



Dear Community,

On Sunday, March 31st, members of the LGBTQIA+ community observed Trans Day of Visibility, a day of action meant to draw awareness to the struggles of trans individuals everywhere. Much of the media around this year's Trans Day of Visibility focused on it aligning with the Easter holiday, and many in the LGBTQIA+ community have been confronted with transphobic and homophobic commentary about this in the national media and at family gatherings. This shortly follows the tragic death of Nex Benedict in Oklahoma, who was assaulted for his trans identity and later died as a result of his injuries (Our deepest sympathies to Nex's community and family).

**Against this national backdrop, the Outlet Program continues to address recent acts of homophobia and transphobia in our more immediate community.** Our team has been made aware of or directly experienced several hateful incidents throughout the greater Bay Area:

- Recent and significant vandalism committed against the offices of our partner organization, Coast Pride, which serves the LGBTQIA+ community along the coast
- At least one instance of having homophobic slurs yelled at Outlet clients and staff
- Several bomb threats made against schools and spaces supporting LGBTQIA+ youth after those services were made public.

It is the increased frequency and escalation that is most concerning to the members of the Outlet Program and Adolescent Counseling

Services. We are additionally concerned to see this uptick in homophobia and transphobia here in the Bay Area, long renowned for its acceptance of and history with the LGBTQIA+ community.

**As a program and agency, we condemn these homophobic and transphobic actions, and we stand in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community against such incidents.** The Outlet Program will continue to provide direct services to genderqueer youth through both our clinical and social programs, despite and in light of these recent events. Youth directly and indirectly affected by these or other incidents of hate can find support through Outlet's therapy services, social support groups, and other events. Adults similarly affected by these incidents can find support through our partner organization, the San Mateo County Pride Center. For those drawn to support the LGBTQIA+ youth of our community, we encourage you to donate to the Outlet Program so that we may continue providing these services, to volunteer with Outlet, Coast Pride, SMCP, or other LGBTQIA+ organizations in the Bay Area, and to visibly demonstrate your support and allyship. Outlet and SMCP both offer SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression) 101 trainings to organizations and schools in our service areas to help combat heterosexism and spread awareness of the LGBTQIA+ community.

We humbly ask that you stand with us and the LGBTQIA+ population of the greater Bay Area by taking action to support your local queer and trans community, and by speaking out against homophobia and transphobia in all its forms wherever it occurs.

In Community,  
Brett Trace  
(They/Them)  
Outlet Clinical Coordinator



**Resources:**

Outlet

San Mateo County Pride Center

CoastPride

TrevorProject

Trans Lifeline

Genderbread Person

Self-reflection exercises

How to be an ally

How to respond to activation

Trans Joy