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Adopted by the APA Board of Officers at its November 2025 Meeting:

This open letter is addressed, first and foremost, to trans members of our profession. It is also addressed to those who teach and research in the philosophy of sex and gender, and philosophy that addresses LGBTQ+ issues. And though these are the two primary audiences for which this statement has been written, and toward whom its message is directed, this document is also meant for *all* philosophers—because the stated mission of the American Philosophical Association is to support philosophers and philosophy, and because threats to any one corner of our academic community are relevant to all of us.

Trans members of this profession have been rapidly losing their freedoms and protections, both as scholars and as human beings. Forms of gender-affirming healthcare have been banned, defunded, and subjected to discriminatory regulation. [Previous federal policy](#) designed to protect trans people from workplace discrimination has been [rescinded](#), and new policy now asserts that the existence of transgender individuals is [impossible by definition](#).

We, the board of officers of the APA, want you to know that we recognize the hardships imposed on you by these actions. And we also recognize that scholarship on the philosophy of sex and gender, especially trans philosophy, has come under attack directly. Some work in this area of academic philosophy has been described by the government as “harmful, subversive, and false,” and it has been variously labeled as “gender ideology” and [“anti-American ideology.”](#) This has had a direct impact on the ability of trans philosophers to research, teach, and live as members of our academic community.

We know that some of you have been unable to travel to academic conferences because of legal challenges to gender markers on official documents and legitimate concerns about (re)entry into the US. Some of you have lost grant funding for your research because of its association with trans topics. Some of you have been advised not to teach on LGBTQ+ issues for fear of political backlash, and in some cases, for fear of personal safety. Many of you work at institutions that have been pressured by the US government to adopt campus policies that conform to the new trans-exclusionary definitions of gender. Many of you work with students who have been directly impacted by these actions—students who are rapidly losing institutional and social support and increasingly rely on you as teachers and mentors to help them through all of this. Many of you have sought support for



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yourselfs from your colleagues and home institutions, support that has not always been given. And all trans philosophers, we assume, have had both your personal and your professional lives deeply affected by these experiences, effects which are likely to endure for years to come.

The impacts of such policies are not limited to trans members of the philosophical community. These policies aim to curtail both teaching and research on sex and gender, with significant impacts on both academic freedom and those who philosophically engage with questions about sex and gender in the classroom, including being intimidated and in some cases *fired*. The APA's mission is to foster open dialogue and the free exchange of ideas, and we recognize that current policies chilling speech about diversity and gender are direct violations of these values. We reaffirm the association's core values of inclusion and diversity, open and free exchange of ideas, and robust academic freedom on all philosophical matters, including and perhaps especially matters of great moral importance. We deplore attacks on academic freedom concerning the philosophy of sex and gender, whether they come from within the profession or from outside it.

The APA encourages trans and nonbinary philosophers impacted by these policies to reach out to the [APA Ombudsperson for Discrimination and Sexual Harassment](#) for advice.

Those whose freedom to teach philosophical questions about sex and gender is being impacted are encouraged to reach out to the APA Committee on Professional Rights and Academic Freedom.

APA members who want to show support for trans members of our profession and the value of philosophy that addresses trans issues are encouraged to donate to support the [LGBTQ Philosophy Prize](#) established by the APA.

We are committed, both personally and as the primary governing body of the association, to combatting threats to scholarship on the philosophy of sex and gender and to supporting our colleagues whose freedoms and protections have been targeted by recent actions.

We hope that all members of the profession will stand with us in condemning attacks on the academic and personal freedoms of LGBTQ+ scholars and in supporting trans philosophers so that they may continue their professional lives as valued members of our discipline.