

Progress for Peace and Equality

Over the last year, at least 350 members of the transgender and gender non-conforming community lost their lives due to hate violence according to Transrespect.org. Since 2008, when Transrespect Versus Transphobia Worldwide began monitoring these statistics, cases of hate crimes that led to the death of a trans/gender non-conforming community member have grown at an alarming yearly rate. Astonishingly, 3,364 murders reported in the last twelve years were fueled by discrimination and transphobia(Transrespect, p. 2). On account of these increasingly recurrent macabre incidents, it is apparent that our society needs to free the transgender community from discrimination and heal the wounds that have been left by repeated injustices towards transgender and gender non-conforming people.

During a time when hate crimes towards the trans community are higher than ever reported, it is imperative that our world takes action against this vile injustice. An organization doing just that is the National Center for Transgender Equality. The NCTE works to provide empowerment, opportunities, and protection for transgender people. They also provide a powerful voice for the trans community in Washington DC by advocating for policy changes that will provide equal rights and freedoms for all. Moreover, the NCTE has taken action by working on many projects that will benefit both young and old members of the transgender community such as providing legal help to those that are going through the name/gender change process.

This organization has been able to take many strides towards their goal of equal rights. One such occasion was the first ever Congressional Hearing on Transgender Issues in June 2008, which the NCTE helped to organize. During this hearing, the transgender community was able to voice the many instances of occupational discrimination that they have experienced. This event

was soon followed up by the signing of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into the first federal law that would protect the trans community. These are just two of the first groundbreaking achievements that the NCTE was able to bring about; soon, more advancements benefiting the trans community will follow. As the NCTE makes more progress towards equality, transgender men, women, and children are able to express their true selves, something many had never been able to do in the past.

Not only is the NCTE taking action for equality and freedom from violence and discrimination, they are also providing support for transgender youth in order to insure that they are being taken care of and treated with respect. One of the many projects that the NCTE is dedicated to allows a network of families with trans youth to find support within transgender activists and each other. This project will secure the fair treatment of trans youth while also allowing them a network through which they can communicate with others that understand what they are going through. Furthermore, this project has allowed the youth of the trans community to gain the rights and respect that they deserve.

The NCTE strives to promote justice, opportunity, non-violence, and peace throughout the world. They have given members of the transgender and gender non-conforming community legal and emotional support that will set them on the right path to thrive and overcome any obstacles they may face. They have also to improve our society through policy changes that effect local, state, and federal government in favor of equality for the transgender community. The progress that the NCTE is making will soon allow our society to eliminate some of the hate that has tormented transgender and gender non-conforming community as they continue to advocate for peace and equality.

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Works Cited:

National Center for Transgender Equality, transequality.org/.

“Transrespect vs Transphobia.” *TvT*, 11 Nov. 2020, transrespect.org/en/.