

# NEEDED: TRANSGENDER STORIES

You possess the most important tool in advocating for transgender civil rights - YOUR STORY.

We, as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied New Yorkers, need to talk about why it's important to ban discrimination based on gender identity and expression. Testimonials and stories from transgender and gender non-conforming New Yorkers about the daily realities of their lives are vital in educating people about the need for transgender rights.

**We hope you will share your story about why New York State needs protections for transgender New Yorkers.**

Your personal connection to the issue of transgender equality and justice is more than the source of your passion and interest - it is also the source of your expertise. Your experience is not a fact or figure; it's compelling, and no one can argue with it, rebut it, challenge it with data, or diminish its impact with legal analysis. Your story is powerful.

- Have you experienced **discrimination**?
- Do you have a **friend, family member or client** that has experienced discrimination?
- Have you been **harassed at work** because of your gender expression?
- Have you been **fired** from your job or **evicted** from your apartment because you started to transition?
- Have you been forced to **leave a restaurant or gym** because of your gender identity?
- Did you experience **rude service** from a medical professional?
- Have you **lost a job** because you refused to act more masculine or feminine?

**Sadly, many of us have.**

The Empire State Pride Agenda continues to educate allies — LGB and straight New Yorkers, including supportive legislators — about the challenges faced by transgender and gender non-conforming individuals all over New York. Together we are mapping out a clear-cut, detailed campaign to pass the transgender civil rights bill and to achieve broader equality and justice. The success of this work will be enhanced by your story, energy and advocacy.

Share your story openly or anonymously; but please share it.

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