In 2024, LGBTQ+ rights in the South are under attack in more ways than ever before. From access to healthcare to the freedom of expression through drag, the fight for queer liberation continues.

But this fight might not be immediately apparent in some spaces. The intersection of LGBTQ+ rights and other social justice issues highlights all the ways discriminatory lawmakers are seeking to erase this community in every sphere of society — and how marginalized communities must stick together and fight for one another.

Resources

- Human Rights Campaign
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Prison Policy Initiative
- The Gender Policy Report
- American Journal of Public Health

Social Justice is Queer Justice

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Voting Rights

- At least 515 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced in state legislatures across the United States in 2024.
- In 2023, the North Carolina Supreme Court reinstated a voter ID law, which both discriminates against voters of color and creates barriers for transgender and nonbinary voters.
- Only one-fifth (21%) of transgender people who have transitioned have been able to update all of their IDs.
- 90% of LGBTQ+ Southerners live without nondiscrimination laws.
- 6 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been filed in the NC General Assembly in 2024.
- These bills range from healthcare restrictions to sports restriction to forced outings in schools.

Justice System Reform

- 20% of youth in prison identify as LGBTQ+, compared to just 9% of the general population.
- In 2024, a judge ruled the NC Department Of Adult Correction violated a transgender woman's rights by denying her gender-affirming medical care.
- More than one in four transgender people report experiencing physical force by police.
- LGBTQ+ people were less willing to call the police for help in the future compared with non-LGBTQ+ people.
- LGBTQ+ people were more likely to be the subject of police search, detainment, or arrest and more likely to be placed in police custody.

Environmental Justice

- LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be displaced after a disaster.
- After a disaster, LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be socially isolated, face disrespect or harassment.
- This includes instances of people being turned away from shelters and aid, or having to lie about their relationship status.
- Gay neighborhoods have a higher amount of air pollutants compared to neighborhoods with predominantly straight couples.
- LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be employed in occupations with environmental hazards.
- Poor air and water quality during disasters can make those living with HIV more susceptible to opportunistic infections.

Visit www.southerncoalition.org/resources/social-justice-is-queer-justice/ to learn more about Queer Social Justice.