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Trans is Natural: Queer Climbers Unfurl Historic Trans Pride Flag on Yosemite's El Capitan



***Largest Trans Flag Ever Displayed on the Iconic Wall Celebrates
Trans Belonging, Visibility, and Joy***

[LINK TO IMAGES AND VIDEOS - FOR PRESS](#)

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIF. (May 20, 2025) — In an act of solidarity and resistance, a coalition of transgender, queer, and ally climbers have unfurled a 55-by-35-foot Trans pride flag on El Capitan, one of the most legendary big-wall climbing sites in the world. This project is called **Trans is Natural** - and is the largest flag ever displayed on El Capitan — a celebration of trans belonging in nature, in community, and everywhere. This comes as the Trump administration is actively working to erase trans people from government websites, education systems, libraries and discriminate against queer and trans park rangers in the National Park System.

“We flew the Trans pride flag in Yosemite to make a statement: Trans people are natural and Trans people are loved. Let this flag fly higher than hate. We are done being polite about Trans

people's existence. Call it a protest, call it a celebration – either way, it's giving elevation to liberation." said [Pattie Gonia](#) (she/they) a lead organizer, drag queen and [Nat Geo environmentalist](#).

"Raising this flag in the heart of El Capitan is a celebration of our community standing in solidarity with each other and all targeted groups. Trans existence is not up for debate. We are social workers, public servants, parents, and neighbors. Being trans is a natural, beautiful part of human and biological diversity. We can only make progress when we embrace diversity, not erase it." - said [SJ Joslin](#), PhD (they/them), a lead organizer and conservation professional.

This direct action echoes the historic [Firefall flag-unfurling](#) earlier this year and the first known all-trans team ascent of El Capitan, conducted in June 2023 by climbers Natai Endo (she/her) and Juniper Welles (she/her). With this historic unfurling, climbers reclaim space in the heart – literally, the flag hangs on the recognizable "Heart Ledges" on El Captain wall in Yosemite.

"Everyone deserves respect. Trans people are my friends. I step up when my friends need help and we all need to step up right now for Trans people" said climber and LBTQIA+ ally Nate Vince; one of the raisers of the Firefall flag and the Trans pride flag.

This project, **Trans is Natural**, affirms that trans existence is not up for debate, trans is natural as [cited by many scientific studies in plants and mammals](#) and the flag stands as a visual and spiritual anchor for all those who have been made to feel out of place in their bodies or in this country, and a steadfast reminder to allies to show up and make their solidarity loud. In a time of disconnection, the trans, queer and climbing community are here to celebrate and elevate humanity.

Media Contact: Jess Fiaschetti, Jess@OutsidePR.com, 415.565.9530