

# DC Trans Coalition Campaign to **Correct the Department of Corrections!**

*Transgender & genderqueer inmates are being abused and humiliated in DC jails. We demand that the following changes be implemented immediately:*

**Acknowledge trans prisoners, respect our gender identities and meet our safety needs.** The Department of Corrections (DOC) has said they will classify trans prisoners by which transportation we're given from the courthouse. DOC officers must be able to respond to all trans prisoners and be able to re-house us according to our identity regardless of how we arrive in their custody.

**Trans prisoners must be housed where they feel most safe.** Right now, DOC officers decide where trans prisoners go, and the only options are general population or 23-hour lockdown. Members of our community are targeted for sexual assault and harassment by fellow inmates and by DOC officers, and we know where we will be safest.

**The Department of Corrections must provide us with *real* housing options:**

1. The general population where we feel most safe;
2. A trans-specific housing option within the general population where we feel most safe;
3. Protective custody with at least 5 hours out of the cell per day (instead of 23-hour lockdown) for non-violent offenders.

**All prisoners deserve privacy during strip searches.** Trans prisoners, who are subject to humiliation and abuse, especially need it. The DOC must create private areas for strip searches with two officers in attendance (so as to provide oversight).

**The DOC must uphold the DC Human Rights Act** by referring to trans prisoners by their correct pronoun and name and supplying gender- appropriate uniforms.

***We, the undersigned, support these and all demands of the DC Trans Coalition's campaign to Correct the Department of Corrections:***

Name	Phone	Email	Volunteer?
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**Thank you for your support!** To get involved with the Coalition, or to learn more about our events, send an email to [dctranscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:dctranscoalition@gmail.com)

<http://www.dctranscoalition.org>

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### **Full Policy Demands for the District of Columbia Department of Corrections Regarding the Treatment and Housing of Transgender Inmates**

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#### **Goals**

- To create a jail free from discrimination, harassment, assault, and sexual violence for all DC inmates.
- To create detention and arrest procedures that upholds the civil rights and humanity of all DC residents regardless of their gender identity or expression.
- To formally adopt a written housing policy that safely houses transgender people according to their needs.
- To bring the District of Columbia's detention facilities into compliance with the DC Humans Rights Code (codified at DC Official Code § 2-1402.73) with regard to the treatment of transgender, gender diverse, and intersex inmates.

#### **Policy Demands**

- The DC Department of Corrections should adopt, in addition to these demands, the protocol outlined in the Model Protocols on the Treatment of Transgender Persons by San Francisco County Jail (attached).
- Given the vulnerability of transgender, gender diverse and intersex people to sexual assault while in corrections custody and incarceration, DC Department of Corrections should prioritize the enrollment of nonviolent transgender, gender variant, and intersex offenders into diversion and other programs which provide alternatives to incarceration.
- Wearing clothing and cosmetics appropriate for their gender identity is essential to the well-being of many transgender inmates. Transgender, gender diverse and intersex inmates should not be deprived of appearance-related items which the general population of the transgender, gender diverse, or intersex person's identified gender are allowed to use or wear. Inmates serving longer sentences must be allowed access to gender-appropriate clothing, and this policy must be consistently and diligently enforced.
- Transgender, gender diverse, or intersex prisoners must be given access to timely medical treatment, including hormone replacement therapy and HIV medication if necessary. See the Model Protocols on the Treatment of Transgender Persons by San Francisco County Jail for sample guidelines for allowing suitable access to hormone replacement therapy.
- Correction officers should show consistent and continued respect for inmates' preferred names and pronouns throughout the transgender, gender diverse, or intersex person's incarceration.
- Correction officers should not insult or ridicule transgender, gender diverse, and intersex inmates on the basis of their gender identity or expression.
- Transgender, gender diverse, and intersex inmates should be afforded privacy during processing procedures that require disrobing, such as body cavity searches and squat searches. These forms of searches should take place in a private location with two and ONLY two officers present.
- Transgender, gender diverse, and intersex inmates should be housed according to their gender identity. Such inmates must not be kept in unnecessarily isolation. Transgender arrestees should be given a choice among housing options, whether to be housed with the general population male or female or with other transgender prisoners.
- The Department of Corrections will adhere to a clear, independent complaints process whereby transgender, gender diverse, or intersex persons can register complaints regarding treatment at any time during incarceration.
- Incidents of abuse of transgender, gender diverse, or intersex persons shall be regarded as serious and officers involved shall be subject to consequences including, but not limited to, demotion, desk duty, and expulsion. The first consequence for an officer found in violation of protocol will be to prohibit career advancement within the force.
- The number of complaints made and violations of protocols adopted will be included as part of an officer's annual performance review. Similarly, any interactions with transgendered, gender diverse or intersex inmates that subsequently required medical attention will be noted on an officer's performance evaluations, and repeated occurrences would require investigation.
- The Department of Corrections should record the number of transgender individuals that are incarcerated and that suffer from injury or assault during incarceration.
- Transgender, gender diverse and intersex people should be represented among those inmates selected for regular town hall hearings.
- All new corrections officers shall receive adequate training on the treatment of transgender, gender diverse, or intersex people as part of their training. Furthermore, officers shall be informed of these rules and any further policy updates regarding transgender, gender diverse, or intersex persons in written format within 30 days of adoption of these rules.
- Ongoing training should be available to officers who wish to broaden their understanding of issues related to transgender, gender diverse, or intersex people.
- The aforementioned training shall be offered by trans-identified trainers and approved by appropriate community groups, such as the DC Trans Coalition.