# Thousands rally at Lincoln Memorial to oppose Trump-era rollbacks on LGBTQ+ rights during WorldPride 2025



Amidst a backdrop of festivity that marked WorldPride 2025, a significant rally was held at the Lincoln Memorial on 8 June, echoing the urgent calls for LGBTQ+ equality and a protest against policies perceived as regressive under the Trump administration. This event, which followed a vibrant parade the day before, took on a more serious and political undertone, uniting thousands in a stand against the erosion of rights for marginalized communities, particularly the LGBTQ+ population and immigrants.

Speakers from diverse backgrounds within the LGBTQ+ community took to the stage, articulating their frustrations with the legislative and executive actions taken during Donald Trump’s presidency. These actions, including the banning of transgender individuals from serving in the military and various executive orders that undermined anti-discrimination protections, were highlighted as detrimental to the progress made over previous decades. Ashley Smith, president of the Capital Pride Alliance and one of the rally’s organisers, stated, “LGBTQI+ people are under siege, especially our trans siblings, who are being targeted by legislation, rhetoric, and violence in every region.”

The ambience at the memorial, a site steeped in the history of civil rights, transformed from one of celebration to a resolute demonstration against systemic injustices. Mimi Gonzalez, a noted comedian and activist, infused a moment of humour into the heavy atmosphere with a satirical performance that jokingly condemned both Trump and business magnate Elon Musk. She declared, “Our pronouns are ‘we, us, ours.’ That’s what unites us,” underlining themes of solidarity among the participants.

Political experts have noted the wider implications of these rollbacks. Bianca Sprague, executive director of Trans Pride Washington DC, warned that the “unprecedented assault” on trans rights extends beyond mere legislative changes; it permeates the very fabric of community life, instilling fear and despair among those affected. As protests against aggressive immigration enforcement tactics surface in various cities, the atmosphere is charged with apprehension for many immigrant communities, who too feel the weight of hostile political rhetoric.

As the rally unfolded, the sentiments of the attendees appeared to echo a broader discontent not only with the current administration but also towards Democratic leaders who have been perceived as inadequate in defending LGBTQ+ rights. “Our message is clear: LGBTQ+ rights are human rights, and we will not allow decades of progress to be reversed,” said one participant, reflecting a common resolve. Despite lower-than-expected attendance figures compared to the historical crowds of 1963, the collective voice of the rally participants remained resolutely committed to fighting back.

This rally marks a critical juncture for advocacy amidst a complex political climate, where LGBTQ+ rights have become a polarising issue. Prior to this rally, Trump had positioned himself as an ally during his first term, yet critics assert that recent developments paint a different narrative. The rhetoric surrounding LGBTQ+ rights has shifted significantly, with many pointing to increased anti-trans sentiment and legislative initiatives that threaten the wellbeing of minority groups. The emotional weight carried by the visuals of protestors, some brandishing flags and chanting defiant slogans, served to remind all present that while challenges are great, the spirit of resilience and the push for equality remains unyielded.

As WorldPride continues in Washington, D.C., the unwavering commitment to solidarity and resistance is palpable. Activists vow to advance their cause with fierce determination, ensuring that the intersectionality of rights for all marginalised groups remains at the forefront of their activism, echoing the historic calls for justice made by figures like Martin Luther King Jr.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://liveindia.tv/world/worldpride-rally-at-lincoln-memorial-confronts-lgbtq-setbacks-under-trump-era/), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/us/rally-lgbtq-rights-convene-historic-site-washington-2025-06-08/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/us/rally-lgbtq-rights-convene-historic-site-washington-2025-06-08/), [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/f3ed5feaec4f98916cf55933351a0d8d)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.apnews.com/article/8891156c62d55273fe22b56c3b98ce97), [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/f3ed5feaec4f98916cf55933351a0d8d)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://liveindia.tv/world/worldpride-rally-at-lincoln-memorial-confronts-lgbtq-setbacks-under-trump-era/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/us/worldpride-gathers-washington-trump-rolls-back-lgbtq-rights-2025-06-05/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.axios.com/local/washington-dc/2025/06/06/dupont-circle-park-closed-worldpride-weekend), [[5]](https://www.apnews.com/article/8891156c62d55273fe22b56c3b98ce97)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://liveindia.tv/world/worldpride-rally-at-lincoln-memorial-confronts-lgbtq-setbacks-under-trump-era/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/us/worldpride-gathers-washington-trump-rolls-back-lgbtq-rights-2025-06-05/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://liveindia.tv/world/worldpride-rally-at-lincoln-memorial-confronts-lgbtq-setbacks-under-trump-era/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/rally-lgbtq-rights-convene-historic-site-washington-2025-06-08/> - On June 8, 2025, LGBTQ+ individuals and allies gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., to rally for equality and protest policy rollbacks under the Trump administration. The event, a significant political moment of WorldPride 2025, followed a celebratory parade the previous day. Speakers condemned former President Donald Trump's actions, including executive orders that curtailed transgender rights, banned transgender people from the U.S. military, and dismantled anti-discrimination protections. They also highlighted the broader climate of fear for marginalized communities, particularly trans people, immigrants, and refugees, amid nationwide protests against aggressive immigration enforcement tactics. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/us/rally-lgbtq-rights-convene-historic-site-washington-2025-06-08/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://apnews.com/article/f3ed5feaec4f98916cf55933351a0d8d> - The final day of WorldPride 2025 in Washington, D.C., transitioned from festive celebrations to a politically charged rally and protest under overcast skies. Thousands gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to express defiance and solidarity as the LGBTQ+ community braces for challenges under President Donald Trump's second term. Capital Pride Alliance board president Ashley Smith emphasized the event's political importance, highlighting decreased international attendance due to Trump's controversial policies. Protesters waved inclusive Pride flags and carried messages such as "Fight back" and "We will not be erased," reflecting concerns over Trump's rollback of transgender protections and targeting of drag performances. Security was heightened amid fears of violence, though no major incidents directly tied to World Pride were confirmed. The protest featured criticism not only of Republicans but also of Democrats who participants believe have failed to defend LGBTQ+ rights adequately. Despite rain and lower turnout than the previous day's parade, attendees like Gillian Brewer and Natalie Farmer stressed the necessity of political engagement to safeguard gains made by the LGBTQ+ community. The event concluded with a symbolic march toward the U.S. Capitol and another toward the White House, where demonstrators called for Trump's removal, asserting the enduring resilience of their community. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/f3ed5feaec4f98916cf55933351a0d8d?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/worldpride-gathers-washington-trump-rolls-back-lgbtq-rights-2025-06-05/> - WorldPride 2025 is being held in Washington, D.C., amidst significant concern and political tension following the rollback of LGBTQ+ rights under the administration of President Donald Trump. The event, which draws global LGBTQ+ participants, includes a parade near the White House and a rally at the Lincoln Memorial. It serves both as a celebration of diversity and a protest against recent policies that have curtailed transgender rights, banned LGBTQ+ participation in certain public institutions, and rescinded diversity and anti-discrimination measures. Organizers expect up to three million attendees, despite some advocating for a boycott due to the U.S. political climate and safety concerns. Activists emphasize the importance of visibility and resistance, with voices like Ryan Bos of Capital Pride Alliance and Human Rights Campaign's Brandon Wolf highlighting the need for solidarity and defiance. Transgender individuals particularly feel targeted by recent legislation and rhetoric. The sentiment of the event is one of resilience and protest, asserting that LGBTQ+ communities will not retreat in the face of adversity. Washington was selected as the host city before Trump's re-election, making it a symbolically potent location for this year's WorldPride. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/us/worldpride-gathers-washington-trump-rolls-back-lgbtq-rights-2025-06-05/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.apnews.com/article/8891156c62d55273fe22b56c3b98ce97> - During his first presidential term, Donald Trump presented himself as an ally to the LGBTQ+ community, supporting a transgender contestant in Miss Universe, welcoming Caitlyn Jenner’s use of Trump Tower restrooms, and appointing openly gay individuals to prominent positions. However, according to activists, his current term has brought a stark reversal, marked by actions perceived as openly hostile to LGBTQ+ rights. Trump has made anti-transgender rhetoric central to his reelection campaign, signed an executive order banning gender-affirming care for minors, and barred transgender individuals from military service. His administration canceled LGBTQ+ events, removed rainbow lighting from the Kennedy Center, and avoided recognizing Pride Month. Critics argue these actions reflect a broader rollback of LGBTQ+ progress, aligning with declining Republican support for same-sex marriage and gay rights. Despite some defenders like Ed Williams of the Log Cabin Republicans praising Trump’s inclusion of gay conservatives, advocacy groups like Lambda Legal and legal scholars warn of growing parallels with countries that have repressed LGBTQ+ rights. Public opinion remains relatively supportive of some Trump policies, especially on transgender issues, highlighting a political divide where gay rights are less controversial among Republicans compared to trans rights. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/8891156c62d55273fe22b56c3b98ce97?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.axios.com/local/washington-dc/2025/06/06/dupont-circle-park-closed-worldpride-weekend> - Dupont Circle park in Washington, D.C., will be closed over the WorldPride 2025 weekend despite public backlash and a withdrawal of the closure request by Police Chief Pamela Smith. The National Park Service (NPS) installed fencing early Friday morning and announced it would remain in place until 6 p.m. Sunday. The closure follows an earlier recommendation from Chief Smith, stemming from $175,000 in vandalism and damage to the park’s historic fountain during Pride 2023. The decision to proceed with the closure has drawn criticism from WorldPride attendees, particularly given the park's significance to D.C.'s LGBTQ community and existing frustrations with the Trump administration’s perceived anti-LGBTQ policies. ([axios.com](https://www.axios.com/local/washington-dc/2025/06/06/dupont-circle-park-closed-worldpride-weekend?utm_source=openai))