

Equality Endorsement Center



Equality Endowment Center  
~~Equality Endowment Center~~

As an openly gay Black Man, who is also incarcerated in a CDCR Facility, I view the growing fall-out with housing Transgender and non-binary prisoners in California through a solution based idealistic lens.

While CDCR is closing prisons, I'm sure that all parties involved remember the popular history of American Segregation problems that was met head on by Heros and Sheros, that, in Educational Institutions, both private, and public schools, used a model that expanded options that served the Nation. I'm so honored to say that one of those options was/is Historically Black Colleges and Universities, (HBCU's). An HBCU campus is not closed to non-black students and faculty, it is however, an equal opportunity for access to quality education for a marginalized sector of society, autonomously, and producing our most incredible. This model is perfect to replicate for the repurposing of at least one CDCR Facility for the housing, and rehabilitation of, a marginalized sector of society that self identify as LGBTQIA+.

LGBTQIA+ can be the new HBCU in the perspective of safety and security, respect and agency on a voluntary basis.

Response  
Reference

12.13.22

SQ NEWS Dec 22  
Page 14.

## Transgender housing battle looming

By Cassandra Evans  
Journalism Guild Writer

the right to be safe from sexual assault or harassment, the lawsuit said.

A legal battle is brewing, seeking to nullify a California law that requires transgender prisoners be housed in a female facility if they claim female identity, *The Hill* reports.

At issue is a law passed in 2020. It requires the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to allow transgender and non-binary prisoners to be housed in prisons according to their gender identity instead of the gender they were assigned at birth.

In addition, the law requires the state to consider transgender and non-binary prisoners' own perception of safety in all housing assignments, the May 10 story noted.

In May a motion was filed to intervene on behalf of four incarcerated transgender women and the Transgender Gender-Variant and Intersex Justice Project. The group included Lambda Legal, the Transgender Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California, and pro-bono co-counsel O'Melveny and Myers.

In November 2021 the law was challenged by a self-described "radical feminist" organization called the Women's Liberation Front, representing four incarcerated women and California nonprofit Woman II Woman. The organization's lawsuit claims that the law is being exploited by "hundreds of men" who seek to transfer to women's facilities, and that this has increased sexual violence.

The suit alleges that the law puts cisgender women (those who identify with the gender they were assigned at birth) in danger, and seeks a permanent injunction to stop implementation.

"[The law] cannot be applied in any manner that avoids violating the federal and state constitutional rights of plaintiffs," including

The filing also claims that incarcerated women are coerced into "using speech that reflects a belief to which a woman does not subscribe ... in the form of pronouns that are self-selected by a person claiming a gender identity." In addition, the group claims that the law violates a woman's "sincerely held religious beliefs" by forcing her to live with or undress before men other than a spouse or immediate family member.

According to the motion, two of the prisoners the groups represent are currently housed in CDCR facilities designated for men and they regularly face sexual violence — from prisoners and staff alike — based on their gender identity.

The coalition argues that the organization's lawsuit is intentionally misleading on the issue of gender identity, rehashing "sensationalist and debunked claims about transgender women supposedly perpetrating violence." They also believe CDCR is unlikely to "vigorously" defend the law.

"[I]t is a law that they not only refuse to fully implement, but regularly violate," the motion said. "These women ... are entitled to have their voices heard in this litigation to preserve their rights, and the protections afforded under California law."

Tremayne Carroll is one of the transgender women represented by the coalition. She is currently housed in a women's prison and fears what will happen if the organization's lawsuit succeeds.

"If these plaintiffs get what they want, I'll be sent back to a men's prison, where I would face relentless sexual harassment and the constant threat of rape," Carroll said in a statement. "That was my reality for years, and I am terrified to go back. I am a woman, and I don't belong in a men's prison."

10F2

"There is a difference between pleading for special treatment, and requiring equal treatment."  
- Parallaxboi

One Housing Unit at a time, with intentional screening for residents and employees, including modification program designs for LGBTQIA+ affirming concepts, facility-wide, all interested parties in this matter gain resolved contentment.

The volunteer participation status eliminates selective morality issues, or religious discontented expressions, while at the same time, providing a safe place to land, for those who identify to some degree as LGBTQIA+ and other compatible residents, and employees.

The allocation of a facility location as an equality endorsement center is a reasonable remedy to this looming battle for peace.

With the ironic deficiency of the existence of an HBCU in the State of California, "hint-hint," there is no valid reason for CDCR not to consider replicating the concept from the perspective of an LGBTQIA+ affirming innovative rehabilitative programming campus.

Another Sound Mind Streamer ideation.