# Global rise in anti-LGBTQ laws fuels urgent call for united labour and activist resistance



The ongoing assault on LGBTQ rights has intensified globally, reflecting a broader resurgence of far-right ideologies. Under the Trump administration, the US has seen a particularly troubling trend, with numerous legislative measures targeting trans individuals and the wider LGBTQ community. This environment makes many within these communities contemplate their future in a country increasingly hostile towards their rights. Unfortunately, such repressive movements are not limited to the US; they signify a global pattern of discrimination prevalent across many nations.

The UK, once a bastion of progress for LGBTQ rights, is now facing its own alarming developments. The recent Supreme Court ruling, which stipulates that the legal definition of a woman is based solely on “biological sex” assigned at birth, is a stark blow to trans rights. This ruling, backed by Keir Starmer of the Labour Party, contradicts the very values many hoped he would uphold for LGBTQ communities. While some women's rights activists celebrated this ruling as a triumph for single-sex spaces, it has raised significant concerns regarding the implications for gender identity and discrimination laws—an outcome that fails to protect the most vulnerable.

In an even clearer reflection of alarming governance trends, countries like Hungary have enacted draconian measures, banning public LGBTQ events under the guise of protecting “children’s rights to moral, physical, and spiritual development.” Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, positioning himself as a champion of “Christian illiberal democracy,” prioritizes such draconian moves over essential democratic freedoms. The situation is further complicated by Uganda's 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act, imposing severe penalties, including death for “aggravated homosexuality,” a law which sadly serves as inspiration for similar legislation across the continent.

These anti-LGBTQ actions are often tied to the current capitalist crisis, especially in the wake of the 2008 financial collapse. Ruling classes in various countries leverage nationalist and anti-“woke” rhetoric to regain control amid widespread dissatisfaction with neoliberal policies. Orbán’s toxic homophobia serves as a unifying tool against perceived external threats, effectively masking the deeper failures of capitalism. LGBTQ rights become scapegoats for social issues, an easy target for politicians looking to distract from their own shortcomings.

The political landscape looks increasingly dire, with unreliable allies within traditional party structures. Figures like Péter Magyar in Hungary, who aims to challenge Orbán, largely neglect LGBTQ issues while focusing on broader democratic freedoms. Similarly, in the UK, Starmer's compliance with anti-trans sentiments has left many disillusioned—echoing the shattering failure of traditional parties to stand firmly against regressive ideologies.

In this context, many LGBTQ individuals find themselves unrepresented in mainstream politics. The reliance on capitalist politicians for advocacy has proven ineffective, highlighting the urgent need for an independent working-class movement that embraces LGBTQ liberation in tandem with the broader struggle against austerity and imperialism. Recent unrest in countries like Serbia and Turkey against oppressive regimes illustrates the power and necessity of collective action among working people, presenting a hopeful counter-narrative to rising far-right sentiments.

Solidarity between LGBTQ activists and the wider labour movement is essential now more than ever. Historical victories, such as the repeal of oppressive anti-LGBTQ laws in Sudan following revolutionary changes, demonstrate the potential of united action against authoritarianism. The trajectory in places like Argentina, where public dissent against anti-LGBTQ measures is surging, underscores the urgent need for an intersectional approach in liberation movements.

The call for labour organizations to integrate LGBTQ rights into their core missions is increasingly critical. The current rise of authoritarianism, intrinsically linked to attacks on these rights, demands an unwavering united front against all forms of oppression. The struggle for LGBTQ liberation is far from a niche issue; it is an integral part of the broader battle for social justice, equity, and dismantling the capitalist structures that perpetuate inequality. Only through a comprehensive, intersectional fight can a truly liberated and equitable society emerge.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://internationalsocialist.net/en/2025/06/pride-month> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/04/16/uk/uk-supreme-court-ruling-definition-woman-intl/> - On April 16, 2025, the UK Supreme Court ruled that the legal definition of a 'woman' under the Equality Act 2010 is based on biological sex assigned at birth, excluding gender identity. This decision arose from a legal challenge concerning gender representation on public boards in Scotland. The court's unanimous ruling has significant implications for the interpretation of sex-based discrimination laws, particularly in areas such as single-sex spaces and equal pay. Women's rights activists have celebrated the ruling as a victory for protecting spaces designated for women.
3. <https://www.ap.org/news-highlights/spotlights/2025/uks-top-court-says-definition-of-a-woman-is-based-on-biological-sex-and-excludes-transgender-people/> - The Associated Press reports that the UK Supreme Court's April 16, 2025, ruling defines a 'woman' under the Equality Act 2010 as someone of biological sex assigned at birth, excluding transgender individuals. This landmark decision emerged from a case involving gender representation on public boards in Scotland. The court's interpretation has sparked debates over the balance between protecting single-sex spaces and the rights of transgender individuals. Women's rights groups have hailed the ruling as a significant win for safeguarding spaces designated for women.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-judge-says-prisons-must-provide-gender-affirming-care-inmates-2025-06-03/> - On June 3, 2025, U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth ruled that the U.S. Bureau of Prisons must continue providing gender-affirming care, including hormone therapy and necessary accommodations, to transgender inmates despite President Donald Trump's executive order aimed at halting such treatments. The judge's decision allows over 2,000 transgender inmates to proceed with a class action lawsuit challenging the order. While surgical procedures are not mandated by the ruling, the judge emphasized that denying medically approved treatment could violate the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment.
5. <https://www.apnews.com/article/3bd122ab62a0f726c48089c5337f6710> - The U.S. Department of Education has launched an investigation into the Cromwell, Connecticut school district over its policies allowing transgender student-athletes to compete in girls' sports. This comes amid a broader national debate and an ongoing legal battle surrounding the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) policy, first challenged in 2020. The investigation could result in the district losing nearly $1 million in federal special education funding if found in violation of Title IX. While Cromwell currently has no transgender athletes, Mayor James Demetriades emphasized the district is adhering to all legal requirements.
6. <https://www.apnews.com/article/d6cda5df15ee5bc066092d54c591c6f2> - U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has mandated the renaming of the USNS Harvey Milk, removing the name of the gay rights activist and Navy veteran from the ship. This unprecedented decision aligns with the Trump administration's broader agenda to eliminate references to diversity, equity, and inclusion within the military and emphasizes the reinstatement of a 'warrior culture.' The ship, christened in 2021 and named by former Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to honor leaders of civil and human rights, was part of a class of replenishment oilers.
7. <https://www.apnews.com/article/a2971bdc2731f88ceacd64d7614d6152> - A recent Pew Research Center poll reveals that LGBTQ+ adults in the U.S. perceive significantly less social acceptance for transgender and nonbinary individuals compared to gay and lesbian people. While about 60% of respondents felt there was considerable acceptance for gay and lesbian individuals, only 10% said the same for transgender people, with nearly half indicating minimal or no acceptance. This perception is intensified by the rise in state laws restricting gender-affirming care for minors and regulating transgender participation in public life, such as bathroom use and sports.