

P TOWNWEST

*The mission of Ptownwest is to reconnect,
promote and create gay community*

officials opening up an overflow room to handle the crowd. LGBT advocates turned



Democrat-Controlled Michigan Senate Votes to Protect LGBTQ Rights

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Michigan senators voted Wednesday to expand the state's civil rights law to include the LGBTQ community and prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Democrats, who took full control of state government for the first time in 40 years, have made amending Michigan's 1976 Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act a top priority after decades of seeing such efforts [blocked by Republicans](#).

Conservatives, Along with Springfield LGBT Families, had Reasons to Attend Springfield's School Board Meeting this Week.

The Springfield school board meeting Tuesday night was heavily attended, with

out, and so did conservative folks who wanted to show their own numbers.

"I just heard there's some announcements, and I have no idea what about, and it involves our schools, so I'm just curious to hear what this is about," said Angela Romine.

Romine is a local conservative politician elected to Springfield City Council a few years ago. She later resigned in favor of an unsuccessful primary campaign for Missouri Senate. Romine arrived at school district headquarters more than an hour before the meeting was due to start.

So did Dan Griggs.

"I'm here in support of LGBTQ," Griggs told KSMU. "Like, we just want acknowledgment, you know, with support in the group. We want open support for LGBTQ."

Russia may be Weaponizing Homophobia, but the War has Strengthened Ukraine's Fight for LGBT Rights

By [Annika Burgess](#)

Posted Thu 2 Mar 2023 at 2:32pm Thursday 2 Mar 2023 at 2:32pm, updated Thu 2 Mar 2023 at 4:04pm Thursday 2 Mar 2023 at 4:04pm

The war poses particular risks and challenges to members of Ukraine's LGBT community. *(Supplied: Kostiantyn Bibliuk)*

Help keep family & friends informed by sharing this article
Link copied

"There will be no 'pink' in our country!" a Russian soldier yelled while grabbing Vadim's hair and kicking him in the back.

WARNING: This story contains references to sexual violence that may disturb some readers.

Key Points

- Ukraine has made progress to become more supportive of the LGBT community, but still lags behind many western European countries
- Activists say the conflict with Russia has drawn attention to the inequalities the community faces
- More Ukrainians now see homophobia as a Russian world view, and seek change

In Kherson, two Russian occupiers used the same insult - "pinks" - when they burst into the hide-out of a lesbian couple.

The men then violently raped the two women at gunpoint, according to an account published in a [report by Ukraine's LGBT Human Rights Nash Svit Centre in November](#).

Over the past year, there have been dozens of reports of trans and homophobic attacks carried out by Russian troops in occupied territories.

Due to the lack of internet and phone connections, it has been difficult to gain information on the full extent of the brutality.

But the stories rights groups and activists have been able to collect from people like Vadim - who lives in occupied Melitopol - indicate the LGBT community has faced increased risks throughout the 12-month war.

Proposed Law Would Ban ling LGBT Flags from Government Buildings

<https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/new-bill-would-ban-flying-lgbt-flags-from-government-buildings/>

MIAMI - Lots of flags flying over city hall in Wilton Manors and the city park across the street, but there's a proposal in the legislature to cut that down to just 4.

"It just clearly lines up what flags can be flown over government facilities, like the state flag, the American flag, the POW flag and our firefighter's flag," said Republican State Senator Jay Collins from the Tampa Bay Area.

He introduced the bill in the Senate. Sweetwater Republican David Borrero is the House sponsor of the bill saying, "No other flag may be exposed to public view... by a governmental agency, local government, or unit of local government."

"I encourage people to use their first amendment rights and express themselves however they want to at their homes and in their conversations," Senator Collins said.

Chris Caputo is a Wilton Manors City Commissioner. "This is truly a direct attack on our city where we proudly wave the pride flag and the trans flag which represents our community and the values we stand for," Commissioner Caputo said.

On the Trans Healthcare Issue, We as a Community Are More in Agreement Than Not

[Mark Segal](#)
[Outspoken](#)

March 4, 2023

<https://thegavoice.com/outspoken/on-the-trans-healthcare-issue-we-as-a-community-are-more-in-agreement-than-not/>

Last week found me in London for what turned out to be three major speaking events. It also came in the wake of what I believe is one of the most horrible of Trans Hate actions ever publicly reported in the United Kingdom. 16-year-old Brianna Ghey was killed when she was stabbed multiple times in a park by two 15 year olds. Police immediately stated it was not related to her being trans. If that were not enough, the mainstream media didn't report it as an anti-trans attack and the government, because of their anti-trans laws, misgendered her in all the investigative

papers – including her death certificate – since she was not allowed by law to change her birth certificate.

Back here in the U.S., we are not talking about the 400 anti-trans laws that have been introduced in the U.S. In the U.K. the issue is so divisive that it literally has the possibility of breaking up the U.K. with Scotland having a vote on whether to leave the union. So in each of the speeches I felt compelled to bring up her name, Brianna Ghey, and give her the identity she deserved, an identity her parents supported, but the British government and mainstream media did not.

The Anti-Drag Bills Sweeping the U.S. are Straight from History's Playbook

<https://www.npr.org/2023/03/06/1161452175/anti-drag-show-bill-tennessee-trans-rights-minor-care-anti-lgbtq-laws>

It turns out that even 150 years ago, legislators wanted to police gender expression in public spaces.

Who are they? LGBTQ Tennesseans.

Advocates worry that recently-passed legislation restricting drag performances in public spaces in Tennessee could be used to discriminate against them, and fuel the slew of similar laws being proposed in other states.

- The bill that passed in Tennessee last week restricts "[adult cabaret performances](#)" in public or in the [presence of children](#), and bans them from occurring within 1,000 feet of schools, public parks, or places of worship.
- This was passed alongside separate legislation that bans transgender minors in Tennessee from receiving gender-affirming care like [puberty blockers](#), [hormones](#), and [surgery](#).

- As of a month ago, at least 9 GOP-led state legislatures were [pushing similar anti-drag bills](#).
- Those found violating the anti-drag law face misdemeanor charges in the first instance, punishable by a fine up to \$2,500 and/or up to a year in jail. Those found for subsequent violations face a felony charge, punishable by up to six years in jail.

“Sydney is Like Paradise for LGBT Community” say French-Australians

Renowned for its romantic locales and amorous expressions, France is surprisingly less friendly towards the gay community if migrants from France are to be believed - probably why they feel at home thousands of kilometers away in Sydney. As Sydney hosted World Pride, we asked the French-Australian community if Sydney is one of the most gay-friendly cities in the world.

As World Pride wrapped up in Sydney - which became the global LGBT capital for 17 days - the city witnessed a historic moment.

For the first time, a prime minister marched alongside the LGBT community at the Mardi Gras parade, testifying that Australia, where homosexuality was punishable by death in early colonial times, has come a long way.

LGBT Catholics Appreciate Pope Francis' Welcome, but Hope for Change

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2023/03/09/lgbt-francis-inclusivity-parish-life-244879>

When Jack Whalen came out as gay, he remembers asking himself, “Is there still a place for me in the Catholic Church?”

The 26-year-old military pilot faced a host of uncertainty when he decided to tell others about his sexual orientation. He had been raised Catholic by his parents, both of whom also served in the armed forces. Mr. Whalen, along with his three siblings, followed in his parents’ footsteps, which meant he would have to consider the ramifications for his career as well.

But the most “terrifying” consideration, as he put it, was how the revelation about his sexuality would affect his relationship with the church. After all, his faith had served as “the core tenet” of his very being.

Mr. Whalen, who lives in Texas, said it was around that time that he encountered news stories about Pope Francis and his unprecedented outreach to L.G.B.T. Catholics. He remembers reading about the pope’s [answer to a journalist’s question](#) about gay priests, when the pope responded, “Who am I to judge?” Later, he was moved by the pope’s [assertion that parents should not abandon their children](#) because of their sexual orientation, because [God does not abandon his children](#).

Mr. Whalen said Pope Francis is “opening up the door and giving us a foothold, letting us see a better future for us in the church.”

That was incredible to hear,” Mr. Whalen said. “The church may not be making sweeping changes that we would like to see, but he’s opening up the door and

giving us a foothold, letting us see a better future for us in the church.”

Over the course of his 10 years as pope, Francis has made a number of statements and gestures that are seemingly aimed at pushing the church to be more welcoming to the L.G.B.T. community. He [meets frequently with many L.G.B.T. Catholics](#) and those who minister to them, and recently called on Catholics to [fight against laws that criminalize homosexuality](#). At the same time, he has not made changes to church teaching and has been especially critical of what he calls “gender ideology.” Interviews with L.G.B.T. Catholics and their families in the United States and Canada show that while the outreach from Francis is welcome, questions remain about its impact in dioceses and parishes.



NH News Recap: Local Doctors push back Against Proposals to Ban Gender-Affirming Care

<https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2023-03-10/nh-news-recap-local-doctors-push-back-against-proposals-to-ban-gender-affirming-care>

Large crowds showed up at the State House this week to push back on a number of Republican-sponsored bills that advocates say would curtail the rights of LGBTQ youth.

The proposals include bills that would restrict access to gender-affirming care and updated versions of a so-called parental rights bill that failed to pass last year.

Indian LGBTQ Couples Fight for Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Marriage

<https://www.npr.org/2023/03/11/1157569539/india-lgbtq-marriage-supreme-court>

MUMBAI -- On a windy January evening, Aditi Anand and her partner Susan Dias sit in their Mumbai apartment overlooking the sea, reflecting on the life and family they have built together for 12 years. They have different personalities, hail from different social backgrounds and have different interests. “If we were not queer, we would never have met,” says 39-year-old Anand, who runs two film production companies.

They've pushed each other to succeed in their careers, are raising a child together and cannot imagine their lives without each other. Their families are intertwined: Anand's parents and siblings rely on Dias for emotional support and Dias' family leans on Anand, they say.

“Whatever fears I might have had coming out, I live a good life with my family, friends, colleagues, neighbors. There is nobody who doesn't know about me,” says 35-year-old Dias, an entrepreneur who is trying to mass-market indigenous liquors from various parts of India. “There is no nervousness.”

Ireland set to Join EU Commission Action Against Hungary’s “Russian-Style Anti-LGBT Law

<https://www.irishtimes.com/politics/2023/03/13/ireland-set-to-join-eu-commission-action-against-hungarys-russian-style-anti-lgbt-law/>

The Government is set to join the EU Commission’s court case against Hungary’s contentious laws banning the portrayal of gay people in content aimed at under-18s.

Senior figures in Government including Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Tánaiste Micheál Martin have strongly criticised the law which was introduced in 2021, and have portrayed it as a “Russian style” anti-LGBT propaganda law.

A memo will go to the Government by the end of the month seeking approval for Ireland to join an infringement case being taken by the commission to the European Court of Justice.

Where do Philly’s Mayoral Candidates Stand on LGBTQ Issues? / Analysis

PHILADELPHIA – With the primary election for the 100th mayor of Philadelphia fast approaching, candidates are gearing up for their May 16 competition.

The Democratic primary has ten candidates: Warren Bloom, Amen Brown, Jeff Brown, James DeLeon, Allan Domb, Derek S. Green, Helen Gym, Cherelle Parker, Maria Quiñones-Sánchez and Rebecca Rhynhart. David Oh is currently the only candidate in the Republican primary. The Philadelphia Gay News

reached out to all 11 candidates to ask about their stances on LGBTQ issues.

<https://www.penncapital-star.com/campaigns-elections/where-do-phillys-mayoral-candidates-stand-on-lgbtq-issues-analysis/>

