

Fascists threaten, Biden concedes: Organize and fight for trans rights!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 8, 2023



[Tasiyah Woodland](#), an 18-year-old Black trans woman, killed in Baltimore on March 24, was remembered at the Queer and Trans Youth Autonomy March in Washington, D.C., on March 31. Black trans women are murdered in disproportionately high numbers. SLL photo: Melinda Butterfield

The Trans Day of Vengeance was a long-planned protest in Washington, D.C., scheduled for April 1. People were coming to D.C. from across the country to participate. It was called in response to the growing legal and extralegal violence against the transgender community, egged on by far-right politicians and corporate media.

In the words of event initiator Tsukuru Fors, as [reported by Struggle-La Lucha](#): “Vengeance means fighting back with vehemence. It is our battle cry to declare to the world that we the transgender/non-binary communities will neither be silenced nor eradicated. And we are calling to our allies, members of other marginalized communities to make themselves known and to fight with us.”

On March 30, organizers were forced to cancel two days before the event because of “a credible threat to life and safety.” The reason: fascist mouthpieces like [Tucker Carlson and other social-media bottom feeders](#) whipped up a hate campaign targeting the event, falsely claiming it had caused a mass shooting at a Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 27, where three students and three staff members were killed.

The alleged shooter was Aiden Hale, a former student of the school who happened to be a trans man. Hale was shot dead by police. He was consistently misgendered and deadnamed for the first 24-48 hours after the tragedy, and some right-wing social media used this to claim that Hale was a trans woman.

[According to the Gun Violence Archive](#), by the end of March 2023 – that is, in just three months – there have been at least 130 mass shootings in the United States this year. The Nashville shooting is the only one reported to have been carried out by a trans person.

And yet, according to the right-wing, from Fox News and the New York Post to internet-famous white supremacists, Hale’s acts represented the “dangerous” nature

of the whole trans community, and particularly the planned April 1 civil rights protest.

At least two specific threats to the Trans Day of Vengeance march took the form of mass shootings. According to independent anti-fascist researchers working with the John Brown Gun Club DMV, a [Minnesota-based white supremacist](#) named Adam Murray made credible threats to the event. After this was reported to the FBI, Murray was briefly detained in Baltimore and then released.

Another white supremacist said to be one Benjamin Ryder of Pennsylvania, was detained by police when [he pulled out a gun](#) outside the Supreme Court on April 1, where the Trans Day of Vengeance march had been scheduled to gather.

The right-wing tried to turn the Nashville tragedy into a Reichstag fire moment to frame up the entire trans community and justify the acts of violence it encouraged from stooges like Murray and Ryder – who much more fit the profile of the typical U.S. mass shooter.

Biden's concession fuels attacks

On March 25, a member of the “White Lives Matter” neo-Nazi group [attempted to firebomb](#) the Community Church of Chesterland, Ohio, for hosting a drag story hour. Just a week before, the [Nazis staged](#) an anti-trans, anti-drag demonstration in the Ohio town of Wadsworth, chanting, “There will be blood.”

So far this year, 450 anti-trans bills have been introduced in state legislatures across the U.S. Some 14 states have banned life-saving gender-affirming care for trans youth, with more expected to join them. In addition, bans on trans youth participation in school sports and use of school restrooms have been enacted.

On April 5, Kansas passed a law explicitly aimed at trans girls and young women that [could require genital inspections](#) for participation in sports programs. Florida

and other states are expected to follow suit. Tennessee, where the March 27 shooting took place, is one of the worst offenders, even enacting a so-called “drag ban” that places the public existence of trans people in jeopardy.

On March 31, International Trans Day of Visibility, President Joe Biden repeated his occasional claim to support “love, dignity and respect” for trans people. Yet less than a week later, the Washington Post reported: “The Biden administration on Thursday proposed new regulations that would [allow schools to bar transgender athletes](#) from participating in competitive high school and college sports but disallow blanket bans on the athletes that have been approved across the country.”

A few state legislators like Nebraska State Senators Machaela Cavanaugh and Megan Hunt, both parents of trans children, and Montana State Representative Zooey Zephyr, who is trans herself, have used their platforms to fight for trans rights relentlessly.

But Biden and the national Democratic Party leadership have done nothing to counter the onslaught of anti-trans hate that has engulfed the country since he entered office. Instead, the first significant act of the administration on this issue concedes trans rights.

This shouldn’t come as a surprise. Biden rode to victory in 2020 on the back of the Black Lives Matter movement and the fight for reproductive freedom – then immediately oversaw a huge shift of funds to police while refusing to take the necessary action to codify abortion rights in law before the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade.

Now, as Democrats gear up for the 2024 elections, where Biden’s likely Republican opponents are notorious bigots Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis, Biden is preparing to throw trans people – and the whole LGBTQ+ community – under the bus.

Whatever the good intentions of some individual Democrats, the Democratic Party ultimately answers to the same capitalist class that has decided to double down on anti-trans hate as a divide-and-conquer strategy to protect their system as people's suffering grows.

Biden's lack of action to protect trans lives, now exacerbated by his concession on sports participation, will encourage more legal attacks and more violence like the attempted church firebombing in Ohio and the armed threats to civil rights protesters in Washington.

When I spoke to participants in the March 31 march for Queer and Trans Youth Autonomy in the capital, I found enthusiasm and desire for bold action to protect trans youth and fight for trans liberation.

I heard young and older people eager to link the struggle for trans rights with the fight for Black and Indigenous lives, solidarity with migrants, defense of reproductive rights, union organizing, and climate justice.

It's time for bold, independent action, like the [National March to Protect Trans Youth](#) proposed by Women in Struggle-Mujeres en Lucha. It's time to organize for self-defense and take to the streets to push back the violent anti-trans attacks.

It's time to change the political climate of the U.S. from one where oppressed peoples live in fear to one where politicians and the super-rich behind them fear the people.



Women in Struggle proposes National March to Protect Trans Youth

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April 8, 2023

***TRANS PEOPLE
WON'T BE ERASED***

**BIGOTS SAY GET BACK
WE SAY FIGHT BACK!**

***Women in Struggle /
Mujeres en Lucha***



Proposal to the movement from Women in Struggle – Mujeres en Lucha:

**NATIONAL MARCH TO PROTECT TRANS YOUTH
Florida, Autumn 2023**

& SPEAKOUT FOR TRANS RIGHTS

Build a People's Tribunal to put anti-trans bigots on trial

Transgender, nonbinary, gender-nonconforming, and intersex people are under siege. So far this year, more than 400 anti-trans bills have been introduced at the state and national levels. Fourteen states have banned or severely restricted life-saving gender-affirming care for trans youth. Attacks, both legislative and violent, are growing by the day, while national elected officials who claim to support LGBTQ+ community remain silent and do nothing.

We can't wait for the next election in hopes that things might improve. Measures are being enacted NOW that will do irreparable harm to trans youth and all trans

people. The thousands of youth around the country walking out of schools and rallying at state capitols have shown us the way. Now we need to take the movement national.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who wants to be president, is one of the most vicious abusers of trans youth and the rights of all people. Behind politicians like DeSantis are rich bosses who profit from divide-and-rule tactics.

Join us to build a broad national coalition in partnership with organizations and communities on the ground in Florida and with allies in the Black Lives and immigrant rights struggles, the women's movement, educators, labor, the unemployed, and antiwar movements.

GET READY for the first planning meeting on Zoom in April.

SPREAD THE WORD. Think about what you can do!

ADD YOUR NAME & ORGANIZATION to the list of initiators and endorsers.

REACH OUT to info@womeninstruggle.org for updates and to get involved.

Bigots say get back - we say fight back!

WomeninStruggle.org

[Facebook.com/womenmujeresinstruggle](https://www.facebook.com/womenmujeresinstruggle)



Trans Day of Vengeance: Fight back against far-right attacks!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
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I have a book coming out soon: “U.S. Proxy War in Ukraine and Donbass.” If anti-war activists in Nashville, Tennessee, invited me to come and do a book reading, I would be at risk of arrest – not for the contents of the book, but as a trans person speaking and existing in public.

On March 2, Tennessee became the first state in the country to [ban drag performances](#). At least 14 other state legislatures have introduced similar measures. The law was cobbled together with numerous amendments in an attempt to withstand legal challenges on free speech grounds by claiming to ban only “adult-oriented performances where minors could be exposed.”

But state officials have made clear they consider drag performers and trans people to be inherently guilty of “lewd behavior.” No distinction is made between the

millennia-old art form of drag and transgender people going about their daily lives, though they are different things.

Under a bill currently being considered in the Texas legislature, if I gave a speech at a protest in Houston, Texas – the fourth-largest city in the U.S. – I could be sued by anyone for [“performing drag” in a place where a minor might see](#). This measure is based on a similar law enacted last year to encourage bounty hunting of anyone suspected of having or helping someone get an abortion.

A growing number of political activists, workers, and struggling communities understand the danger represented by these measures aimed at the trans community, and other LGBTQ+ people. Many more, however, have not yet understood how far-reaching they are or how they threaten everyone if allowed to advance without fierce, united resistance.

LGBTQ+ organizers are sounding the alarm, not only in Texas and Tennessee but in the many other states where similar laws are likely to be enacted soon. What will this mean for Pride marches in June? Could there be mass arrests? Will threats and lawsuits force smaller Pride celebrations to be canceled?

These are just some of the urgent issues driving a call by the Trans Radical Activist Network and other groups for a “Trans Day of Vengeance” weekend of actions in Washington, D.C., on March 31-April 1.

Internal refugee crisis

Since the beginning of this year, several states have enacted bans on gender-affirming health care for trans youth, including forced detransition of those already receiving care. Numerous other laws have been passed or likely soon will be that force teachers and other school staff to ignore students’ names and pronouns and to report any suspected “gender deviance” to parents and state authorities.

Among the worst offenders is Florida. Gov. Ron DeSantis forced through a ban on gender-affirming care for youth and Medicaid recipients of all ages late last year through the authority of an appointed medical board.

Now state legislators are preparing to codify these executive measures into law, along with a bill that would allow parents to kidnap trans children who are receiving care or even suspected of doing so under another parent's custody, even if they live in another state. The language would also permit children of trans parents to be seized.

Nor is it only youths and parents who are threatened. The bans on gender-affirming care are being "aged up" to include young adults, and measures are being pushed to forbid insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid from covering any gender-affirming care for anyone at any age.

These anti-trans laws have no basis in medical science - all major medical associations oppose them. Gender-affirming care has been shown time and again to be vital to improving the health and well-being of trans people and curbing suicide among trans youth, too.

The cruel measures to rob people of their health care and their very ability to live as themselves are accompanied by growing fascist violence and harassment on the streets, fueled by far-right media and social media campaigns that threaten trans people and others who stand up for them.

This was epitomized when [Daily Wire host Michael Knowles](#) declared to cheers at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) that "transgenderism must be eradicated from public life entirely."

At the federal level, Republicans in the House of Representatives have begun to present similar bills that would ban trans lives throughout the whole country. While

they are unlikely to pass now, the ultra-right is laying the groundwork for anti-trans laws if they are successful in the 2024 presidential and congressional elections.

A refugee crisis is taking shape within the borders of the U.S. as increasing numbers of families and individuals flee the crackdown on queer lives. Like people in Latin America and the Caribbean who are forced to flee north, trans people are being uprooted from their homes, jobs, and communities.

So far, Connecticut, Massachusetts, California, Illinois, Washington, D.C., and most recently, Minnesota have enacted laws declaring themselves sanctuary states for trans people.

‘Fight with us’

Struggle-La Lucha spoke with Tsukuru Fors, co-founder of the Trans Radical Activist Network (TRAN), who explained that this year “we are calling for Trans Day of Vengeance, instead of Trans Day of Visibility, because ‘visibility’ alone is no longer enough.

“The right-wing fascists have unleashed a misinformation campaign upon our community by creating narratives that we are a danger to society. They like to say that we are sexual predators and violent radicals, when, in fact, the only thing that’s dangerous about us is the fact that we are a threat to the binary systems that uphold the patriarchal, white-supremacist and capitalist power structure,” Fors said.

“In the face of urgent issues such as poverty, housing, health care, education, police brutality, and hate crimes against the marginalized communities, the fact that the trans/non-binary communities and the war concerning gender identity are being singled out as ‘the number one problem’ by right-wing politicians demonstrates to us that we are being used to distract people from the most important issues at hand.

“That is why we are calling for Trans Day of Vengeance. Vengeance means fighting

back with vehemence. It is our battle cry to declare to the world that we the transgender/non-binary communities will neither be silenced nor eradicated. And we are calling to our allies, members of other marginalized communities to make themselves known and to fight with us.”

On Friday, March 31, in Washington, D.C., Queer Youth Assemble is hosting a [March for Queer and Trans Youth Autonomy](#) from Union Station to the U.S. Capitol, starting at 3 p.m.

Youth-led actions are being held across the country on March 31, including in Florida, where a call has gone out for protests on [every school and college campus in the state](#).

Then on Saturday, April 1, the [Trans Day of Vengeance march](#) will begin at 11 a.m. in Washington, D.C., hosted by TRAN and Our Rights D.C. The gathering site and march route will be announced closer to the date. Follow Struggle-La Lucha and sign up with TRAN for updates.

We say fight back! We won't go back!

WE WANT MORE THAN VISIBILITY.

TRANS DAY OF VENGEANCE

STOP TRANS GENOCIDE

TRANS DAY OF VENGEANCE

SAVE THE DATE:

APRIL 1ST - 11:00 AM / MARCH 31ST - TBA



CONTACT:



@OURRIGHTSDC



OURRIGHTSDC@PROTON.ME



@TSUKURU_NONBINARY



TSUKURUFORS@TRANSRADICALACTIVISTNETWORK.ORG



IMPORTANT UPDATE: Organizers of the Washington D.C. march scheduled for April 1 have called off the action due to credible threats of fascist violence. The Trans Day of Vengeance protest became a flashpoint for far-right threats in recent days.

Our statement: “ This action will not be taking place Saturday due to a credible threat to life and safety. The safety of our trans community is first priority. This threat is the direct result of the flood of raw hatred directed toward the trans community after the Tennessee shooting. Individuals who had nothing to with that heinous act have been subjected to highly serious threats and blamed only because of their gender identity. This is one of the steps in genocide, and we will continue our efforts to protect trans lives. While we wholeheartedly believe in the mission and message we put forth for trans day of vengeance, we must prioritize the safety of our community and the people that make it up. In an ideal world we would have continued on in defiance of the attempt to silence our right to free expression. However, we lack the resources to ensure the safety of the protest and cannot in good conscience move forward with it. In our continued efforts to preserve trans and non binary life we have notified the appropriate agencies.”



Stop trans genocide: Now is the

time to fight back!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 8, 2023

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On Feb. 6, hundreds of trans people and supporters [flooded the Capitol](#) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, ahead of right-wing Gov. Kevin Stitt's state of the state address and the opening of the state's legislative session, where several anti-trans bills are

pending.

Chanting “Trans lives matter” and “This is our house,” members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies gave a forceful response to the anti-trans panic that has escalated to unprecedented levels in the past year.

Since Jan. 1, nearly 300 anti-trans laws have been proposed in statehouses across the U.S. Several have already been adopted, including a total ban on gender-affirming care for trans youth in Utah.

In early 2022, proposed laws mainly focused on banning trans youth from using school restrooms or playing sports. Now, just a year later, many states are advocating outright bans on gender-affirming health care for trans people – youth and adults alike – and so-called drag bans that would make it illegal for trans people to speak, perform or live publicly in any capacity.

Following the example of Texas, several states have called for measures to punish parents, doctors, and teachers who support trans youth and even to take kids away from supportive parents. Thousands of families of trans youth are pulling up stakes to flee to safer states. Many others don’t have that option.

Civil rights attorney and trans activist [Chase Strangio summed it up](#) in a Twitter post Feb. 6: “The following states are closing to banning – and in some cases criminalizing and deeming child abuse — medical care for trans adolescents: MS, TN, SD, ND, WY, ID, WV, OK, MO, MT, ID. The following states have: AR, AL, UT, TX. Where’s the outrage? Where’s the media coverage?”

Nor is the danger confined to the legal arena. From California to New York, drag shows and other queer events have been besieged by right-wing protests, including openly white supremacist and fascist groups like the Proud Boys, sometimes armed.

In almost every case, these hate groups have been met by far larger crowds of

community defenders. But the ultra-right has the manufactured outrage of politicians and corporate media at its beck and call.

The new 'build that wall'

In 2016, billionaire oligarch and demagogue Donald Trump campaigned for the presidency around the slogan "build that wall" – a call to not only ban refugees and migrants from entering the U.S. but to use them as a scapegoat for all the ills of capitalism.

On Jan. 31, Trump released a video announcing what his 2024 campaign slogan will be: trans genocide.

[The Advocate reported](#) on Feb. 1: "Posted on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump called access to gender-affirming care 'child abuse' and 'child sexual mutilation.' The former president ... said he'd forbid government agencies from promoting 'the concept of sex and gender transition at any age.'

"In the pledge, Trump said he'd cut off federal funding to doctors and health care groups providing gender-affirming care to minors. He also said that if teachers or school officials 'suggest to a child that they could be trapped in the wrong body,' then 'they will be faced with severe consequences including potential civil rights violations.'

"Trump said that his administration would push for 'positive education about the nuclear family...'

He added, "I will ask Congress to pass a bill establishing that the only genders recognized by the United States government are male and female, and they are assigned at birth."

Trump's main opponent for the Republican nomination in 2024 may be Florida Gov.

Ron DeSantis, who is equally bigoted against trans people. DeSantis enacted the so-called “Don’t Say Gay” law prohibiting discussion of LGBTQ+ issues in schools, banned Medicaid patients from accessing gender-affirming care, and has attacked teaching the truth of U.S. history regarding slavery, the genocide of Indigenous peoples, and more.

Florida teachers have been banned from letting students read books in their classrooms until they have been vetted to remove anything pertinent to Black history, women’s liberation, and LGBTQ+ lives.

Every week sees new cases of slander meant to manufacture outrage against trans people and medical providers, like the case of Christynne Lili Wrene Wood in Santee, a San Diego suburb. Wood, a retired African American city worker and trans woman, was thrust into the center of a national hate campaign and local lynch-mob atmosphere for using the women’s changing room at the local YMCA. The campaign against her was fueled by the likes of Tucker Carlson on Fox News.

In a statement expressing solidarity with Ms. Wood, [San Diego LGBTQ+ organizations said](#): “It is also important to recognize the racial implications of this incident – a white woman claiming the mere sight of a Black woman’s body as threatening is a dangerous perpetuation of racism. The reality of anti-Black racism in this country continues to be a pervasive and unavoidable aspect of our American culture, and contributes to the consistent danger that Black people – particularly Black transgender women – face every day.”

Christian nationalist groups targeting Ms. Wood are mobilizing on Feb. 8 to have the Santee City Council shut down the YMCA for allowing trans people to use its facilities. Counter-protesters are mobilizing in support of trans lives.

Join actions in D.C. March 31-April 1

Actions like the one in Oklahoma City are needed – more of them, many more – in every state capitol coast-to-coast. And those actions must grow with solidarity from organized labor, communities fighting racist police brutality, and the censorship of Black history in schools, women’s rights, and anti-war organizations.

An important call to action has been issued by the Trans Radical Activist Network for a national mobilization in Washington, D.C., on March 31 and April 1. TRAN has retitled the Trans Day of Visibility on March 31 as the Trans Day of Vengeance.

The actions in Washington can be an important first step in organizing a nationwide fightback movement. [Visit TRAN](#) or Struggle-La Lucha in the coming weeks for details about the events and how to get involved.

The attack on trans lives has escalated into a crisis, and no one can predict the outcome. There is no time to wait for elections that may or may not swing toward one party or another, especially when the Democratic Party’s national leadership and President Biden have shown themselves incapable and unwilling to take the growing threat seriously.

Capitalist rule, the power of bosses over the workers and oppressed, is built on a foundation of divide and conquer – setting one group of workers against another. Fascism as a movement is divide-and-conquer in its most extreme form.

Today, trans people in the U.S. are on the front line. The history of fascist movements in the 20th century provides ample proof that when one group is targeted for extermination if the working class does not rise to the challenge, it only opens the door for the next wave of repression.

After trans people, other members of the LGBTQ+ community, the women’s movement, Black and Brown communities already besieged by racist cops, and the labor movement will be among the next targets.

An injury to one is an injury to all. It's time for the working class to mobilize to stop the attacks on trans people.

