



DIGNITY IN DIALOGUE WE HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED, WE WILL ALWAYS EXIST.

***Global Trans and Gender Diverse
Resistance Amidst Rising Opposition***



equitas Canada 

In recognition of Trans Day of Visibility 2025, we hosted our first DID session with the support of the Act Together For Inclusion Fund (ACTIF). . A powerful dialogue that addressed the escalating attacks on trans rights worldwide and highlighted strategies for building trans-inclusive, cross-border movements. Drawing from the strength and wisdom of global trans and gender diverse communities, the event offered vital insights into collective resistance and resilience. We were honored to welcome an inspiring panel of guest speakers: **Pepe Onzemia**, Program Director at Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), **Cristina Rodríguez**, transfeminist and human rights defender and **Mauro Grinspan**, Scientific Collaborator at the Free University of Brussels.

This is not the first time we've seen trans and gender-diverse rights and identities threatened, and it won't be the last. What has always remained constant, however, is our resilience. It is unwavering persistence that has propelled the trans and gender-diverse movement forward—against adversity, fear, and hate. A world where trans and gender-diverse people live with dignity and safety is possible if we continue forward with strategic action, solidarity, and love. Despite opposition, we can build a future rooted in dignity, justice, and collective liberation.

WEAPONIZATION OF IDENTITY AND MISINFORMATION FOR POLITICAL GAIN

The LGBTQ+ community, particularly trans people, are increasingly being used as political scapegoats. Politicians worldwide center campaigns around anti-queer rhetoric to polarize citizens and mobilize their bases. These attacks exploit fear and misinformation to push divisive narratives that aim to roll back decades of progress, reversing protections for trans and gender diverse communities. Far-right movements have been especially successful in framing trans people as a societal threat, using misinformation to justify legislative restrictions and perpetuate violence. By spreading false and misleading claims, these groups create hostile environments that undermine trans rights and dignity.

A GLOBAL RIPPLE EFFECT

The rhetoric from political figures, such as Donald Trump, has fueled global anti-trans sentiment, impacting policies and public opinion far beyond the United States. As these views spread, they contribute to the erosion of rights for trans people around the world, highlighting that attacks on trans rights are not isolated but part of a broader global trend.

THE RISE OF ANTI-GENDER MOVEMENTS AND ANTI-GENDER POLITICS AS A STRATEGIC TOOL

Over the past 10-15 years, anti-gender movements have evolved from grassroots mobilizations to influential political forces, shaping government policies and influencing international human rights frameworks. These movements portray gender inclusivity as a corrupting ideology that threatens traditional family values. This narrative shifts and manifests differently depending on the context, appearing in forms such as the criminalization of LGBTQ+ identities in Uganda, anti-abortion movements, and so-called "free speech" arguments used to justify discrimination.

EXPLOITING DIVISIONS WITHIN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Anti-gender forces have expertly capitalized on internal divisions within social justice movements, including the fracturing of the LGBTQ+ community. By exploiting past traumas and contradictions within activist spaces, they sow division, creating confusion and causing some allies to question their support for trans rights (e.g., the "LGB without the T" rhetoric). These efforts weaken solidarity, making it more difficult to mount a united resistance against growing opposition.

LOOKING FORWARD: STRATEGIES FOR RESISTANCE AND SOLIDARITY

INTERSECTIONALITY AND COALITION BUILDING

Stronger alliances must be forged across different social justice movements, including feminist, reproductive rights, and broader human rights organizations. The fight for trans rights is deeply interconnected with other struggles for equality. By working together, we can create a more inclusive and powerful resistance.

GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Resistance must extend into everyday spaces—community groups, rural areas, and legislative halls. Breaking isolation means bringing trans issues into the public conversation, making them a collective concern. We need to find common denominators with citizens and build a more inclusive and accessible movement.

HARNESSING THE POLITICS OF EMOTION

The far-right has effectively exploited negative emotions such as fear, hate, and anger to advance their agendas. Resistance movements can learn from this, but we must harness emotions such as joy, love, and grief to build unity and resilience. By fostering collective emotion and compassion, we can galvanize change without perpetuating division.

ENGAGING AND EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE

As prominent online figures promote regressive norms, especially among younger generations, we must counteract this trend through cultural intervention and re-education. Rising opposition among young people, particularly young men, underscores the need for a narrative shift. We must prioritize education that challenges hyper-masculinity, traditional gender roles, and harmful ideologies.

LANGUAGE AND VISIBILITY

Language plays a crucial role in both conflict resolution and identity politics. Rather than focusing on rigid definitions and language policing, we must prioritize inclusive and accessible dialogue. This approach can help bridge divides, allowing more people to engage with and support trans rights.

