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Trump Administration Moves to Reject Transgender Identity, Rights

Sweeping Executive Order Seeks to Dramatically Curtail Protections



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The new order withdraws a range of executive orders issued by former President Joe Biden, including those [allowing transgender people to serve](#) in the military, [advancing the health and well-being](#) of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, and [interpreting federal sex discrimination protections](#) in domains like education, housing, and immigration to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

The order states that the US government will recognize only two sexes, male and female, that are fixed at birth, and orders government agencies to end all reference to and consideration of a person's gender identity. This sweeping redefinition threatens federal programs used by transgender people and impacts federal documentation such as passports, which can currently reflect the gender identity of transgender and nonbinary people.

The order also pledges to withhold federal funding from any programs that promote “gender ideology,” echoing [language used by right-wing movements](#) across Europe and Latin America to oppose not only recognition of transgender people but broader sexual and reproductive rights.

Worryingly, it instructs agencies to house transgender people in detention according to their sex assigned at birth, putting them at extreme risk of physical and sexual violence, and to withhold gender-affirming care in prisons, which can amount to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment under international law. The order further instructs the Department of Justice to help agencies reinforce sex-segregated spaces that exclude transgender people, potentially excluding transgender individuals from everyday facilities like bathrooms but also from crucial services like shelters for those facing homelessness and intimate partner violence.

Some of the order's provisions [will face legal challenges](#), as they seem to squarely conflict with federal law and judicial precedent. However, the order's scope underscores the administration's intention to erase transgender people from public life and strip them of basic protections.

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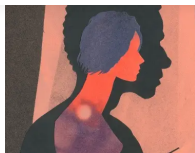
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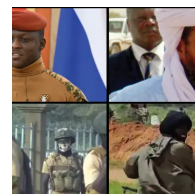
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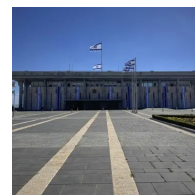
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