



URGENT NOTICE:



On Wednesday, September 20th, anti-2SLGBTQIA+ activists plan to rally at legislatures, city halls, and school board offices across the country under the “1 Million March 4 Children” banner. While they claim to be in support of “parental rights,” this is explicitly an anti-2SLGBTQIA+ rally. They’re supported by a big tent of far-right and conspiratorial groups, including Christian Nationalists, white supremacists, and anti-public education activists.

(Click here to learn more: [*content warning of extreme anti-2SLGBTQ+ language](#))

5 THINGS YOU CAN DO

1. Presence

- Counter-Demonstrate, using the advice found in the [Pride Defense Guide](#), [Safety Plan](#), and [Faith Community Guide](#). Find out what is happening in your city and make plans with community partners.
- Plan an alternate event at the same time on the 20th. This could be anything from a coffee hour to a vigil, simply - a place to connect and find solace.

2. Communications

- Use all of your available communication channels to show your support: church signage and property, e-newsletters, websites, social media, and connections with local media. We have created some images that you can use in your messaging, that you can [download here](#).

3. Advocacy

- Connect with your faith community and work together to find out what your ministry can do to respond faithfully to these issues.
- Contact politicians, in particular school trustees/MP's, to express your support or gender-affirming policies and inclusive education, and your opposition to policies that would forcibly out trans youth ([sample letter](#)).

4. Community Relationships

- Reach out to local 2SLGBTQIA-led and solidarity groups and ask how you can be of service and what kind of allyship would be most helpful to them.

5. Pastoral Care

- If you feel equipped to offer support to those who are being targeted by these hate groups, be sure those around you know you're available
- Ask for support! This is an extremely worrying and intense time for queer folks.

Find contact info for Affirming Ministries through [Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble here](#), and resources from [Affirming Connections here](#).

We encourage everyone to [share positive messages](#) of Public, Intentional, and Explicit affirmation to the 2SLGBTQ+ community, particularly from a faith perspective. Since religion is being weaponized by many of these extremist organizers, it's imperative to share a different narrative about faith, and to categorically denounce hate and bigotry.