partner, friend, or family member, 37% were deadnamed or misgendered by authorities or the press; and

WHEREAS, A UC Berkeley student who was on Sproul Plaza at the time described the event as both heartbreaking and terrifying, witnessing her community’s very existence and rights being

¹ <https://translegislation.com/learn/mental-health-of-black-transgender-and-nonbinary-young-people-feb-2023>

² <https://www.congress.gov/>

³ <https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-expansive-community-in-2024>

questioned; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of California, Berkeley, condemns all forms of hate speech that directly incites violence against individuals or groups, speech that constitutes harassment, especially in a way that disrupts a person's ability to participate in activities like education, work, or public life, engaging in face-to-face confrontations where one person slurs, distributing materials that promote hate and encourage acts of violence or discrimination, particularly those targeting queer, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUC QT+ senators and allies promote mental health, safety, resources to support victims of hate speech, ensuring they have access to counseling and reporting mechanisms; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUC senators will promote educational programs and initiatives aimed at promoting understanding, respect, and allyship towards transgender and gender non-conforming individuals; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUC Academic Affairs Vice President work with the QT+ endorsed senator or actively involved QT+-identifying senators to appoint a senator to sit on the Chancellor Advisory Committee on LGBTQIA+ communities at Cal to monitor and address incidents of hate speech on campus, ensuring transparency and accountability in its processes; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be communicated to all members of the university community, emphasizing UC Berkeley's commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students.