



March 8th, 2023

We, the Board and Undersigned Members of the Liberal Religious Educators Association ([LREDA](#)) are deeply troubled by the wave of hate sweeping the United States, targeted at our queer families, most especially families with trans, nonbinary and/or gender exploring children and youth. We express our unequivocal support and love for the trans people in our lives: our families, our colleagues, and the children, youth, and adults we serve.

We call on congregations to mobilize. We call on congregations to offer the course [Transgender Inclusion in Congregations](#) from the [Transforming Heart Collective](#), and continue the work of moving towards inclusion of all those with targeted identities. We call on congregations to support our families with gender exploring children by investing in religious education resources specifically for them - including books, trainings, and pastoral support. We call on congregations to offer tangible support to Unitarian Universalist families who are fleeing states attacking their children's right to exist. We call on congregations to not only offer Our Whole Lives to their church community, but to their wider community as well.

We call on the UUA to mobilize. We call on the UUA to mobilize all staff groups to identify what is in their staff group's purview to implement that will support our trans families. We call on the UUA to use its prophetic pedestal and champion trans families in a publicity campaign - our progressive religious voice must be used to counteract the conservative religious voices driving these campaigns. We call on the UUA to make financial resources available for Unitarian Universalist families forced to move to another state to protect their children from hate. We call on the UUA to make trainings freely available, led by trans, nonbinary, and/or genderqueer educators, for volunteers and staff in local congregations to support their work with trans and/or nonbinary youth and supporting trans families.

We call on ourselves, LREDA members, including religious educators, those serving music ministry, administrators and ministers, to mobilize. We call on ourselves to recognize the important relationships we have with those most directly impacted by these dehumanizing actions. Now is a time to center these voices, to listen, and to ask what is most needed. We call on you, colleagues, to expand the diversity of our congregational libraries and to incorporate more stories featuring trans, nonbinary, and genderqueer characters in our Times for All Ages.

We call on all of us to lift up the experiences and needs of our trans, nonbinary and genderqueer colleagues and to ensure our professional organizations are offering pastoral support to trans colleagues.

How are you responding to the call?

It takes a village to raise a child. It takes every Unitarian Universalist to protect our trans families. We all can do more and we all have a part to play. Let's mobilize.

-Signed,

Aisha Hauser, LREDA President, Co-Lead on the Ministry Team, Church of the Larger Fellowship

Mx. Katharine Childs, LREDA President Elect, DRE, Unitarian Church of Montreal

Lauren Wyeth, LREDA Vice President, Director of Spiritual Growth for All Ages, First Universalist Church of Minneapolis

Tuli Patel, LREDA Treasurer, Executive Director, Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, NJ

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Kirsten Hunter, LREDA Leadership Development, Director of Lifespan Ministries, South Church UU, Portsmouth, NH

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Courtney McKenny, LREDA Continental Events, DLF, Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham & Unitarian Universalist Church of Tuscaloosa

Juliet Donaldson, LREDA Executive Director, Franklin, MA

Additional Signatories:

Eleanor VanDeusen	Foothills Unitarian Church	Fort Collins	CO
Karishma Gottfried	The Sanctuary Boston	Boston	MA
Catherine Williamson	First Unitarian Church of Wilmington	Wilmington	DE
Tina Lesley-Fox	First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse	Syracuse	NY
Richard S Gilbert	First Universalist of Rochester, NY (Member)	Rochester	NY
Andrea James,	Managing Director, Mirth and Dignity	Winnipeg	Manitoba
Ember Kelley	Fourth Universalist Society	New York	NY
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Jessica Zimmer	First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau	Wausau	WI
Martha Durkee-Neuman	First Parish in Malden, Unitarian Universalist	Malden	MA
Kathy E. Smith, CRE	Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge	Baton Rouge	LA
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Tracy Sprowls	UU Fellowship of Centre County	State College	PA
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Gina Campellone	Unitarian Universalist Society:East	Manchester	CT
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Rev. Elizabeth Mount	The UU Church of Cheyenne	Cheyenne	WY
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Karen Gonzalez	River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation	Sunrise	FL
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Jewell Faamaligi	Pacific Unitarian Universalist Church	Rancho Palos Verdes	CA
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Rev. Laura Shennum	First UU Society of San Francisco	San Francisco	CA
Rev. Jennifer Kelleher	Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton	Princeton	NJ
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