

Safety through Solidarity

Dean Spade
April 28, 2025
Sanctuary Campus Network

Difficult Conditions–Direct Attack

- [Executive Order 14168](#) “Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government”
 - Definitions of sex applied to prisons and other sex-segregated facilities, federal ID
- [Executive Order on Student Loans](#) (info [here](#))
- [Youth Healthcare EO](#) (blocked by [courts](#) for now)
- [Trans Military Ban EO](#) (but remember: [we hate the military](#))
- [Trans Sports EO](#)
- [K-12 School EO](#)
- [CMS Letter](#)
- Funding cuts [already underway](#)

Difficult Conditions–Direct Attack

- Some hospitals, universities and other institutions “complying in advance”
 - [University of Pittsburgh Medical Center](#)
 - [Virginia Commonwealth University](#)
 - [NYU](#)
- Frightening [actions](#) by [schools in Ohio](#) may indicate future bad actions elsewhere in the US as laws change
- Today’s [terrifying news](#) indicating future losses

Difficult Conditions–Direct Attack

- Sex, gender and family central to right wing ideology, recruitment, and tactics for stigmatization, control and criminalization
- Typical of fascist, colonial, racist, patriarchal regimes
- Extension of prior administrations, sped up but not a departure
- All of these will more seriously impact BIPOC, unhoused, disabled, poor and immigrant people
- Must have intersectional analysis and mount intersectional, solidarity-based resistance

What we can do

- Much is out of our hands in terms of legislative and judicial action
- Reality check—even when we have legal protection, often not effective, trans people still disproportionately poor, unhoused, pushed out of schools and families, criminalized, deported
- What is possible and effective:
 - Policies in local institutions
 - Direct support
 - Rule breaking

University Policies that Matter

- Bathroom/locker room access
- ID, transcripts, rosters
- Curriculum
- Support spaces & counseling
- Health center providing hormones
- Training for faculty and staff to prevent/address harassment and classroom issues

Direct Support

- Fundraising for basic needs/emergencies
- Peer-based support groups and self-defense classes
- Accompaniment projects (to health appts, social services, classes, to/from campus, etc.)
- Housing support
- Informal/underground health care

Breaking Unjust Rules

- Mandatory Reporter rules
- Censorship in curriculum
- Healthcare and counseling rules or limits
- Non-carceral approaches to mental health crisis and suicidality
 - Emotional support—proactive, preventing isolation

Resources

- Resisting mandatory reporting:
 - [Mandatory Reporting is Not Neutral](#)
 - [This zine about MR in education](#)
- Underground Healthcare
 - [Zines here](#) may be of interest
- [Non-carceral responses to crisis](#)
- [Pronouns](#) and [teaching tips](#) from me
- Examples of [self-defense groups](#)
- [Tool for avoiding anti-solidarity talking points](#)