

# *The Lamp Post*

Shining the light in the dark  
for trans service members + veterans



Issue No.

20

**MAR 2026**

TDOV Special Issue



# Addressing the Community

Last month, I talked about the tangibility of efforts being slow. While that still holds true, we're starting to see efforts come to fruition.

In California, a bill to enshrine protections for trans veterans is making headway. In Hawai'i, a measure to protect trans members of the state's National Guard is gaining traction. In both cases, it was thanks to the localization efforts in those states coming together in coalition with other partners (Out In National Security, the Stonewall Caucus, and others). We still have work to do in both cases, and we still have other measures in the works. Even so, we got major wins. Both measures succeeded in their respective recent steps with unanimous, bi-partisan & pan-factional support.

The wins we've been getting have provided immense morale boosts across the community. The reports I got from the localization leads is that folks across the country felt true hope for the first time in a while. Hold onto that. Keep the energy moving, and channel that into more action. We are responsible for our own rescue. Keeping up with community support, internal work, and the general stewardship of our community remains as important as ever.

As I always say: expect the worst, hope for the best, and fight to bridge the gap.

-Catie

# TMH Town Hall



March 2026

The March 2026 TMH Town Hall was skipped due to overlapping with participation in the Coalition Rally Point Event.

TMH will resume the normal Town Hall schedule in April.

Slides have been provided from Catie from the Rally Point event. PII has been scrubbed. Formatting of the slides may appear awkward due to the import process. The slides here do not reflect the appearance of the original presentation.



# Community Care & Grassroots Action

How to Operate in Adverse Environments

# Outline

- Background (About Me & TMH)
- What is a community network?
- Localization
- Understanding The OE
- Understanding People
- Understanding Limitations
- Issue Linkage - Force Multiplication
- General Takeaways
- Q & A



# What is a Community Network?

- Small groups
  - Friend Groups
  - Neighbors
- Goals
  - Variable
  - Community-oriented
  - Tailored to the local environment
  - (Potentially) Nested w/ goals of larger orgs
- Elements
  - Social activities & bonds
  - Stewardship of the community
  - Support (Internal work) and/or Advocacy (External work)
    - Support is the *Defense*
    - Advocacy is the *Offense*



# Localization

- Small community networks that operate locally in concert with TMH & its partners at a national level
  - SPARTA pushes this as the coalition's main grassroots infrastructure.
  - Groups can be made more or less granular at any time, as needed.
- **Goals**
  - Inherit overlap in the categories
  - Community (Social Activities, Networking, etc.)
  - Advocacy (External work)
  - Support (Internal work)
- You'll get out what you put into them.



Staging Area QR Code

# Understanding the Operating Environment

## Big Picture

- Coordination w/ National Groups
  - i.e. TMH, SPARTA, HRC, ACLU
- Federal politics
- International news & its effects
- Policies in other states
  - Policies tend to be copied, good or bad
- General mood of different demographics
- Talking points
- Large-scale events that may require outside aid

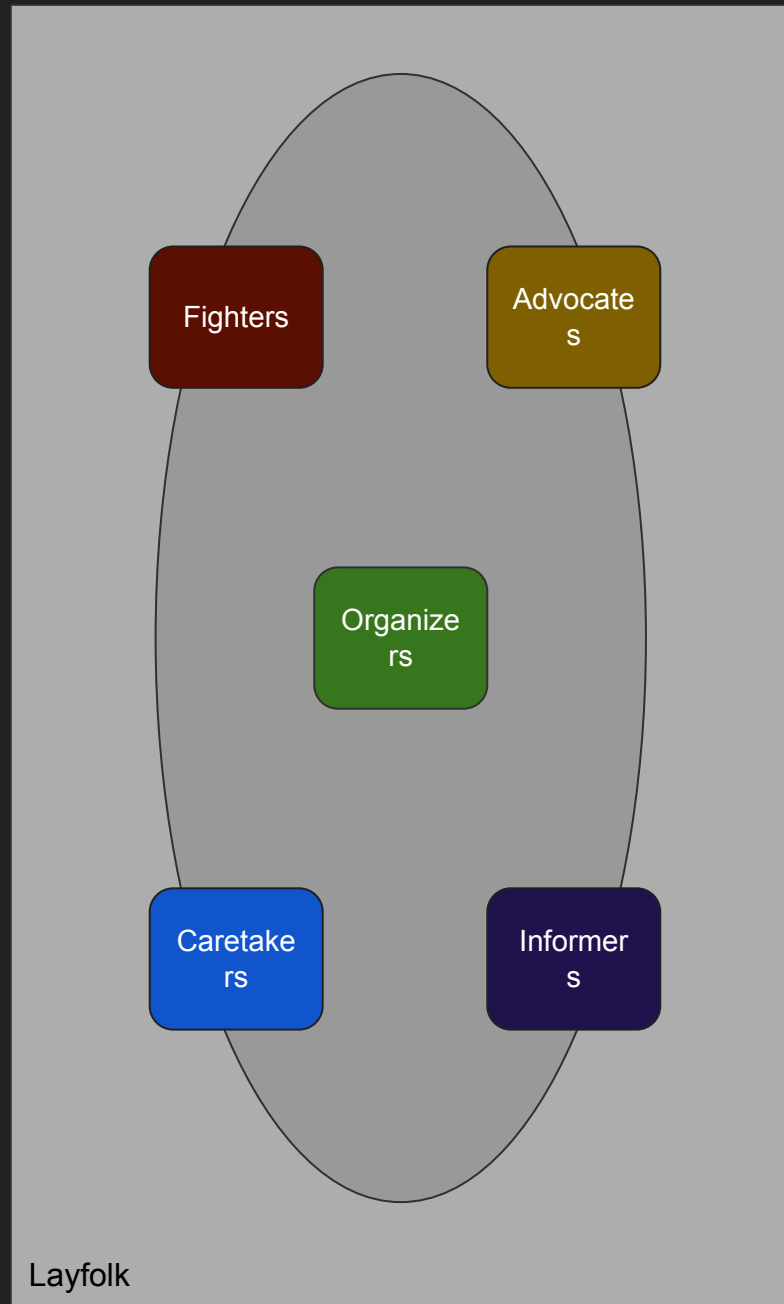
## Local Level

- Coordination w/ local non-profits, caucuses, veterans orgs, etc.
- State & municipal politics
  - Municipalities can go against the grain of a state, both ways
- Friendliness/Hostility
  - Politics & General Sentiment
- Chilling/Warming Effects
  - Policies (Public/Private)
- Allies & Opposition
  - Organizations & Institutions

# Understanding People

## Archetypes of Social Movements & Community Networks

- **Organizers**
  - Planning
  - Leadership
  - Talent-Management
  - Communication
- **Caretakers**
  - Mental Health Support
  - Suicide Intervention
  - Medical Support
  - Legal Support
- **Advocates**
  - Legal activism
  - Coalition-building w/ political parties & non-profits
- **Fighters**
  - Protesting
  - Self-Defense Instruction
- **Informers**
  - Education
  - Analysis
  - Broadcasting
- **Layfolk**
  - Standard members
  - Often in survival mode
  - Often don't know how to get involved
  - Potential for activation as Volunteers
  - Typically, your largest demographic



Which one(s) are you?

# Understanding People

## 70% Rule

- Ideological Purity & Infighting are lethal to social movements & community networks
- There only needs to be a 70% match in goals, values, & ideologies IOT build a successful coalition.
- Ensure your local groups recognize & embrace this.
- Partisan divides do not necessarily negate this rule.

## Messaging & Collective Emotional Regulation

- What leaders & institutions say can sway the mood of the masses.
- Counter propaganda, misinformation, & disinformation
  - Misinformation: accidental/unintentional false information
  - Disinformation: deliberate false information
- Bigotry thrives on despair & hopelessness.
  - ***Hope & joy in the darkest of times are of the utmost importance. Foster these.***

# Understanding People

## Individual Commitment & Risk Levels

- Varying tolerances for risk/commitment
- Individuals must assess their personal levels of commitment & risk acceptance.
- Community Networks & Social Movements should provide information for Layfolk/Volunteers

## Example Commitment/Risk Info

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Risk</u>	<u>Commitment</u>
Tabling	Low	Medium
Marching	High	Medium
Petition Signing	Low	Low
Non-profit Networking	Low	High
Media Interview	High	Low

# Understanding Limitations

## Identifying Limitations

- Time
- People
- Geographic
- Political Capital
- Social Capital
- Financial
- Scope

## Capitalizing on Existing Resources

- Leverage resources that cover limitations
- Build strengths that cover limitations of local resources
- Springboard off of TMH & SPARTA's social & political capital

# Understanding Limitations

## Coalition Building in Compliment

- Build Social & Political Capital
  - Identify allies & their goals
    - How can they help you
    - How can you help them
  - Volunteer & Network
- Work within coalitions at the local level
  - e.g. LGBTQ+ and/or Veteran caucuses
- Have a list of needs that partners & allies can help address

## Moving from Defense to Offense

- Build/Strengthen Alternate Infrastructure to meet needs
- Mobilize your people
- Celebrate accomplishments
- Continuously strengthen social bonds within the group
- Keep people informed, without them losing hope.

# Issue Linkage - Force Multiplication

## Identification

- Know the goals of the target movement/organization
- Identify ways that yours overlap and/or support theirs
- Example
  - Progressive Church & Trans Veteran Group
    - Potential overlap in membership
    - Advancing goals of social equity
    - Community aid work

## Messaging

- Tie the issues together
- Advancing one issue advances the other

## Networking, Credibility, and Action

- Cultivate connections
- Maintain contact
- Don't let things fall through the cracks
- Have a bias to action

# General Takeaways

- Have a bias to action
- Prioritize People
  - Don't lose the human element in the fight
  - Foster & cultivate interpersonal & interorganizational relationships
- Know your strengths & limits
  - Individually
  - Collectively
- Never Lose Hope
- Expect the Worst; Hope for the Best; Fight to Bridge the Gap.

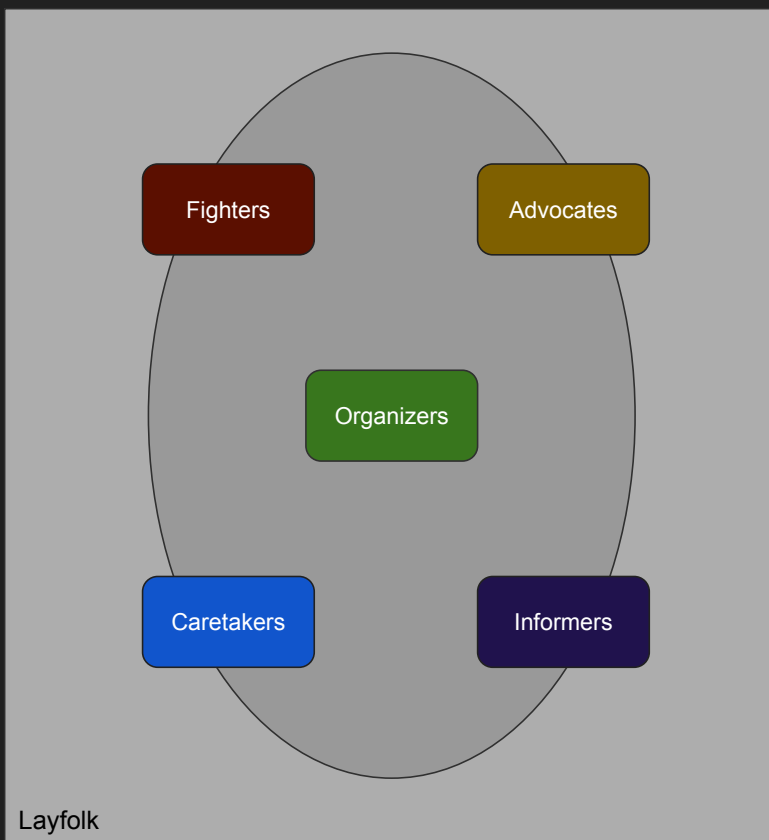
# Practical 1 - Build a Plan

As individuals or with others in your local area, brainstorm a plan of action (short term & long term) for acting at the local level.

Each group should have one leader to speak for the team.

Individuals must brainstorm other likely/potential group members. Groups should do this, but it is not required.

- People
  - Archetypes
  - Task Org
  - Individual Strengths/Weaknesses
  - Commitment Levels
  - Networking Contacts/Targets
- Resources
  - Organic (Internal)
  - Supported (External)
- Operating Environment
  - Hostility levels
  - Political proximity
  - Other Variables
- Mission (C/A/S)
- Limitations



# Practical 2 - Scenarios

- A new law goes into effect that cuts off access to HRT in your state for adults. Respond.
- You have 3 highly motivated volunteers who lack direction, initiative, and confidence. How do you best task them and why?
- A larger & broader organization in your local area asks what you need from them and how they can support you. What do you tell them?

# CONTACTS/LINKS

Elise, Pathfinders/VA: [kelleyt2024@gmail.com](mailto:kelleyt2024@gmail.com)

Berry Law: [andy.blevins@berrylaw.com](mailto:andy.blevins@berrylaw.com)

[PTSDlawyers.com](http://PTSDlawyers.com)

Benefits Delivery at Discharge:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/benefits-delivery-discharge-program.asp>

TLP Submissions: [marcie.kulp.tmh@gmail.com](mailto:marcie.kulp.tmh@gmail.com) /  
[marcie.kulp.tmh@proton.me](mailto:marcie.kulp.tmh@proton.me)

Q'mmunity House: <https://minorityvets.my.canva.site/qhouse>

Volunteer Recruitment Form: <https://wkf.ms/4o68Xq8>

Teepublic Merch Page:

<https://www.teepublic.com/user/sudden-sentience>

TMH Stickers/Patches/Coins:

<https://forms.gle/MPpcJZSAa6wDdhjk7>

Project Ember: <https://forms.gle/Qiu38P8TEUGrz9VZ7>

LinkedIn Skill Endorsement/Matching : <https://wkf.ms/49iGxVH>



Out and Out Anthology  
Submissions

Signal Staging Area



# OUT AND OUT

Call for Submissions STILL OPEN: "Out and Out" Anthology

We are working on the critical project, "Out and Out," a curated anthology of poetry, short fiction, and creative non-fiction/essays from Trans and GNC folks impacted by the US Military Trans Ban along with LGBTQ+ service members and veterans, Trans and GNC veterans, and Trans military spouses.

Your Story Matters. Join us in creating a powerful collection that documents and honors your experiences.

# OUT AND OUT

## What We're Seeking

We are looking for creative written work from service members (current or former) affected by the ban, LGBTQ+ service members, and trans spouses:

- Poetry
- Short Fiction
- Creative Nonfiction / Essays
- Artwork

## How to Submit

The submission period is OPEN! Please choose the method that works best for you:

## Submission Method Details

Google Form (Preferred):

<https://forms.gle/TfaqTY9LyEPRzjDk9>

Submission Email: [westillexist.project@outlook.com](mailto:westillexist.project@outlook.com)

# OUT AND OUT

## Project Impact & Credit

Fundraising: 100% of proceeds from books sold via Trans Military Hub (TMH) will be returned to the organization for community support.

Credit & Anonymity: You can choose to remain completely anonymous, OR If you include your name with your work, you will be credited in the book.

Don't wait! Submit your powerful work today!

# Volunteers

With some great goals for TMH in 2026, we'll need more volunteers to help with everything we hope to achieve. If you'd like to help in any way, ping Kilele in the #general-chat channel. She'll get you added to the Volunteer Signal chat.



# Messaging from NIMJ TRP

In lieu of normal J2 messaging, we have an article written by the head of NIMJ Trans Representation Project, Priya Rashid. Below is a verbatim copy of the document shared with me.

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## **Living History**

**Correcting Military Records of Transgender Veterans**

*Priya Rashid*

*Gender Diverse clients facing voluntary separation or involuntary administrative processes deserve to have their military records corrected to accurately reflect their authentic and honorable service.*

## Messaging from NIMJ TRP

Transgender, nonbinary, and intersex service members who were separated can absolutely file a DD Form 149 with their service's Board for Correction of Military Records (BCMR/BCNR). These requests are not significantly difficult to file, and can often be done online! Service members and veterans should prepare a draft and seek legal review to assist and polish the the application. An attorney may be able to recommend additional language and documentation to strengthen your packet. After reviewing this article and collecting your documents, contact TMH leadership (staff and/or local group leaders) or National Institute of Military Justice Transgender Representation Project ([trp@nimj.org](mailto:trp@nimj.org)) to be linked up with free legal counsel.

## Messaging from NIMJ TRP

### Overview

*Each service's Board for Correction of Military Records (BCMR/BCNR) has broad authority to fix an “**error or injustice**” in a service member's record. That includes:*

1. Change their separation code/ reenlistment code to reflect honorable service, no misconduct, and right to maintenance of national security status;
2. Correcting discharge paperwork to reflect an accurate name- Boards **have approved changes** to names and sometimes gender-related entries especially for veterans
3. In some cases, **updating gender markers or related records such as end of service and retirement awards.**

**Consider your entire service record and collateral issues that may reflect inaccurately. Collecting it all as one application will help ensure multiple petitions are submitted as one packet. These processes often take months or even years. Ensuring we do as much as we can in one packet will help prevent undue delay.**

## Messaging from NIMJ TRP

Examples include:

1. Clients should consider drafting an MFR (or having a trusted member of their command/unit do so), if they are pursuing/accepted the voluntary separation stating that they do not 'want' to pursue this path, but for personal reasons are being forced to take this pathway.
2. This MFR can include an overview of their service, positive accomplishments, letters of support, etc.
3. This MFR can also include a description or summary of the loss of future benefits. This can include documents such as forced PCS, deprivation of retirement, etc.
4. All positive evaluations, awards, accolades, and character references.

## Messaging from NIMJ TRP

The secretary of a military department, acting through a board for correction of military records, has authority to change any military record when necessary to correct an error or remove an injustice. A correction board may consider applications for correction of a military record, including a review of a discharge issued by courts martial.

The veteran, survivor or legal representative generally must file a request for correction within three years after discovery of an alleged error or injustice. The board may excuse failure to file within the prescribed time, however, if it finds it would be in the interest of justice to do so. It is an applicant's responsibility to show why the filing of the application was delayed and why it would be in the interest of justice for the board to consider it despite the delay.

To justify any correction, it is necessary to show to the satisfaction of the board that the alleged entry or omission in the records was in error or unjust. This is about fairness. Personal statements and witness statements combined with the service record (evaluations and reports of performance) will help. Applications should include all available evidence, such as signed statements of witnesses or a brief of arguments supporting the requested correction. Application is made with DD Form 149, available at VA offices, from veterans organizations or from the Internet

(<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/forms/index.htm>).

# Messaging from NIMJ TRP

## Review of Discharges

Attorneys who are not familiar with transgender separation cases may not know that you have greater opportunity to appeal. Each of the military services maintains a discharge review board with authority to change, correct or modify discharges or dismissals that are not issued by a sentence of a general courts-martial. The board has no authority to address medical discharges however these are Ch. 15 separations based on Secretarial Plenary Authority.

The veteran or, if the veteran is deceased or incompetent, the surviving spouse, next of kin or legal representative may apply for a review of discharge by writing to the military department concerned, using DoD Form 293.

This form may be obtained at a VA regional office, from veterans organizations or from the Internet:

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/forms/index.htm> .

However, if the discharge was more than 15 years ago, a veteran must petition the appropriate service Board for Correction of Military Records using DoD Form 149, which is discussed in the “Correction of Military Records” section of this booklet. A discharge review is conducted by a review of an applicant’s record and, if requested, by a hearing before the board.

Please see the below links for service specific applications and information. We can assist in getting service-specific counsel, please reach out for assistance!

## Messaging from NIMJ TRP

**Air Force:** <https://afrba-portal.cce.af.mil/>

**Army:** <https://www.army.mil/arba>

The Army now accepts online applications for changes using the ACTSOnline system.

**Coast Guard:**

<https://www.uscg.mil/resources/legal/bcmr/>

**Navy and Marine Corps:**

<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/career/recordsmanagement/Pages/BCNR.aspx>

This information was collected by Priya Rashid. This does not constitute legal advice. Please reach out to TMH leadership or NIMJ TRP ([trp@nimj.org](mailto:trp@nimj.org)) to be linked with legal support.

You deserve to have a record that reflects the honor, commitment and sacrifices you have made for your country!

# Advocacy Corner

(Repeat messaging)

Take a look at the positions and people holding those positions local to you. Is the head of your local school board elected or appointed? Is it being held by someone who is advocating for trans inclusion or are they suspiciously silent? What about the local library board? Your city's mayor or county seats?

Get to know which positions can be used to make the lives of all trans individuals, including trans veterans, harder to not only exist, but thrive and flourish. Look at not only official campaign stances, regardless of when they last campaigned. But also look at voting history on policies and stances that impact you and other trans individuals.

Start attending county commissioner meetings, school board meetings, and anything else where policies are brought up, discussed, and voted on. Get involved at a level you're comfortable with, and based on your personal safety calculus. But watch the process, be aware of the positions and people, and find ways to voice support for trans inclusion and support locally; for all trans individuals.

# Queer History

As we recognize Transgender Day of Visibility, it's important to reflect not only on the present, but on the history that has shaped it. Last year, we highlighted Christine Jorgensen, one of the first Americans to bring widespread public awareness to transgender experiences. This year, we continue that tradition by looking further into the stories, struggles, and contributions that define queer history.

Specifically this year, we want to highlight the stories, struggles, and contributions of transgender individuals who are continuing to make history, ensuring they do not go unnoticed in our world, our community, and that they are given the recognition they deserve.

In this edition of Queer History, we will explore and highlight several individuals: Scott Turner Schofield, Caroline "Tula" Cossey, and Elliot Page.

# Queer History



Scott Turner Schofield is an American film actor who is credited with being the first openly transgender man in the film industry and the first transgender man to earn an Emmy nomination for his work in the film industry and daytime television in films such as *Off-Ramp*, *The Conductor*, *The Gaybabysitters*, *Transmute*, and his own self-created *Becoming A Man In 127 Easy Steps* & Television series Such as *The Bold And The Beautiful* and *The Blacklist*.

Schofield's work in activism for the transgender community has extended over his work at over 100 major companies and universities educating individuals on the matters of transgender cultural competencies, workplace diversity, and inclusion as well as participating in interviews & TED Talks such as his collaboration with Joey Soloway & 5050by2020 with the Time's Up movement to lead their Trans Masculine Cohort. His work is primarily geared towards gender expansion in culture as both a speaker & writer on transgender issues, having given a speech at the Gender Education deMystification Symposium (GEMS) Conference in 2020 as well as a Gendered Spaces webinar at American Institute of Architects, *Everybody Changes* E-Course that is still available, and more. His consistent work & activism in the community has been one of historical and ground-breaking magnitude that has earned much respect and love within the community.

# Queer History

Caroline “Tula” Cossey was born in Norfolk, England during the period of time when the “British law concerning transsexuals” allowed for the discrimination of transgender individuals. Cossey was born with the XXXY syndrome which can cause physical abnormalities based on sex. For Cossey, this was the development of a more feminine appearance and confusion. She stated herself in her autobiography “My Story” that she would play dress-up in her mothers clothes with her sister.



At 16, she had left school and moved to London’s West End, where she began her transition while an usherette. Cossey began receiving Hormone Replacement Therapy as she worked as a full-time showgirl before moving to Paris working as a topless dancer in Rome to allow her to save for her gender reassignment surgery. It was only then at age 20 that she discovered that she had XXXY Syndrome and concealed her transition as a woman. Throughout her life she had worked in various careers in modelling under the name of “Tula” and appeared in magazines such as Harper’s Bazaar, Vogue, and Playboy and was cast as an extra in For Your Eyes Only, a 1981 James Bond Film. Shortly after this, she was outed by the tabloid press which opened up a world of criticism and discrimination. Despite this, she continued her work via smaller venues. In 1985, Cossey petitioned for changes in the British Law concerning transsexuals, which eventually reached the European Court of Human Rights which became the groundwork for the Gender Recognition Act of 2004.

# Queer History



Elliot Page is a Canadian born actor best known for his work in Canadian & American film as well as his outspoken activism for LGBTQ+ rights and ending the fight against discrimination as well as having participated in the Me Too movement & advocating for abortion. He also received several awards for his roles in *Hard Candy*, *Juno*, *X-Men: The Last Stand*, *Mouth To Mouth*, and more including the video game *Beyond: Two Souls* in which she portrays one of the main characters.

Initially in 2014, Page came out of the closet as a lesbian while giving a speech at the Human Rights Campaign's "Time To Thrive" Festival held in Las Vegas after being outed at age 18 on the set of *X-men: The Last Stand* and was featured in the "40 under 40" list by *The Advocate*. In December of 2020, Page shared on social media that he was coming out as a transgender man preferring the pronouns "He/They and changing his name to Elliot. According to Elliot, the decision that brought him to make the announcement was due in part to the Covid-19 Pandemic as well as the transphobic rhetoric developing in politics. GLAAD's Nick Adams stated "(Page) will now be an inspiration to countless trans and non-binary people". Page appeared on the cover of *Time Magazine* on March/April 2024 issue making him the first transgender man to do so in which he stated : "I felt like a boy. I wanted to be a boy. I asked my mom if I could be one someday".

# Queer History

Trans folks are a LARGE point of contention these days. But when we doom scroll through social media or we turn on the news, there is a population of ours that doesn't get talked about enough - they're not being *seen enough*.

I'm talking about trans men.

Trans issues are *our* issues as a whole - trans men and women and nonbinary people alike - but when all you hear about are things like politicians wanting to “keep men out of women’s bathrooms” and “protect women’s sports”, it minimizes trans men as victims of transphobic policies and remarks and laws.

Trans men are just as in danger of losing access to care and resources. They are not immune to violence. Trans men can have their identity as a man relatively validated more than a trans woman’s is by cisgendered people, but it comes at the cost of erasure of the fact that they are still trans.

Bathroom bans, as example, aim to “protect women from men in their bathrooms”, but who is to say that when a trans man - especially a passing trans man to a cis eye - is not going to experience violence and backlash for using the restroom he is legally mandated to use? The same goes for trans women, of course, that they will be subject to harm when they enter a men’s restroom. Trans men are men. Trans women are women. The bathroom policies do nothing to do what they say they intend to do.

# Queer History

Trans men often are accused of having “privilege”. If they’re passing, they’re respected more by cisgendered peers. When they speak, they are listened to. They are seen as less of a threat because they are not trans *women*, and they aren’t even seen as trans men. If they’re not deemed as “passable”, then they’re assumed to be a woman, and thus misgendered as such.

There is an inability to grasp intersectionality, especially in the case of trans BIPOC. That because you are one thing, you can’t be suffering as a marginalized person of another community.

To be seen as a man is to be seen as someone with privilege, but discounted as trans and suffering from the same transphobic politics.

Within the trans community, trans men are also accused of “passing” easier, but it’s simply not the case. Both sides face difficulties when it comes to “passing”. People forget that trans men have breast tissue, some have enough breast tissue that it can’t be safely or comfortably bound. People overlook the difficulties that come with transitioning the voices of trans men. Trans men still need HRT and gender-affirming care.

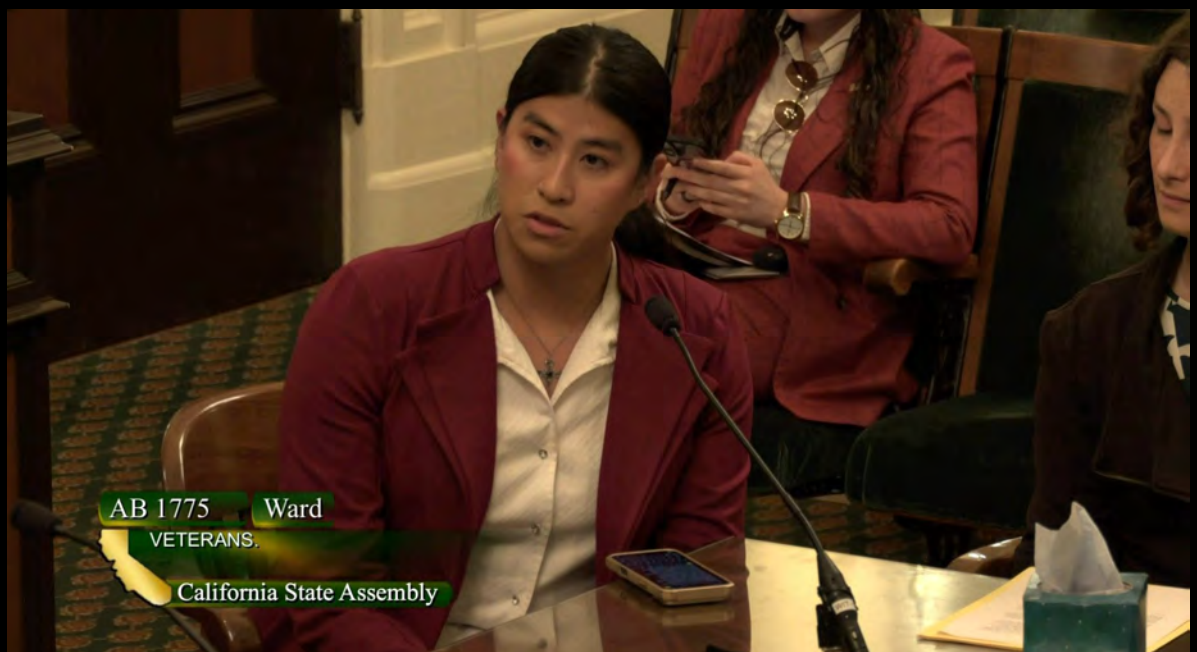
While being invisible and “stealthy” may look like safety to some, it is erasure and disregard for others.

So this issue of TLP’s TDOV, trans men: we see you. You are not invisible to us. We are not safe until we are ALL safe.

# COMMUNITY CORNER

In recent days, we've had quite a few things worth sharing in Community Corner! On top of the Coalition Rally Point event, we've also had TMH representation in California and Hawai'i.

In California, TMH and SPARTA provided testimonies in an array of experiences in support of AB 1775, In front of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, we voiced support for a bill that calls for expedited licensing, support and housing, tax relief, and support for service-related traumas for SMs and Veterans. Two of our own, Sunny and Sera, represented TMH and made a lasting impact on the community and made sure our voices were heard. This bill was approved, and is now on its way to the State Senate by 15 MAY 2026. It will be due to the Governor in September.



# COMMUNITY CORNER

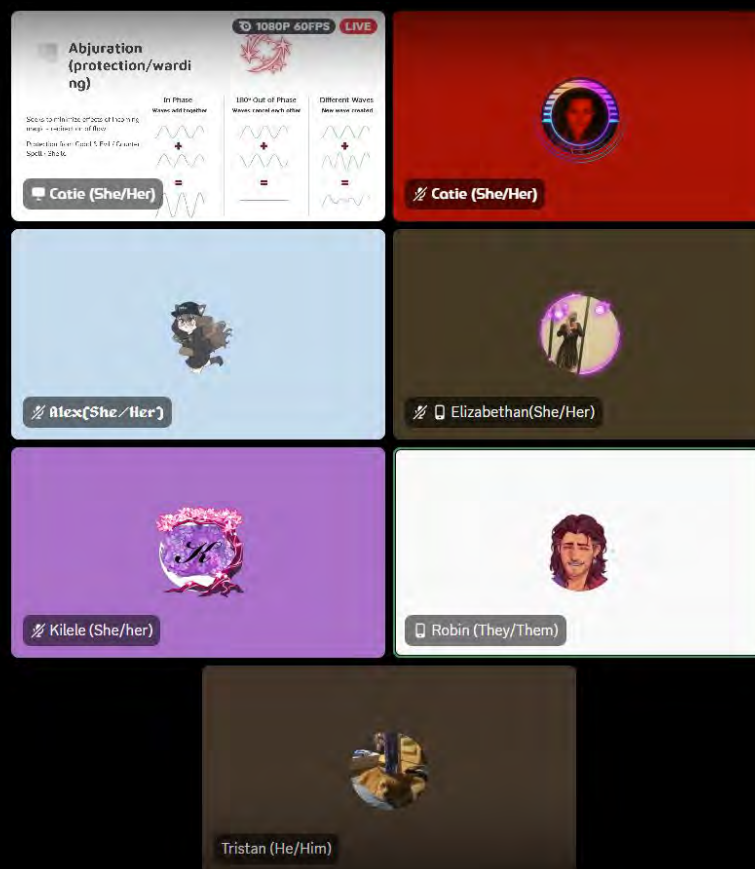
In Hawai'i, TMH testified on a resolution aimed at protecting trans NG members from the ban. Robin and Catie were in attendance, with Robin delivering a short but meaningful and impactful speech and providing their experience and emotions regarding the ban. There is now a fighting chance in Hawai'i to protect those members.



# COMMUNITY CORNER

Last but not least, WE HAD A POWER POINT PARTY!

I wish I could have been in attendance and gotten photos of the presentations, but overall there was a nice turnout and it seems that the participants enjoyed themselves. There will be another one held on 11 APR for those wishing to join in on the fun!



# Upcoming Events

- Friday Night Gaming
  - TMH Discord - Every Friday @ 1800 EST
- Pathfinders T4T
  - Veterans Group | Hang-out Night
  - Saturdays at 2100 EST
- TMH Town Hall Schedule  
(1530EST)
  - 25APR26
  - 23MAY26
  - 27JUN26
  - 25JUL26
- The Lamp Post Publications
  - 26APR26
  - 24MAY26
  - 28JUN26
  - 26JUL26
- TMH Day Activities
  - 04 January 2027 1500
- Power Point Party
  - 11APR2026 @ 2000