

# ***ALERT* Desk**

GLAAD's Anti-LGBTQ Extremism Reporting Tracker





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 2. INTRODUCING GLAAD'S ALERT DESK: A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO SARAH KATE ELLIS

## 3. DATA OVERVIEW & METHODOLOGY

## 4. KEY FINDINGS - FREQUENT TARGETS OF HATE

a. TRANSGENDER & GENDER NON-CONFORMING (TGNC+) PEOPLE

d. LGBTQ-INCLUSIVE EDUCATION & INFORMATION SHARING

b. TGNC+ HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS & PATIENTS

e. PRIDE FLAGS & OTHER SYMBOLS

c. DRAG SHOWS & PERFORMERS

## 5. COMBATING ANTI-LGBTQ HATE



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



- GLAAD's *ALERT* Desk is a central hub for resources and original reporting on hate and extremism impacting LGBTQ people in the US.
- Since June 2022, the *ALERT* Desk tracked over **1,850 anti-LGBTQ incidents** in all 50 US states and the District of Columbia.
- Incidents include 450+ protests, 330+ propaganda drops, 320+ acts of vandalism, 200+ bomb & mass shooting threats, 130+ assaults, and 45+ cases of arson, resulting in at least **161 injuries and 21 deaths**.
- The *ALERT* Desk tracks year-over-year trends in anti-LGBTQ incidents from Pride Month to Pride Month. From June 2022 - 2023, we documented 524 incidents. From June 2023 - 2024, we tracked 1,109 incidents – a **112% increase in anti-LGBTQ hate**.
- **Hate targeting transgender and gender non-conforming people** (TGNC+) motivated over 30% of all anti-LGBTQ incidents since June 2022 (567 out of 1,850).
- The *ALERT* Desk also tracked **140+ incidents targeting health care providers of TGNC+ patients** since June 2022. This coincides with 26 states having passed [bans](#) on this life-saving care.
- Building on GLAAD's [anti-drag tracker](#), the *ALERT* Desk documented **365+ anti-drag incidents** since June 2022.
- The *ALERT* Desk noted **360+ incidents targeting students, educators, and librarians** at all levels of learning since June 2022, occurring alongside [thousands of attempted book bans](#) nationwide targeting LGBTQ-inclusive and other diverse books.
- Finally, the *ALERT* Desk tracked **325+ incidents targeting Pride flags** and other symbols of the LGBTQ community since June 2022.
- GLAAD is also launching an [incident reporting form](#) to better track anti-LGBTQ hate nationally. GLAAD remains committed to telling LGBTQ stories and accelerating acceptance for all.



# INTRODUCING GLAAD'S ALERT DESK: A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO SARAH KATE ELLIS

**“ We are powerful because we have survived.**

**- Audre Lorde**

In 2024, LGBTQ Americans face a paradox. Our population is [growing](#), with LGBTQ people making up 7.6% of US adults and 22.3% of Gen Z. Our stories are [visible](#), with 27.3% of films by major distributors portraying one or more LGBTQ characters. Our right to [love freely](#) is codified nationally, with the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act in late 2022. And a supermajority of [Americans continue to support LGBTQ people](#) and our right to live free from fear.

And yet – LGBTQ Americans continue to face soaring levels of hate and extremism targeting us for who we are, and our allies for supporting us. Over [500 anti-LGBTQ bills](#) have been introduced in state legislatures across the country, including bans / restrictions targeting drag events, LGBTQ-inclusive school curricula, and transgender medical care. School districts in state after state are facing [thousands of attempted book bans](#) targeting diverse, LGBTQ-inclusive stories. The FBI tracked a [17.6% increase in hate crimes](#) against LGBTQ people from 2022 to 2023. And most tragically, we've already seen at least 25 transgender and gender non-conforming people (TGNC+) [killed](#) in the US in 2024, 72% of which were people of color.

In response to the dramatic rise in anti-LGBTQ hate, GLAAD is launching its Anti-LGBTQ Extremism Reporting Tracker (ALERT). The ALERT Desk serves as a central hub for resources and original reporting on hate and extremism impacting LGBTQ people in the US. Its primary

function is tracking anti-LGBTQ incidents nationwide, documenting both criminal and non-criminal expressions of hate – from protests at drag shows, to sprees of vandalism targeting Pride flags, to bomb threats against health care providers of transgender patients. Through careful analysis of this data, the ALERT Desk provides in-depth information to keep our community aware and safe, as well as resources for key stakeholders fighting against anti-LGBTQ hate at the local, state, and federal levels. The ALERT Desk also wants to hear from you – which is why we are launching an incident reporting form to better track and understand the lived realities of LGBTQ Americans.

LGBTQ people make up the fabric of our society. We are all races, ethnicities, religions, classes, ages and backgrounds. Hate that targets LGBTQ people makes all of us unsafe. By elevating our stories and expanding acceptance, we can end this hate for good.



**SARAH KATE ELLIS**

President & CEO, GLAAD

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Kate Ellis".



## DATE OVERVIEW & METHODOLOGY

**Disclaimer:** Readers should be aware that the following sections contain details of hate speech and violence targeting LGBTQ people. Please skip to the final section “Combating Anti-LGBTQ Hate” if you wish to avoid that content.

On June 1, 2022, GLAAD’s ALERT Desk began tracking incidents of hate and harassment targeting the LGBTQ community in the US. Incidents include both criminal and non-criminal acts of harassment, threats, vandalism, and assault motivated by anti-LGBTQ hate and extremism.

As of October 2024, the ALERT Desk tracked over 1,850 anti-LGBTQ incidents in all 50 US states and the District of Columbia, including 450+ protests, 330+ propaganda drops, 320+ acts of vandalism, 200+ bomb & mass shooting threats, 130+ assaults, and 45+ cases of arson. Tragically, these incidents have resulted in at least 161 injuries and 21 deaths.

To better analyze these numbers, GLAAD’s ALERT Desk will release an annual report detailing year-over-year trends from Pride Month to Pride Month. For instance, from June 1, 2022 – June 1, 2023, researchers documented 524 anti-LGBTQ incidents in the US. From June 2023 – 2024, researchers found 1,109 incidents – a **112% increase in anti-LGBTQ hate year-over-year**.

As these incidents continue to pour in, the ALERT Desk tells a story not entirely captured by the [FBI’s](#) hate crime statistics. Because many of these incidents, like protests at Pride events, don’t meet the criteria necessary to bring legal charges, they aren’t included in most official hate crime counts. However, we must recognize that the impact of these acts on local LGBTQ communities is felt regardless of whether or not the incident is prosecuted.

The ALERT Desk also recognizes that many anti-LGBTQ incidents go unreported and

uninvestigated. The reasons vary, from victims fearing retaliation or outing, to fraught relationships with local law enforcement, to local outlets and officials failing to recognize the importance of one’s LGBTQ identity in coverage of an incident. The ALERT Desk seeks to challenge these narratives by providing a dedicated space for these stories, so that we can take the first steps towards recognizing and combating anti-LGBTQ hate in the US.



*Bartenders Daniel and Derrick, who were both murdered in cold blood right before my eyes that night, took care of all of us family at Club Q. They were listening ears, and kind souls. They both always poured my drinks the way I liked them. When I stayed out later, they would make sure I got home safe, often even driving me home themselves. But that night I left Club Q not with a ride from a good friend, but in an ambulance as multiple bullet wounds in my body bled.*

*I was at Club Q the first weekend it opened. While I’m sure the shooter thinks he took our spirit that night he took our friends away forever, he didn’t. We are healing. We are stronger than ever. We are more committed to love and the family we created. You cannot destroy our community by killing individuals. You can’t kill our love and our spirit, because Love Wins.*



**ED SANDERS, SURVIVOR OF CLUB Q SHOOTING**



# INCLUSION CRITERIA FOR ANTI-LGBTQ INCIDENTS

Anti-LGBTQ incidents tracked by the ALERT Desk must:

- Be dated on or after June 1, 2022;
- Occur within the United States, including online incidents targeting US-based persons;
- Include an act of harassment, threat(s), vandalism, and/or assault against an individual, group, and/or organization; and
- Include an explicit indication of anti-LGBTQ hate as a motivating factor, whether by:
  - a. the words or actions of the perpetrator, or
  - b. where a reasonable person would conclude the victim was targeted due to a real or perceived LGBTQ identity or affiliation with the LGBTQ community.

## DATA SOURCES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ALERT Desk identifies anti-LGBTQ incidents through self-reports, media reports, social media posts, and data sharing from partner organizations and law enforcement. The team works hard to maintain the validity of the dataset, including checking the credibility of every incident, reducing duplicates, and excluding spam and trolling.

GLAAD would also like to thank the following organizations for sharing and/or collecting data that contributed to our overall tracking efforts, including – the ADL’s Center on Extremism; Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED); Bridging Divides Initiative at Princeton University; Harvard Cyberlaw Clinic; Human Rights Campaign (HRC); Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD); Media Matters for America; and the PGH Lesbian Correspondents Blog.

## METHODOLOGY NOTES

- Instances of workplace discrimination are not included, unless the discrimination is accompanied by harassment meeting the criteria described above.
  - **Excluded:** A gay employee is adopting an infant with his husband and is denied parental leave because the workplace only offers maternal leave.
  - **Included:** A gay employee expecting a child is denied parental leave, with his manager making derogatory remarks about the child being raised by two dads.
- Instances of doxxing are not included, unless that doxxing is followed by online or real-world harassment or threats.
  - **Excluded:** Hackers leak a company’s user database which exposes the private email and phone number of an LGBTQ community leader.
  - **Included:** A Twitter account publicizes the address of a drag performer, after which protesters show up outside their home.
- General expressions of white supremacy or other hateful ideologies are not included, unless they overtly indicate the hate is specifically targeting LGBTQ people.
  - **Excluded:** A teen spray paints a swastika on the wall of their high school.
  - **Included:** A teen spray paints a swastika on the wall of an LGBTQ non-profit.
- Individual pieces of anti-LGBTQ legislation are not included, unless lawmakers or other speakers make harassing or threatening comments during the legislative session.
  - **Excluded:** An anti-drag bill is passed without public comment.
  - **Included:** During a hearing on a bill seeking to restrict health care access for transgender patients, an invited speaker baselessly claims that all transgender people want to sexually abuse children.



## KEY TRENDS — FREQUENT TARGETS OF HATE

As we dig deeper into the incidents tracked by the ALERT Desk, it's clear that certain people and places are more frequently targeted by anti-LGBTQ hate than others. Transgender and gender-non conforming people, alongside outspoken supporters of the LGBTQ community like health care providers, drag show organizers, and inclusive and affirming neighbors and educators, are among those hit the hardest by rampant anti-LGBTQ hate and extremism. In the following sections, the ALERT Desk dives deeper into these trends to better understand how to protect and uplift the most vulnerable among us.

### TRANSGENDER & GENDER NON-CONFORMING (TGNC+) PEOPLE

Despite making up [less than 1% of all adults](#) in the US, transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC+) people are disproportionately targeted by acts of hate. Since June 2022, the ALERT Desk found that anti-trans hate motivated over 30% of all incidents (567 out of 1,850).

Many of the perpetrators in these incidents cite dangerous and misleading narratives which falsely paint TGNC+ people as “grooming,” “medicalizing,” or “indoctrinating” children. These narratives directly correspond to the ongoing [nationwide campaign](#) to demonize, dehumanize, and retract the basic rights of TGNC+ people in the US, whether through activism centered on bans on TGNC+ athletes, the removal of library books telling the stories of TGNC+ youth, restrictions on bathroom usage and gender changes on legal documents, and many other forms of anti-TGNC+ discrimination. The following shows examples of anti-TGNC+ incidents documented by the ALERT Desk:

- **Graffiti:** On March 6, 2024, an LGBTQ-affirming salon in Denver, Colorado, was vandalized with anti-trans messages on its opening day. A Progress Pride flag displayed in the salon's window [had graffiti covering the Trans Pride portion of the flag](#) that read: “Gay Pride Only! Don't Molest the Pride Flag!” and “No Chomo” [no child molesters].
- **Death Threats:** On May 18, 2023, a person associated with QAnon left a voicemail issuing a death threat against

a cisgender congresswoman [whom he believed to be transgender](#) from his home in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

- **Bomb Threat:** On March 28, 2024, a person called 911 and threatened to blow up the [TransLatin@ Coalition](#) and the upcoming LA Pride Parade in Los Angeles, California.
- **Assault:** On November 18, 2023, two men [assaulted and robbed three transgender women](#) after meeting them at a club in Miami, Florida. The men were upset over the women's gender identity and stated during the attack: “You're a man, you're a man. We are going to kill you, you are not women.”



*Trans, gender nonconforming and intersex (TGI) people continue to be under attack. Our organization has received bomb threats and receives hate mail simply because of who we are and how we are supporting members of our community. As the biggest trans-led organization in the United States, we have a responsibility to our community and to our people... We will continue to organize and strategize for us to have a better quality of life.*



**BAMBY SALCEDO, PRESIDENT & CEO OF  
THE TRANSLATIN@ COALITION**



# TGNC+ HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS & PATIENTS

Concurrent with the rise in hate targeting TGNC+ people, the providers who offer health care to them are also under attack. These incidents can be personal – directed to a provider or researcher – or broader, directed at an entire facility, affecting all patients and families who are treated there, and the greater community where they are located.

Media coverage on this issue tends to falsely frame medical care for transgender people as a “[debate](#),” despite every major medical association supporting [the care](#). Sensationalized and misleading rhetoric about transgender medical care has led to [legislative bans and restrictions](#) in over 25 US states.

Since June 2022, the ALERT Desk has documented over **140+ anti-LGBTQ incidents targeting TGNC+ health care providers and patients**. The data shows that not only does sensationalized rhetoric make it increasingly difficult for TGNC+ people to get access to life-saving medical care, but it also puts TGNC+ people and their doctors in the crosshairs of violence. Below are some of these incidents:

- **Propaganda Distribution:** During the first week of June in 2023, someone hung multiple [anti-trans banners off overpasses](#) in Greenville, Dunn, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The banners targeted local TGNC+ health care providers and read: “Stop mutilating children, [name of hospital].”

- **Arson:** On October 30, 2023, a person set fire to [QueerMed](#), a medical clinic for LGBTQ patients, in Decatur, Georgia. The arsonist left behind graffiti allegedly indicating they were targeting the clinic over its medical care for TGNC+ patients.

- **Bomb Threat:** On March 8, 2024, a person made at least three bomb threats against two lawmakers’ offices and the state capitol building in Augusta, Maine, following the announcement of [bills protecting](#) medical access for TGNC+ patients. The threat read: “We are not going to stand idly by as you degenerates mutilate our children and push your perverted sexual fantasy upon us.”



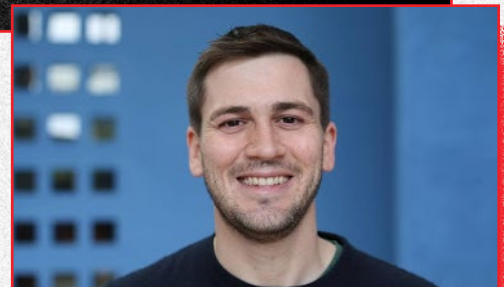
*Our office was burnt to the ground by arsonists in late 2023, followed by the Texas attorney general’s unlawful attempt to access our patient data. We refused to comply, and will not ever disclose HIPAA-protected data. We at QueerMed will never stop providing affirming medical care for transgender and nonbinary people, despite physical attacks and unfounded government threats.*



**DR. IZZY LOWELL (SHE/HER),  
FOUNDER OF QUEERMED**



*All youth and all families deserve access to healthcare without feeling unsafe or intimidated. The recent rise in violent rhetoric and misinformation about trans youth has real life consequences. Hospitals and clinics around the country have had repeated bomb threats. Innocent families are fearing for their safety. I personally have had more death threats than I can count (including ones directed at my family and dog). The threats are awful, but they won’t work. As physicians, we are always going to continue to support the families who need us.*



**DR. JACK TURBAN, PEDIATRIC PSYCHIATRIST  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE GENDER PSYCHIATRY  
PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO**



# DRAG SHOWS & PERFORMERS

As TGNC+ people come under attack, drag performers and others who challenge gender norms are often also pulled into this wave of hate. In early 2023, GLAAD documented over [160 anti-drag protests and violent threats](#) across the US. These incidents coincided with at least [six states](#) passing bills that restrict drag performances – four of which are currently unenforceable due to rulings by federal courts on the basis of the rights to free speech and expression.

As noted before, rhetorical and legislative attacks often coincide with offline violence. The ALERT Desk found that **nearly 20% of all anti-LGBTQ incidents (365 out of 1,850) since June 2022 involved anti-drag rhetoric and/or attacks on drag events and performers.** Below are some of these incidents:

- **Bomb Threat:** On July 27, 2024, a person called in a bomb threat against a [drag queen bingo event](#) hosted by Straits Pride at the community hall on Mackinac Island, Michigan.

- **Assault:** On October 11, 2023, two people associated with Turning Point USA assaulted an LGBTQ instructor on Arizona State University's campus in Tempe, Arizona. The assailants falsely accused the instructor of "pedophilia and hating America," due to his role as [co-founder of Drag Story Hour Arizona](#). The assailants then jumped the instructor and shoved him to the pavement, resulting in minor injuries.

- **Arson:** On March 24, 2023, a person allegedly part of the White Lives Matter network threw [Molotov cocktails](#) at the Community Church of Chesterland in Ohio. Court documents revealed that the arsonist wanted to stop the church's upcoming drag queen story hour in order to "save the children."



*During my season [on RuPaul's Drag Race], not only was I getting hate from anti-drag, anti-queer keyboard warriors, but I was also getting so much racially-charged hate for showcasing and being so vocal about my Latinness on the show. From death threats to straight out uncalled for comments and DMs saying I should kill myself, quit drag, or that God was punishing me and that's why my mother passed away during my season. Just insane stuff that I still every now and again encounter on my feed.*



**SALINA ESTITTIES, RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 15**



# LGBTQ-INCLUSIVE EDUCATION & INFORMATION SHARING

Anti-LGBTQ hate and discrimination in the US has always had an overt focus on education. In the 1970s, Anita Bryant launched the "[Save Our Children](#)" campaign, which worked in part to allow for teachers in Florida to be fired for being openly gay. We see many parallels to this campaign today, with some claiming that LGBTQ-inclusive curricula are infringing on their parental rights. Extremist groups like Moms for Liberty have weaponized this platform of so-called "parents' rights" (which do not recognize the rights of LGBTQ parents or parents of LGBTQ youth). Moms for Liberty and similar groups have launched [thousands of attempted book bans](#) nationwide to remove diverse, LGBTQ-focused stories from classrooms and school libraries.

Inclusive books are not the only targets. The ALERT Desk found that **nearly 20% of all anti-LGBTQ incidents since June 2022 (360 out of 1850) specifically target students, educators, school board officials, and librarians.** Below are some of these incidents:

- **Arson:** On May 22, 2023, a transgender teacher found their [classroom Pride Flag burned](#) and the surrounding property damaged at Saticoy Elementary in Los Angeles, California.

- **Bomb Threat:** On March 27, 2024, a person made a bomb threat targeting the personal residence of a school teacher in South Bend, Indiana, falsely claiming that the teacher is a "pedophile." The threat came one day after [Libs of TikTok](#) discussed the teacher's LGBTQ-inclusive stances on X / Twitter.

- **Assault:** On April 15, 2024, seven teenagers stalked and harassed a [Black, gay couple](#) while they studied at the main library on Michigan State University's campus in East Lansing. The teenagers allegedly followed the couple into the library and assaulted them, resulting in multiple injuries.

## SPOTLIGHT:

### ANTI-LGBTQ INCIDENTS IN IOWA SCHOOLS



Since June 2022, schools all around Iowa have seen a rise in anti-LGBTQ hate. In March 2023, a [bomb threat](#) was made against a junior high school in Coralville, two days after Libs of TikTok featured the school on social media for offering LGBTQ books in school libraries. In May 2023, Iowa [passed a law](#) banning discussion of LGBTQ topics in grades K-6 and removed educational curricula covering HIV/AIDS. In February 2024, a school district in Altoona, was [sued](#) for failing to protect an elementary school student from repeated bullying and violent homophobic attacks. And in September 2024, protestors yelled slurs and threw an open box cutter at students who were walking in a homecoming parade as part of their high school's GSA in Marion.

The students marched on.

"They chose to make a statement and say 'we're here, we're to be valued, and we're in our community and we're not going anywhere,'" said [Corey Jacobson](#), Cedar Rapids Pride president.



# PRIDE FLAGS & OTHER SYMBOLS

Every June, streets are lined with brightly-colored Pride flags as local communities celebrate their LGBTQ friends and family. However, these rainbow-colored symbols can present an easy target for extremists wishing to express their hatred towards LGBTQ people as a whole. In June 2024 alone, [NBC News](#) found at least four dozen cases of stolen or vandalized Pride flags.

Supporting these findings, the ALERT Desk has tracked **at least 325 anti-LGBTQ incidents targeting Pride flags and other symbols of the LGBTQ community since June 2022**. Below are some of these examples.

- **Graffiti:** On September 7, 2024, an individual [vandalized the rainbow walk](#) leading to the Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford, Connecticut. The vandalism read “Fuck F\*\*\*\*\*ts” and occurred nine days before a planned Pride event in the city.

- **Vandalism:** On June 4, 2024, an individual [opened fire](#) with a pellet gun at a window displaying a Pride flag at the Newberg Public Library in Newberg, Oregon. The window was shattered in the attack.

- **Theft:** On June 14, 2024, an individual [stole](#) a Pride flag flying from a municipal flagpole in Montclair, New Jersey.

- **Assault:** On August 18, 2023, a person shot and killed store owner Lauri Ann Carleton over the [Pride flag hanging outside her shop](#) in Cedar Glen, California.



*Rather than divide us, attempts to erase and intimidate have only brought us closer together. We proudly raised a new Pride flag to replace the one that was stolen from the township pole and dedicated an entire day to celebrating drag culture. We are stronger and safer when everyone’s voice is heard and supports the right to be themselves and live freely. It’s essential that we remain visible and resilient. As members of the LGBTQ community, along with our allies, we are here to stay!*



**REUBENA SPENCE, BOARD CHAIRPERSON AND CO-FOUNDER OF OUT MONTCLAIR, INC.**



# COMBATING ANTI-LGBTQ HATE

With the launch of the *ALERT* Desk, GLAAD aims to bolster its work in fighting anti-LGBTQ hate by providing comprehensive reporting and analysis detailing how this hate manifests in the US. Here at GLAAD, we know that data and storytelling are the two most powerful tools we have in creating cultural change and accelerating acceptance for all.

If you have personally experienced or witnessed an act of anti-LGBTQ hate that you believe should be included by the *ALERT* Desk, you can access our "Anti-LGBTQ Incident Report" form [here](#). Thank you for standing with us today and every day as we work together to fight for a better world.

## Report an Incident

If you are in crisis, please reach out for help:

**988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:** Dial 988

**Trevor Project's Suicide Hotline:**  
Call 1-866-488-7386 or text 'START' to 678-678

**National Domestic Violence Hotline:**  
Call 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

**Trans Lifeline:** Call (877) 565-8860

**Rainbow Youth Project:**  
Call (317) 643-4888



