



Statement on anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation

Though we are less than halfway through 2022, over 200 pieces of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation have been introduced in state legislatures throughout the United States. The scope of these laws are varied, with many explicitly targeting transgender and non-binary people. Other pieces of legislation are targeting LGBTQ+ educators, from the firing of LGBTQ+ teachers to mandating they obfuscate their identities in a manner that is not required or even suggested for cisgender heterosexual people. While the negative effects of the laws will be felt by all LGBTQ+ people, they will inevitably cause greatest harm to those LGBTQ+ individuals with other marginalized identities. The strength of our community depends on the support we give our most marginalized members.

Legislation and policies seeking to restrict, harm, and criminalize LGBTQ+ individuals have a long history within the United States, with their cyclical emergence as a political tool, particularly during election years. Both as individuals and as an organization, Spectra has a history of condemning, confronting, and opposing such discriminatory actions. Spectra was born in protest to such legislation.

We condemn and oppose all legislation and policies seeking to restrict, harm, and criminalize the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals to live their authentic lives. We condemn and oppose all legislation and policies founded on the long-disproven conflation of queerness with sexual predation of minors. We condemn and oppose any statements by mathematicians or others on social media or other platforms that support anti-LGBTQ+ legislation or views that marginalize LGBTQ+ mathematicians, e.g., by willfully deadnaming or misgendering trans and non-binary people. As an organization, Spectra seeks to provide support to all those in the LGBTQ+ math community and beyond experiencing the ramifications of these discriminatory actions. We urge the mathematical community and professional societies to be cognizant of the legislation being passed, to hold those in power accountable, and provide support for those that are most affected.

We also call on members of the LGBTQ+ mathematics community to reach out to the Spectra board with any concerns and any initiatives for which we can lend our support. We will be engaging with other professional societies to ensure safe and welcoming environments for all LGBTQ+ mathematicians.