

LSAxOUTLaw Statement

We are writing to advise of and respond to an upcoming anti-trans and queer march in Edmonton on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. This protest is one of a series of similar marches to be held across Canada that day to oppose, among other things, school curricula that affirm diverse gender identities and sexual orientations, and the ability of trans, two-spirit, non-binary, and genderqueer youth to self-determine their name and pronoun preference. These proposed actions directly threaten the well-being of 2SLGBTQ+ youth and undermine the expertise and safety of educators working to support trans and queer youth nationwide.

As the OUTLaw and Law Students' Association, we want to be explicit in our condemnation of the ideological foundation for these protests. As legal scholars and future lawyers, we are committed to the *Charter* values of equality for trans, queer, and genderqueer people. Together, we strive to foster a community where all students feel safe, included, and valued in their authentic selves.

We recognize that marches like this can directly affect the well-being and safety of trans, two-spirit, queer, and genderdiverse individuals within our Faculty. In support of students who may need support during this time we have created a list of resources for everyone to engage with and developed wellness kits for trans, queer, or genderdiverse individuals. These will be distributed at OUTLaw's annual general meeting on **Wednesday, September 20, at 12pm in LC105** (extras will be available in the LSA office during office hours on Thursday).

Resource List

University of Alberta Wellness supports: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/wellness-supports/index.html>

University of Alberta Counselling and Clinical Services: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/counselling/index.html>

Alberta Lawyer's Assistance Society (students are able to access services): <https://lawyersassist.ca/>
Wellness Kits

Call to Action

For those looking for a way to actively respond to these marches, Wednesday would be a good day to contact your provincial MLA or federal MP to let them know that you support trans and queer inclusion in schools. You can find your Alberta MLA [here](#), and your federal MP [here](#).

If you have a concern about human rights or equity or an idea on how to make the environment at the Faculty better, the following resources are available to you:

Chris Boodram, Law Students Association VP Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (can provide advice, support and advocate within the LSA and Faculty for change): Isaedi@ualberta.ca

OUTLaw: outlaw@ualberta.ca

Olive Bensler, President, Law Students Association: Isapres@ualberta.ca

Michael Rajan, Faculty of Law Student Wellness Coordinator: lawlife@ualberta.ca

University of Alberta Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights:
<https://www.ualberta.ca/provost/portfolio/office-of-safe-disclosure-human-rights.html>

Sincerely,

On behalf of OUTLaw
[Jacob Holloway](#) [Austin Leask](#) [Jay Koller](#)

On behalf of the LSA
[Olive Bensler](#) [Chris Boodram](#)

