

Allies of Transgender Community Offer Safety In Numbers

New hashtag and support campaign for allies of the transgender community focuses on supporting individuals in public restrooms.

[A recent study in the peer-reviewed Journal of Public Management](#) found that [70% of transgender responders were denied entrance, harassed or assaulted](#) while attempting to use the bathroom. The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Educational Network (GLSEN) reported that transgender students [face pervasive harassment and discrimination](#) in school, including bathroom-specific intimidation.

As of 2016, transgender individuals face a series of proposed bills that would only permit them to use the bathrooms of their assigned gender. Aside from the recent passage of an anti-trans bill in North Carolina, bills have been introduced in [Kentucky](#), [Texas](#), [Florida](#), [Illinois](#), [Kansas](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Missouri](#), [South Carolina](#), [Tennessee](#) and [Minnesota](#), spurring a range of responses from the trans community nationwide.

The most prevalent of these responses are the hashtags #wejustneedtopee and #occupotty, which accompanies selfies of trans* people in the “correct” bathrooms - rather, the bathrooms they’d be forced to use under these proposed laws.

[I’ll Go With You](#) is an ally grassroots hashtag and support campaign to respond to the proposed bills and widespread harassment. The group is now in its second year, spearheaded by four volunteers - Organizers G, J, D and H, who use the titles to maintain some anonymity. The group has buttons and stickers with the #illgowithyou logo [available for purchase](#), and the four maintain Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr presence.

The wearer of a #IllGoWithYou button is a public volunteer - a buddy who can be counted upon to give peaceful support, act as a buffer, or speak up to any harassers in defense of the trans person’s right to use the restroom in peace.

I’ll Go With You’s future plans include creating trainings for allies who wish to learn communication techniques that can be used to defuse a situation when someone is being harassed.

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