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**A Resource for Black Families, Family Members, and Caregivers of**

# **BLACK TRANSGENDER, NON-BINARY, AND LGB YOUTH**

**B**lack parents and caregivers across the globe are central to the growth and support of their transgender and non-binary children. Black families and family members of varied backgrounds—progressive, liberal, conservative, faith believers, secular, and non-believers—provide the core support and love for their children. Yet, few resources look at the experiences of Black families and family members and their transgender and non-binary children. Moreover, sources that discuss Black families primarily center on one story: parents rejecting their LGBTQ+ children and Black trauma.

This resource expands the one story. We look at the racial biases and discrimination families experience while supporting their Black trans and gender non-conforming children. And the resilience of these young people and their families. We also highlight Black LGBTQ+ historical and current figures' brilliance, ingenuity, and place-making in society.

Parents and caregivers of Black transgender and non-binary children are searching for resources that speak to their family's experience with gender and race. Families want sources that address: different stages of gender identity, racial bias in gender-affirming medical care, where to find mental health and gender-affirming care, and discussions around faith.

This resource is a collaborative and living document. We welcome your resource recommendations. Please add them here ([hyperlink for page to add sources](#)).

The hope is that you return to this page again and again. The sources are organized under the following sections: Black Families and Family Members Support; Current Climate for Black Transgender and Non binary Youth; Advocacy for Medical and Mental Health Care; Families, their Children, and Faith; Black Transgender, Non-binary, and LGB Figures Through Time.



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## Black Families and Family Members Support

Contrary to mainstream media accounts and reports, there are Black families and family members who support, advocate for, and defend their transgender and non-binary children's rights:

"Trans, queer, and gay folks have existed forever and have been part of Black families and communities. There was once a thriving Black queer community in many cities, and Black celebrities went to nightclubs and watched cross-dressers and drag queens perform; this has been a big part of Black culture. There are plenty of examples of Black families that support their Black and queer children, and we need to be prepared to show that." (Luchina Fisher, HRC Parents for Transgender Equality (PTEC) member)

Parents listen to their children and join a growing number of Black LGBTQ+ youth demanding safe spaces that affirm their intersecting identities. Studies show that Black LGBTQ+ youth with supportive families have overall success and improved life expectancy.<sup>i</sup>

Some families respond negatively to their children's coming out, often due to misinformation steeped in transphobia and homophobia. It is not uncommon for extended family and members of their work, church, and religious communities to condemn trans and non-binary identities as a "fad" or "sinful." Their communities also say that LGBTQ+ identities are unnatural in Black communities and cultures.

### *Lack of Representation and Visibility*

Black parents and parents of Black LGBTQ+ children find it challenging to locate stories of Black LGBTQ+ children. Many recount difficulty searching for sources about transgender, non-binary, and LGBTQ+ identities. Looking up topics in a search engine is often the first stop for many parents and caregivers. The search results give useful gender definitions. They also help parents understand the difference between gender and sexuality.

The internet searches yielded results for family support groups, medical information, movies, and television series on transgender and non-binary themes. However, there were few hits for families with Black LGBTQ+ youth. Reflecting on their experiences searching for gender resources less than a decade ago, two parents note the following:

"Many of the resources for young trans children didn't exist back then, in 2015. There certainly wasn't anything that talked about intersectional identities." (Vanessa Ford, HRC PTEC member)

"It feels like a lifetime ago but even then, looking for resources on Black trans youth, and young adults were extremely limited. So, we came into this whole world with a white gaze on everything." (JR Ford, HRC PTEC member)

Though there has been a slight increase in stories about Black LGBTQ+ children and their families, white characters dominate most stories. The intersectional realities of Black families and family members are mainly missing from transgender and non-binary literature. Indeed, a one-dimensional narrative of Black transgender and non-binary youth and their family persists:

"It is as though our children are invisible as children. Then they emerge as Black trans women who are constrained to sex work and die premature, violent deaths. This is a narrow and devastating representation." (Yma Johnson, HRC PTEC member)

Narratives that center on tragedy and the dysfunctionality of Black families and their children discount the varied Black family experience. For example, few accounts address the intersectionality of race, gender, and sexuality. Additionally, few mainstream articles explore how structural racism and patriarchy impact Black LGBTQ+ youth and their families.

Failure to present the multidimensional aspects of Black families' lives hurts Black families, family members, and children. Black families find that existing resources do not represent their needs and concerns.<sup>ii</sup> Hence, their children's specific needs—e.g., mental support, family support, financial challenges of treatment—are not addressed. For example, limited analyses of Black LGBTQ+ youth can lead to the absence of Black children in social justice legislation.



Black families and family members of trans and gender-nonconforming youth agree that popular resources do not address the social, mental, and economic challenges of Black LGBTQ+ youth:

"There is a real split between my child's experience as a Black biracial woman and someone else's who did not have family support, was homeless, hasn't gone to college, is having trouble accessing healthcare. This was not our experience. How do we support our kids to find a diverse community, a community that reflects all of their identities. Their experience is very different than what is found in the headlines." (Luchina Fisher, HRC PTEC member)

"There is a gap between the experiences, and everyone needs resources regardless of how you are coming to the table, that all spectrums of experience [need to] have support." (Ngozi Nnaji, HRC PTEC member)

Families are also searching for communities and organizations. The Human Rights Campaign, Parents for Transgender National Equality Council (PTEC), and PFLAG allow parents and caregivers of Black children to meet other parents of LGBTQ+ youth. Affinity groups within organizations and independent affinity groups enable Black parents and family members to discuss difficult conversations around race and gender. There is still a need for more support groups and resources for Black families and family members of LGBTQ+ youth.

### Resources

- [HRC- Parents for Transgender Equality National Council](#)
- [Parents of Transgender Youth Have Important Advice for New Parents Starting their Journey- Video](#)
- [PFLAG- Black](#)
- [Black LGBTQI Family, Parents and Caregivers Meetup Group](#)
- [HRC- Welcoming Schools- Children's Books with Transgender, Non-binary and Gender Expansive Children](#)
- [HRC- Myth #3 My Child is too Young to know they're Transgender- Video](#)
- [The Bold World: A Memoir of Family and Transformation](#)
- [Calvin- Picture book](#)
- [HRC- Honoring Trans Awareness Week: A Reading of "Calvin" and Panel Discussion-Video](#)
- [Hurricane Child- Middle School book](#)
- [Felix Ever After- Young Adult book](#)
- [20- Must Read Black Authors of LGBTQ Books](#)
- [HRC- Back to School for Non-binary Youth- Video](#)
- [Raquel Willis on the Power of Inclusive Activism](#)
- [Gabrielle Union and Dwyane Wade Open up about their Trans Journey with Daughter Zaya, 13](#)





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## Current Climate for Black Transgender and Non-Binary Youth

Black transgender and non-binary youth have a far more complex relationship with their families and communities than are conveyed in mainstream media soundbites. Black youth and their families thrive and work together to affirm their gender and sexual identities. For instance, families and their children build safe spaces at home and within their communities. Black LGBTQ+ students excel as athletes, poets, musicians, leaders, aspiring scientists, and activists. They are college students pursuing various degrees and careers and contributors to the gig economy. Caregivers, Black families, family members, and their youth are also engaged in activist work fighting against the systemic racist, transphobic, and homophobic policies. Black trans and non-binary youth from all walks of life navigate living in states with laws and practices that discriminate against them based on race and gender. The HRC 2019 Report on Black and African American LGBTQ youth commented on the daily challenges LGBTQ+ youth of color experience:

“While there is immense power in being both a person of color and LGBTQ, holding multiple marginalized identities can magnify discrimination. This reality can have a devastating impact on Black and African American LGBTQ youth’s mental health and overall wellbeing. Virulent and inflammatory anti-Blackness from elected officials, negative portrayals in the media, and historically maintained systems of racial oppression complicate the ability of Black and African American LGBTQ youth to fully express and explore their intersecting racial and LGBTQ identities.”<sup>iii</sup>

Families mirroring the dominant culture of intolerance and transphobia reject their Black LGBTQ+ children. Black LGBTQ+ youth too frequently receive the message from their communities and the larger society that it is not okay to express their gender identities. The fear of rejection is a frightening reality for an unprecedented number of Black youths across the globe. Many Black trans and non-binary youth are uncomfortable discussing their gender and sexual identities with their families because they fear rejection.<sup>iv</sup> Being kicked out of their home and losing familial support, complicated by systemic racism and anti-blackness in the larger society, generates a vicious cycle of poverty. This cycle creates conditions that force Black LGBTQ+ youth into homelessness and dangerous jobs in the underground economy, such as survival sex work.

Despite navigating hostile and unjust circumstances, these young people are aspiring poets, scientists, and activists. These Black youth tackle familial rejection, isolation, and unpredictable living conditions by building a supportive community. They receive emotional and sometimes financial support from their chosen families.<sup>v</sup> Chosen and created families and resilient social networks of “peers and older LGBTQ persons that mimic nuclear family structures.”<sup>vi</sup>

The common denominator is that all Black LGBTQ+ youth need family support and equitable living environments that challenge existing racist and discriminatory systems.

### Resources

- [Supporting Trans, Non-Binary and Gender Expansive Youth: Q&A with PTEC Parents Vanessa and JR Ford Luchina Fisher, Director and Mother of a Trans Daughter, Reacts to Celebs Speaking on Trans Children Fighting for my Black Transgender Child's Life- OpEd](#)
- [How this Black Mom is Making a Better World for her Trans Daughter](#)
- [HRC- MJ Rodriguez on the Importance of “Pose” and Raising Resilient Children- Video](#)
- [HRC- Project Thrive Webinar Youth Beyond the Binary: A Conversation on Non-binary Identities HRC- Black and African American LGBTQ Youth Report](#)
- [The Audre Lorde Project](#)
- [Trans Young Adults Risk Homelessness, Racism when Migrating in Search of Gender Affirmation, Safety Bridges4Life](#)

## Black Trans and Non-Binary Youth in Public Spaces

Black communities throughout America deal with the harassment and killing of their Black youth. As victims of targeted acts of violence, Black transgender youth are killed at epidemic proportions. Black gender non-conforming youth are targets of random hate crimes.<sup>vii</sup> The year 2021 was pronounced the deadliest year on record



for transgender and gender non-conforming deaths, with HRC recording fifty six deaths of transgender and gender non-conforming people.<sup>viii</sup>

Black transgender and non-binary youth disproportionately experience race and gender-based police harassment and violence.<sup>ix</sup> Gender policing practices are modeled after the racism and heterosexism of race-based policing. Procedures such as policing gender were enforced through existing laws:

"For instance, until just a few decades ago, cops used to enforce what were known as "sumptuary laws," which required individuals to wear "gender appropriate" clothing, and subjected people to arrest for "impersonating" another gender."<sup>x</sup>

Remnants of these gender policing practices persist:

"Additionally, requests for identification, which may not match a person's gender identity, often lead to police presumptions that transgender people are fraudulent, deceitful, or inherently suspicious. This can in turn lead to verbal abuse, harassment, and physical abuse. Law enforcement officers also regularly subject trans and gender non-conforming people to invasive and abusive searches to satisfy their curiosity, humiliate, or to involuntarily assign a gender based on genital status."<sup>xi</sup>

Official and unofficial acts of discrimination based on anti-blackness and anti-LGBTQ+ sentiments threaten Black transgender, non-binary, and LGBTQ+ youths' well-being and lives.

## Resources

- [HRC- An Epidemic of Violence- Report](#)
- [HRC- Dismantling a Culture of Violence - Report](#)
- [HRC- #Protect Trans Kids: Mother delivers Tearful Plea for Transgender Daughter's Safety- Video](#)[Why Police often Single Out Trans People for Violence](#)
- [Trans Women of Color Collective](#)
- [HRC- National Trans Justice and Advocacy Summit- Video](#)
- [End the War on Black Trans, Queer, Gender Non-Conforming and Intersex People Transgender Law Center](#)
- [National Black Justice Coalition](#)
- [Trans People of Color Coalition](#)
- [The Sylvia Rivera Law Project](#)
- [I was asked, "What Can we do to stop the Murders of Black Transwomen?" I simply responded, Stop Killing Us!](#)

## School Climate

School is another site of intense negotiations for families and their Black LGBTQ+ children. The struggle to gain representation in the classrooms across the nation is also a concern for Black families, caregivers, and trans and non-binary youth. Racial and gender-based discrimination is a daily occurrence for Black students at school. It is reported that 34.7% of Black LGBTQ+ students experience anti-LGBTQ+ and racist harassment at school.<sup>xii</sup> In a nationwide survey, only 27% transgender and gender-expansive youth feel they can "definitely be themselves in school."<sup>xiii</sup> Throughout K-12 education, Black trans and non binary youth are routinely misgendered. Their racial and gendered identities are rendered invisible in subject readings.<sup>xiv</sup> Nationwide, the curriculum used in K-12 education, even in ethnic studies, is missing Black queer, trans, and non-binary figures.<sup>xv</sup>

Black transgender and gender non-conforming students experience greater levels of victimization based on sexual orientation, gender expression, and race/ethnicity than their fellow Black cisgender LGBTQ+ students.<sup>xvi</sup> Many young people are forced to defend themselves against bullying because of their gender identity and race. They also deal with discriminatory school policies and practices that discipline Black cisgender, transgender, non-binary, and LGB students more often and more harshly than their non-Black peers. Black students are hy-





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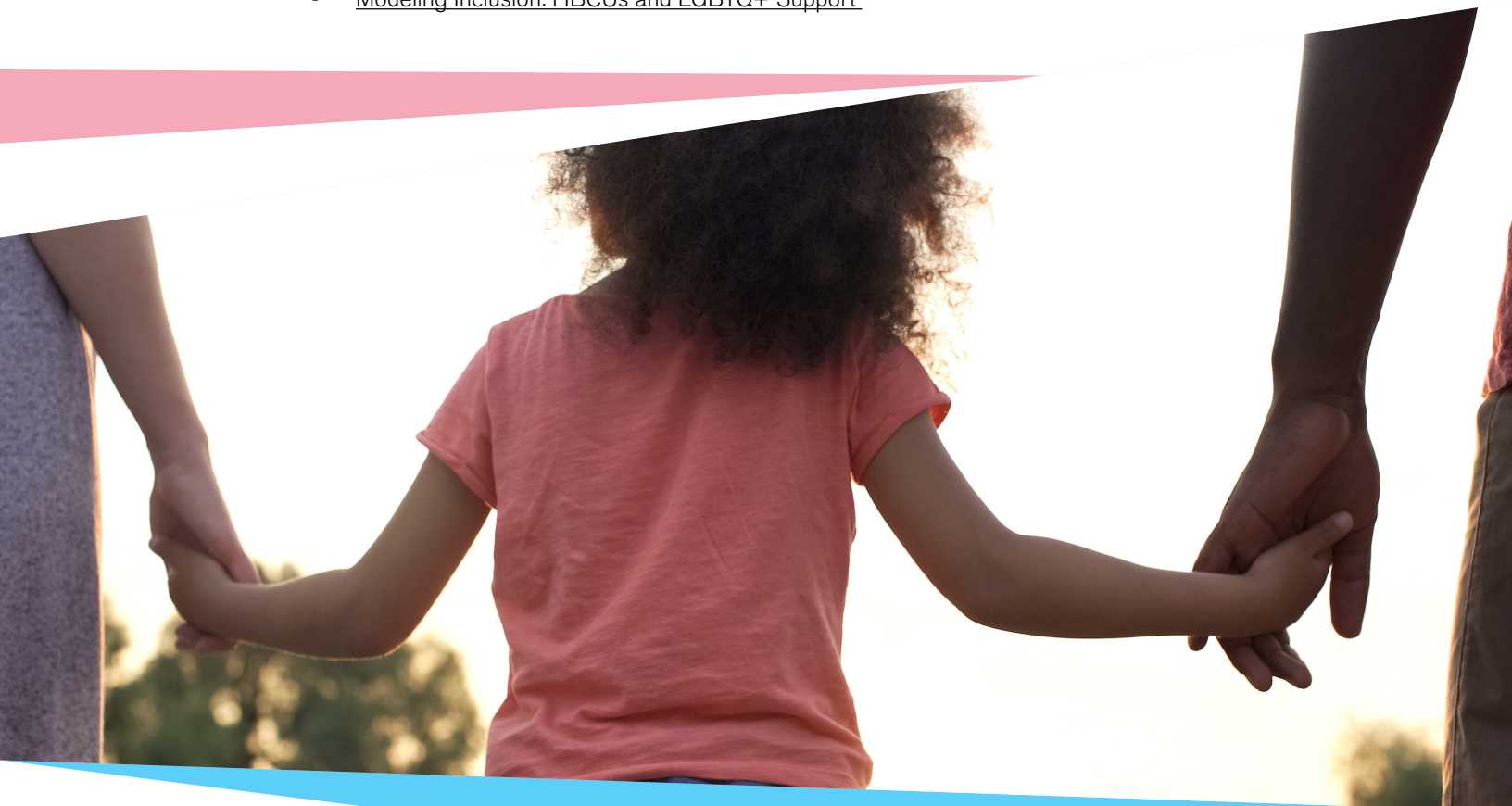
pervisible and profiled by school resource officers and staff. HRC reports that school reform and policies must address race and gender:

“Youth-serving professionals must address both LGBTQ inclusion and anti-racism when designing policies and programs to support Black and African American LGBTQ youth in schools.”<sup>xvii</sup>

Nationwide, families and their state representatives are engaged in legal battles against school discrimination that targets young people based on sexual and gender identities.<sup>xviii</sup> The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Network (GLSEN) advocate for safe and inclusive schools for LGBTQ+ students. They are also exploring how to support Black LGBTQ+ students. HRC Welcoming Schools program works with schools to implement gender-affirming and inclusive environments for students.<sup>xix</sup> The GLSEN LGBTQ+ student-led clubs and the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) have been adopted nationwide by public and independent schools.<sup>xx</sup> These clubs are identified as safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth to affirm their identities at school.

### Resources

- [HRC- Black and African American LGBTQ Youth Report](#)
- [HRC- Celebrating and Defending Trans Lives in the Classroom and Beyond- Video](#)
- [HRC- Research Connections: Equity, School Climate and Academic Achievement](#)
- [HRC- Welcoming Schools at 2018 Time to Thrive LGBTQ Youth Conference- Video](#)
- [GLSEN- Erasure and Resilience: The Experiences of LGBTQ Students of Color](#)
- [GLSEN- What was School was like for Black and Latinx Trans Adults-and How to Improve](#)
- [What its Like Being a Black, Gay and Non-Binary Person- College](#)
- [HRC-HBCU Program](#)
- [Modeling Inclusion: HBCUs and LGBTQ+ Support](#)





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## Black Youth Advocacy

Despite legislative, institutional, and societal barriers against gender and sexuality, Black LGBTQ+ youth advocate for their rights and build agency. They remain hopeful and resilient.

Black transgender and non-binary youth are confronted with challenges expressing and discussing their gender identities in home, school, medical, and religious spaces. They are often told they are “too young” to claim identities that challenge dominant gender categories. These youth push back, affirming their identities, pronouns, and rights to be themselves fully.<sup>xxi</sup> Black LGBTQ+ youth champion their right to gender-affirming mental and medical health care, address homelessness and challenge structural racism.

Black trans and non-binary youth are also coming into their whole being with family and chosen family support. They are forging spaces to voice their rights and share their experiences. Students from middle school through high school often advocate in school affinity groups supporting LGBTQ+ rights, such as the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) and other youth-serving organizations. The HRC Youth Ambassadors is also a space that “help raise awareness about its programs to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ youth at home, at school, at work, and beyond.”<sup>xxii</sup>

### Resources

- [Trans Lifeline](#)
- [Gender Spectrum- Online Discussions for Adults and Youth](#)
- [The Gender Cool Project](#)
- [7 Young Black LGBTQ Activists You Should Know](#)
- [Zaya Wade- Biography](#)
- [HRC 2018 Youth Report: HRC Youth Ambassador Makayla on Facing Adversity- Video](#)
- [HRC Youth Ambassador Gia Parr Speaks at the 2019 Time to Thrive- Video](#)
- [HRC- Genderqueer Writer Nakiya Lynch on Finding Joy in Words- Videos](#)
- [HRC- Fierce, Fabulous and Fighting for our Lives panel of Trans and Non-Binary Gen Z'ers](#)
- [Supporting Trans and Non-Binary Youth: HRC Youth Ambassador Panel at the 2021 HRC Time to Thrive Women's Leadership Project](#)

## Family Advocacy for Medical and Mental Health Care

Health care for transgender youth has been politicized, with 2021 noted as the worst year for the passing and introduction of harmful anti-transgender legislation targeting life-saving gender-affirming care for transgender and non-binary youth.<sup>xxiii</sup> Black trans and non-binary youth and their families are opposing legislative attempts to halt access to gender-affirming treatments, systemic racism in the healthcare system, and racial bias in health care access.<sup>xxiv</sup> Health care systems are still using inaccurate racial and gender binary models.

Black people face many health disparities rooted in social, economic, and political factors. Biased and culturally insensitive approaches are significant barriers to equitable healthcare for Black trans and gender non-conforming youth. According to co-facilitator Sikivu Hutchinson of the Black LGBTQIA+ Parent and Caregivers Group, “The pandemic has brutally exposed the nexus between health access and economic inequality for queer communities of color. LGBTQI+ youth of color have borne the brunt of this fallout. While health care access is abysmal for communities of color overall, LGBTQI+ communities of color are least likely to receive culturally competent, quality health care.”<sup>xxv</sup> A few comprehensive studies explore Black trans and gender non-conforming youth’s healthcare experiences. These studies highlight the need for medical practitioners to adopt an intersectional approach that recognizes the youth of color and their families’ experiences with race and gender.

For example, Black families endure systemic injustices attempting to identify equitable medical treatment for their children. Medical care is even a problem for families fortunate enough to live in cities and towns with medical practices that address transgender and non-binary health needs.<sup>xxvi</sup> When families find a medical practice that treats transgender and non-binary youth, they often encounter practitioners who deliver the treatment with



bias. Biased treatment can result in practitioners dismissing medical questions from Black families, caregivers, and children. One of the results is that the parents and caregivers receive limited gender-affirming care options for their children. Parents share the frustration of their child being misgendered during doctor's appointments and the difficulty posing questions to a doctor exhibiting racial bias towards their Black child.<sup>xxvii</sup> Studies show that transgender and non-binary patients disproportionately receive biased medical treatment. One in five trans and gender non-conforming patients are denied medical treatment, while 30% have been disrespected or harassed. Two percent have experienced assault. Nearly half of the patients have had to teach the clinicians about the care they need.<sup>xxviii</sup> Racial biases compound this reality.

Black parents and caregivers of the HRC Parents for Transgender Equality Council note difficulty finding gender-affirming medical treatment and physicians. Queer-affirming medical practitioners offer advice to Black families who step into the role of medical advocates for their children. Physician Assistant Deborah Dunn suggests that families talk with the provider's office about gender and race before the initial visit:

"Before you make an appointment, call ahead with questions about their doctor's experience with trans non-binary [people]. Before making an appointment, ask questions about race and affirming treatment. Are you going to do anything that will trigger my child. If you sense that they are not aware of race and don't know how to deal with Black children, or if you sense at any point that their spirit is not affirming, leave the office."<sup>xxix</sup>

Pediatrician and member of the HRC Parents for Transgender Equality Council, Dr. Keisha Michaels, reiterates the need to ask practitioners about their experience with gender and race:

"Don't be afraid to ask how much experience doctors have with gender minorities and experience with Black and brown patients that are also gender minorities. As a parent, you are likely going to need to advocate for all these identities. The doctor may have experience with treating Black and brown youth, but none with gender minority youth. Conversely, you may have a doctor who is well versed in treating gender minority patients but have little experience treating racially minoritized children. Finally, look for the physician who first values your child exactly as they are and one who will fight for their physical and mental wellbeing. Our children deserve nothing less."<sup>xxx</sup>

## Resources

- [HRC- Healthcare Equality Index 2022](#)
- [Gender-Affirming Policies Support Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth's Health- Report](#)
- [HRC- Navigating Transition-Related Care: A Guide for Parents and Guardians of Gender Expansive Children and Teens](#)
- [HRC- Can You See Me? Trans People are Overlooked and Underserved- Video](#)
- [HRC- Myth #1: Surgery is a Top Priority for all Transgender People- Video](#)

## Mental Health

Mental health support is imperative for transgender and gender-expansive youth. Yet, LGBTQ+ youth of color experience the same barriers to mental health treatment encountered when seeking medical treatment. Due to inequitable access and systemic racism, many families distrust the medical system and mental health providers.<sup>xxxi</sup>

Systemic racism shapes Black LGBTQ+ youths' limited access to mental health resources. Equitable mental health treatment is needed to address mental health symptoms such as depression and suicidal ideations in response to victimization, race-based bullying, racism, transphobia, homophobia, and gender discrimination.

Family advocates are essential to the protection of their children's mental health. Supportive factors of mental health identified are connectedness to family and school support. Other supporting factors are "forms of resilience, such as cultural pride, spirituality, and community connectedness, as potential protective factors and as potential areas of focus to promote and support resilience in Black and Latinx transgender youth."<sup>xxxii</sup>





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In addition to the crucial help crisis management organizations like the Trevor Project provide, mental health and medical providers must consider their patients' racial, ethnic, and gender identities. They must incorporate an approach that questions the systemic racism Black transgender and non-binary youth endure. Ultimately, families must remain vigilant advocates for their children in medical settings.

### Resources

- [The Trevor Project- All Black Lives Matter: Mental Health of Black LGBTQ Youth](#)
- [The Trevor Project- Black LGBTQ Youth Mental Health](#)
- [The Trevor Project 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health- Report](#)
- [The Trevor Project- Resources for Mental Health Support](#)
- [The Trevor Project- Facts about LGBTQ Youth Suicide](#)
- [The Trevor Project- Acceptance of Transgender and Nonbinary Youth from Adults and Peers Associated with Significantly Lower Rates of Attempting Suicide](#)
- [The Trevor Project- Accepting Adults Reduce Suicide Attempts Among LGBTQ Youth](#)
- [Proud and Thriving Literature Review: Exploring Mental Health Considerations for Trans & Non-Binary Students National Queer and Trans Therapists of Color Network](#)
- [Black Transmen Inc.- Health](#)
- [HRC- QTBIPOC Mental Health and Well Being](#)
- [HRC-We Must Act: Addressing and Combating Oppression During and Beyond BIPOC Mental Health](#)
- [HRC- Mental Health in Queer & Trans BIPOC Communities- Video](#)
- [Moonflower- Middle School book](#)

## Families, their Children, and Faith

Faith communities and spirituality are the foundation of Black communities throughout time and across ethnicities.<sup>xxxiii</sup> At the same time, religion can be used as a tool of division to propagate what is deemed normative sexuality and to institutionalize gender binaries and structural racism. Thus, faith practices can be both a salve and support for faith believers but toxic for LGBTQ+ youth and families navigating faith-based homophobia and transphobia.

Some religious leaders claim gender identities that veer away from gender binaries' are against religious doctrines. Many families feel they must choose between their place of worship and supporting their child's gender identity.<sup>xxxiv</sup> As a result, Black LGBTQ+ youth and their families are pushed out of church families that deem gender non-conformity deviant.<sup>xxxv</sup> Skewed interpretations of religious texts label gender identity sinful.<sup>xxxvi</sup> Gender-inclusive faith leaders and trans and non-binary faith leaders challenge religious views that promote hate and LGBTQ+ pathology. For example, transgender non-binary spiritualist and theologian Maij Vu Mai talks about empowering beliefs around trans and non-binary identities and faith:

"Trans and non-binary existence is faithful and not blasphemous to faith, God, or spirituality. Seeing trans and non-binary folks as super faithful to our understanding of God, spirituality, and church is a strong place to start for parents who are advocating for their Black trans and non binary children. Trans and non-binary identities are way more accurate, way more holistic, and way more faithful to our understandings of divinity. One significant question is, how does a two gender category actually encapsulate an all powerful God? If God is so ever present, so omnipresent, so powerful, so knowing, so perfect, and excellent in their existence in the world, then how would they make a mistake with trans and non-binary people."<sup>xxxvii</sup>

Inclusive religious leaders representing various faiths foster the message that religious faith embraces all gender and sexualities. Black inclusive churches are not a recent phenomenon. In Harlem, New York, during the Harlem Renaissance, two churches—St. Phillip's Church, an Episcopal Church, and Memorial Baptist Church were identified as safe spaces for gay congregants.<sup>xxxviii</sup>



Black non-faith communities center social justice for the Black community. Though Black people are the most religious racial group in America, a growing number of Black millennials and younger are secular and questioning religion.<sup>xxxix</sup> Black humanist organizations provide spaces for Black LGBTQ+ youth who are not faith believers to explore morality, social justice, and shame-free expressions of their gender and sexual identities.

Black faith communities and non-faith communities must further social justice and support Black LGBTQ+ youth and their families.

### Resources

- [HRC-Religion and Coming Out Issues for African Americans](#)
- [Transsaints](#)
- [Supporting Trans/Non-Binary Youth in your Congregation](#)
- [Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities: What we know about the Transgender and Non-Binary Experience](#)
- [LGBTQ+ People of Faith: Rejection and Healing](#)
- [To be Young, Queer, Black, and Muslim: Vanessa Taylor on the Future of Black Muslim Liberation & the Bond of Belonging](#)
- [Faith among Black Americans](#)
- [Check your White Privilege Freethinkers- Video](#)
- [The Black Trans Prayer Book](#)

## Black Transgender, Non-binary, and LGB Figures Through Time

Representation matters. This mantra holds special meaning for educating people about Black transgender and non-binary figures. Representation is vital for Black LGBTQ+ youth. Learning about contemporary and historical Black LGBTQ+ leaders can inspire them. It can also be inspirational for their families. Connecting to the many contributions that Black LGBTQ+ figures of the past and present make to society is central to building a more inclusive and accurate historical record.

These sources also demonstrate that gender non-conforming and transgender figures have been a part of Black diasporic communities for centuries. Black LGBTQ+ people create, live, and fight against discrimination and contribute to numerous sectors of society.

### Resources

- [B. Trans Oral History Project](#)
- [9 Unapologetic Black LGBT Influencers and Creators you Need to Know](#)
- [Black Trans\\* Lives Matter: Resources by and about Black Trans\\* Folks](#)
- [HRC Joins the #March4TransEquality- Video](#)
- [Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice](#)
- [Mama Gloria- Documentary Film](#)
- [HRC- "Mama Gloria" Film Talkback](#)
- [HRC-Transgender Advocate Tori Cooper on how House Music Helped her find Community- Video](#)  
[BIPOC Trans Filmmakers](#)
- [From 'Disclosure' to 'Pose': What Movies, Shows to Watch on Trans Day of Visibility HRC- Dominique Jackson Reflects on Claiming Joy and Visibility in "Pose"- Video](#)  
[Monica Roberts, Legendary Voice for the Black Trans Community has Died](#)



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- [Transgender Activist Raquel Willis finds Strength in Telling Stories of Forgotten Trans Women](#)
- [16 Queer Black Trailblazers who made History](#)
- [Black Music Month & Pride 2021: Queer Musicians you should Know](#)
- [Black Trans Feminism](#)
- [Peter Sewally/Mary Jones](#)
- [A Map of Gender Diverse Cultures](#)
- [From the Start, Black Lives Matter has been about LGBTQ Lives](#)
- [Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity- Book](#)
- [TRANSGENDER WARRIORS: Making History from Joan Arc to Dennis Rodman- Book](#)

#### **Additional Resources**

- [HRC- Global Conversations: Trans Rights and Resilience- Video](#)
- [In Southern Africa, Activists Use New Rulings to Bring Rights Home](#)
- ['Un-African?' Photos Challenge Notions of LGBTQ Identity in the African](#)
- [WE EXIST: Mapping LGBTQ Organizing in West Africa](#)
- [Queer Caribbeans of NYC](#)
- [Stonewall 50](#)
- [The Legend of the Underground- Documentary film](#)





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