**Template Congregational Statement Affirming Trans Dignity**

*Please adapt this template for your congregation or community in whichever ways you see fit.*

Across the country, we are witnessing a surge of harmful legislation and rhetoric targeting trans, nonbinary and intersex people. There are hundreds of active anti-trans bills, as well as executive orders that seek to strip away fundamental rights and protections, with a particular dangerous focus on trans youth – one of the most vulnerable populations. So often, these policies are advanced in the name of faith. Our Jewish faith mandates the very opposite and teaches us that this political landscape threatens the safety and dignity of our community members while undermining our core Jewish values.

We especially reach out to our transgender community members and to those of you who hold trans loved ones dear: we see you, we value you and we commit to standing beside you. You are not alone in navigating this climate of hostility and dehumanization. Your humanity, your dignity and the divine spark within you are sacred truths that no political agenda can erase. We want to reassure you that Congregation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is here to support you as we all move through the uncharted territory that lies ahead.

We acknowledge the profound challenges and fears each of us may be carrying in this moment are keenly aware of the ways in which the current political landscape, exacerbated by harmful rhetoric and policies from presidential leadership, has sown pain, fear and suffering for trans individuals and their families.

Our tradition calls upon us to pursue justice and to honor the infinite variety of creation. The Talmud teaches that each person is created *b’tzelem elohim*, in the image of the Divine. It is this principle that affirms our commitment to fight for a world where every person’s identity is cherished and protected. We recommit ourselves, as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (congregational leadership, rabbi, president, board, etc.), to being your steadfast allies in the fight for dignity, safety and equity for all people. Our congregational policies and practices affirming trans dignity and full belonging will not change, nor will our policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment or bullying on the basis of one’s gender identity, expression and sexual orientation.

In moments of despair, we hope you find strength in the resilience in Jewish tradition and the power of our Jewish community. We are here to support you, to listen to you and to amplify your voices. Together, we will continue to challenge the forces of hate and fear with the enduring power of love, justice and hope.

*Many thanks to* [*Keshet*](https://www.keshetonline.org/) *and the* [*Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association*](https://therra.org/) *for providing much of the language for this template. You have permission to use this language publicly without attribution.*