

- **Resolution to Support Transgender Women and Girls' Inclusion in Sports**

WHEREAS abundant public health data demonstrates the social, physical, and mental benefits for *all* persons, regardless of gender identity, to engage in physical activity and sports;

WHEREAS there is a lack of appropriate, relevant, and rigorous scientific evidence, as illustrated in the [Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport report](#), to justify excluding transgender athletes from participating in organized sports, especially at the high school, collegiate, and non-elite sport levels;

WHEREAS banning transgender girls and women from participating in sports, [as explained by](#) former Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports member Jack Turban, is an overt politicization and rebuke of scientific and medical data, and directly harms an already extremely vulnerable group of individuals and athletes;

WHEREAS, as argued convincingly by the [Sport & Rights Alliance](#) in response to the Executive Order, the “Trump administration adopts language from anti-rights and anti-gender movements to limit participation in women’s sports, rescind funds from educational programs that refuse to comply, and push sporting and multilateral institutions to adopt its regressive policies;”

WHEREAS the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in 2023, published a policy position characterizing the categorical exclusions of trans and intersex women from women’s sports as a *prima facie* violation of human rights;

WHEREAS prohibiting transgender athletes from participating in organized sports and physical activities violates several United States state laws, such as the Minnesota Human Rights Act and the Minnesota Constitution (Minnesota) and Maine State Human Rights Act (Maine);

WHEREAS the exclusion of transgender persons from sport and physical activity has been condemned by numerous women’s sports organizations, civil rights groups, LGBTQ+ groups, medical and scientific associations, and experts in science, medicine, law, human rights, social sciences, humanities, and public policy;

WHEREAS transgender youth experience significant health disparities, such as increased risk for anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicidal ideation and suicide attempts, substance misuse, and school-based peer victimization;

WHEREAS banning transgender girls and women from participating in sports further marginalizes an already highly stigmatized group;

WHEREAS of the almost 550,000 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) athletes, less than 10 (or approximately 0.0018192%) publicly identify as transgender;

WHEREAS issues of media coverage inequality, pay inequality, lack of women in leadership and coaching positions, lack of training infrastructure and resources, insufficient medical advice and support, and lack of personnel constitute documented challenges to and in girls' and women's sports;

WHEREAS banning transgender girls and women from physical activity and sports spaces also elicits harm to cisgender girls and women who do not ascribe to Western, white, normative standards of femininity;

WHEREAS banning transgender girls and women from physical activity and sports spaces is part of larger systemic attacks on the human and civil rights of transgender communities, including state legislation passed to ban access to gender affirming medical care, to ban the use of preferred names and pronouns in educational institutions, to require educators to forcibly out their students to parents, to restrict access to public facilities such as bathrooms and locker rooms, and to prohibit gender non-conforming performances; and is reflective of a broader attack against gender expansive people (including cis women who do not conform);

WHEREAS the banning of transgender girls and women, through formal regulatory approaches (e.g., an Executive Order), is a cultural and political strategy to advance a broader agenda of right wing extremism, which seeks to control the spectrum of identity, establish an ideal of femininity that is suitable to white supremacy, and create a sense of fear amongst one of these most unprotected, at-risk, and vulnerable classes in the United States;

AND, WHEREAS THE NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT (NASSS) is committed to conducting, disseminating, and applying research that is scientifically rigorous and to the communication and application of accurate knowledge about sport and society through teaching, research, and social action;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NASSS joins Athlete Ally, GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), the Sport & Rights Alliance, Amnesty International, the Human Rights Campaign, and Voice in Sport in expressing concern over these politically motivated attacks on the transgender community and calls for all athletes to be able to participate in sports consistent with their self-determined gender identity, to not infringe on transgender people's fundamental human rights, create policy informed by rigorous, peer-reviewed research, and refrain from jeopardizing the health and humanity of marginalized people – such as transgender individuals – for political gain.