



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York's greatest strength is its diversity of people, and we stand united in our respect for every individual's identity and in our hope for a world that has no place for hatred; we recognize that we must reach out to others and build bridges of understanding and appreciation for all humankind, embracing our similarities rather than our differences; and

Whereas, each year on November 20th, the world observes Transgender Day of Remembrance to mourn and honor the memories of the transgender people whose lives were lost to transphobic violence; this day was created twenty-four years ago by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, who saw a need to raise awareness of the death of Rita Hester in 1998 and that of Channele Pickett just three years before – both transgender women of color, who were victims of hatred; and

Whereas, to bring awareness to this transphobic violence, a vigil was held in remembrance of all victims of hate and we continue this tradition, in condemnation of all crimes committed against transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary (TGNCNB) communities and other communities across our nation and the globe; and

Whereas, we also mark Transgender Awareness Month to raise awareness of issues impacting TGNCNB communities, such as the passage of anti-transgender legislation that targets TGNCNB communities, particularly TGNCNB youth and New York remains a safe haven for them, their families, and their healthcare teams that provide essential gender-affirming care; the inequities TGNCNB New Yorkers face, both in accessing employment and within the workplace will be detailed in the Transgender Employment Study undertaken by the State Department of Labor and will be used to develop policies tailored to the employment needs of TGNCNB individuals and further New York State's goals to become a model employer and service provider for them; and

Whereas, New York continually reaffirms that we are a state for all people – one where our transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming communities are fully accepted and embraced and is committed to fighting inaccurate notions about gender that can lead to violence, harassment, and discrimination; in doing this, we demonstrate that TGNCNB communities are valued as a vibrant and an integral part of New York State, and should be able to live free of violence, harassment, and discrimination and with every opportunity for full participation and involvement in society; and

Whereas, we understand that these ideals are essential to preserve our democracy and therefore dedicate ourselves to defend and uphold them; we commemorate this day as we continue to take action to protect TGNCNB communities from hate-motivated violence and will continue the ongoing fight for full LGBTQ+ rights and equality, which until achieved, compromise the rights and equality of us all;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim November 2023 as

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS MONTH

and join with people across the globe in special recognition of the worldwide observance of November 20, 2023 as

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of
November in the year two thousand twenty-three.

Kathy Hochul

Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh