

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 2015, transgender individuals face a series of proposed bills that would only permit them to use the bathrooms of their assigned gender. Bills have been introduced in [Kentucky](#), [Texas](#), [Florida](#) 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.

The campaign is meant to highlight the absurdity and incongruity of the laws, as trans men with full beards take pictures of themselves in women’s bathrooms, and trans women sporting high-femme clothing and accessories snap selfies in the men’s room. While the campaign focuses on trans people who currently pass (the better to emphasize the absurdity), it’s trans people who don’t pass, and those who identify as genderqueer that will bear the brunt of these bills’ violent enforcement.

[I’ll Go With You](#) is an ally grassroots hashtag and support campaign to respond to the proposed bills and widespread harassment. For now, the campaign is limited to an internet presence, hashtag and buttons that allies can buy at the group’s website.

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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