



ANNUAL REPORT

2025 **be you.**


NATIONAL
LGBTQ
TASK FORCE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our Mission	03
Who We Are: The Task Force Board & Staff	04
Introduction	06
2025 Key Accomplishments	07
.....	
Building Power Where It Matters Most	09
Creating Change 2025	16
Defending Our Rights and Shaping the Future	20
Reclaiming Faith as a Force for Justice	24
.....	
Kierra Johnson: Leadership Recognized, Movement Strengthened	28
Special Feature: X Is a Queer Issue	31
Financial Statement	32

Contact Us

Mailing Address: National LGBTQ Task Force PO Box 65500 Washington, DC 20035
Phone Number: (202) 393-5177
Email: info@thetaskforce.org



OUR MISSION

WHAT THE TASK FORCE DOES

The National LGBTQ Task Force builds power from the ground up.

The National LGBTQ Task Force builds power, takes action, and creates change to achieve freedom, justice, and equity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people. As the progressive voice of the LGBTQ movement and the LGBTQ voice of the progressive movement, the National LGBTQ Task Force organizes people and money in pursuit of liberation for all.



WHO WE ARE: THE TASK FORCE BOARD & STAFF

THE 2025 TASK FORCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Race/Ethnicity

2 Asian or Asian American	1 Biracial	3 Black or African American
3 Hispanic or Latinx	2 Other	1 South Asian and Arab
6 White		

Gender Identity

6 Cisgender Female	8 Cisgender Male	3 Trans/Non-binary/ Genderqueer/Other
---------------------------	-------------------------	--

Sexual Orientation

3 Bi or Pansexual	8 Gay	2 Lesbian
7 Queer	1 Straight or Heterosexual	

WHO WE ARE: THE TASK FORCE BOARD & STAFF

THE 2025 TASK FORCE STAFF

Race/Ethnicity

4	Asian or Asian American	1	Multi-Racial	9	Black or African American
4	Hispanic or Latinx	2	Middle Eastern or North African	1	Other
11	White				

Gender Identity

7	Cisgender Female	8	Cisgender Male	7	Non-binary
4	Transgender Female	2	Transgender Male	1	Two Spirit
1	Prefer Not to Disclose				

Sexual Orientation

6	Bi or Pansexual	8	Gay	5	Lesbian
8	Queer	1	Other	1	Prefer Not to Disclose
3	Straight or Heterosexual				

INTRODUCTION

The year 2025 called us to meet the moment with clarity, courage, and an unwavering commitment to our community. Across the country, LGBTQ+ people continued to navigate both hard-fought progress and coordinated challenges, reminding us that our work is not only necessary, but urgent.

Your support deepened the National LGBTQ Task Force's investment in people, power, and possibility. From convening thousands at Creating Change, to advancing advocacy at the federal and state levels, to amplifying the voices of our communities through culture and storytelling, this year was defined by intentional action and collective impact.

This report reflects more than a record of what we accomplished together, it captures how we showed up for each other. In partnerships with organizers, advocates, creators, and everyday people committed to equity, we built spaces for collaboration, strengthened pipelines for leadership, and pushed forward a vision of liberation that is inclusive, intersectional, and enduring.

There is still much work ahead of us. In 2026, we are asking you to join us in investing in our organizing, training and leadership development work, so that our state and local partners have the well-trained volunteers and at-the-ready leaders they need to educate and engage legislators and voters on pro-equality issues this year. To be our partner in educating LGBTQ+ people and the public about how proposed anti-LGBTQ policies will impact our lives and how to respond to them. To create a culture of belonging by working with faith leaders to boldly proclaim and call for a society that truly reflects the sentiment that all are welcome here. Together, we remain focused, resilient, and ready for what's next.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ORGANIZING BOOTCAMP

Building Durable LGBTQ Organizing Infrastructure Nationwide

The National LGBTQ Task Force launched the **Organizing Bootcamp**, an intensive leadership development initiative designed to strengthen core organizing skills across the LGBTQ movement and prepare emerging leaders to meet today's escalating political challenges. While the program aimed to train an inaugural cohort of 40 fellows, the overwhelming response, 277 applications from activists across the country, highlighted the urgent demand for leadership development and movement infrastructure across LGBTQ communities.

Participants completed rigorous training in power mapping, coalition building, campaign strategy, and grassroots mobilization before returning to their communities with stronger organizing skills and renewed clarity about how to lead in today's political environment. Beyond training individual leaders, the Bootcamp helped build a growing national network of organizers committed to supporting one another and strengthening campaigns across the country, an investment in the long-term infrastructure and future leadership of the LGBTQ movement.

Defeating Anti-LGBTQ Legislation through State Partnerships

The Task Force strengthened its role as a critical partner in state-based advocacy

efforts, helping communities confront an unprecedented wave of anti-LGBTQ legislation. In Texas, the Task Force partnered with the Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT) to provide strategic guidance, policy expertise, and community education that helped defeat more than 200 anti-LGBTQ bills—blocking over 94% of harmful proposals targeting LGBTQ Texans.

At the same time, the Task Force worked alongside advocates and lawmakers in North Carolina and other states to slow harmful legislation, strengthen pro-equality coalitions, and expand opportunities for policy change. These efforts demonstrated the power of coordinated partnerships between national organizations and local leaders, ensuring advocacy strategies were informed by the communities most directly impacted.

This work matters because many of the most consequential fights shaping LGBTQ people's daily lives are happening in state legislatures. By investing in local organizing infrastructure, political education, and strategic partnerships, the Task Force is helping communities build the long-term capacity needed not only to respond to attacks, but to shape a more just and equitable future.

Shifting the Narrative – Creators for Change

The Creator Stage at Creating Change 2025 served as a dynamic hub for creativity,

conversation, and connection. This space welcomed more than 900 attendees to celebrate and amplify LGBTQ+ voices. The stage featured 30 trailblazing creators across industries including fashion, activism, music, media, and tech, and hosted 10 engaging conversations exploring the power of storytelling, visibility, and advocacy. Each session highlighted the intersection of social activism and content creation within today's evolving social and political landscape. Notable speakers included Tracy E. Gilchrist, Perez Hilton, and Miss Major.

The standout moments from the stage came from participants of Creators for Change, a new initiative which highlighted LGBTQ+ changemakers using digital platforms to drive real impact. This inaugural year included:

- Jai the Gentleman, Founder and host of the Dear Black Gay Men podcast
- Danielle Moodie, Political podcaster and culture commentator
- Donato Fatuesi, Actress, writer, and producer
- Samy Nemir Olivares, Social justice advocate, content creator, and author

These creators were invited to share their unique journeys, address challenges for the next generation, and cultivate the importance of digital storytelling. The conversation topics ranged from censorship and queer erasure to the transformative power of joy and self-expression, leaving a lasting impression on attendees.

Beyond the stage, the Creators for Change program cultivated a vibrant environment for networking, offering meaningful opportunities for collaboration,

mentorship, and community building. Young adults were prominently engaged throughout this programming, reinforcing the importance of hosting these spaces for leadership development.

Multi-lingual, Trans-Centered Journalist Resource Guides

In partnership with the Transgender Law Center (TLC), the Task Force added translation and media strategy capacity in a multi-org, resource-building project that expanded Spanish-language access to four existing and one new guide for journalists. These essential tools serve as key roadmaps to shifting narratives on trans people on reporting topics such as: Anti-Trans Athletic Bans, Trans Youth and Gender-Affirming Medical Care, Abortion and Reproductive Care, Anti-Trans Violence, and the newest guide, Marginalized Disabled Communities.

Through multilingual staff and culturally competent consultants, the Task Force was able to significantly support our partners to soft launch the resources at a panel at the National Hispanic Association of Journalists (NHAJ) and publish an Op-Ed in wide-reaching, bilingual media outlets. Our efforts culminated in several meetings with leaders in newsrooms and editorial teams who committed to integrating the guides into real workplaces. The project continues through print distribution of the translated materials at events and conferences like the NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists.

BUILDING POWER WHERE IT MATTERS MOST

Strengthening Organizers, Expanding Partnerships, and Preparing Communities for What's Next

Coming off a massive effort in 2024 to expand political education and ensure LGBTQ people were more informed, visible, and engaged in civic life, the Task Force helped thousands of community members better understand the policy landscape and their role in shaping it. This work strengthened participation and ownership in the political process at a moment when democratic institutions and LGBTQ rights alike are under increasing pressure.

Building on that momentum, in 2025 the National LGBTQ Task Force focused on one central goal: strengthening the infrastructure of our movement so communities across the country have the skills, strategy, and partnerships needed to defend our rights and build lasting power.

Through this work, it became increasingly clear that the organizing infrastructure needed to sustain long-term movement power had become deeply fragmented across the country. Across the LGBTQ movement, a generational transition is underway. Longtime organizers are stepping away, while a new wave of activists, many energized by the uprisings and social movements of recent years, are stepping forward without the training and

institutional knowledge that sustained earlier generations.

The Task Force took action by investing in leadership development, organizing infrastructure, and strategic partnerships in key states. Through training programs, national organizing spaces, and state-based collaborations, the Task Force helped equip organizers and community members to translate energy into durable grassroots power.



“Our movement grows stronger when people have the tools, strategy, and community they need to organize where they live.”

Training the Next Generation of Organizers

One of the year's most exciting initiatives was the launch of the **Organizing Bootcamp**, a new training program designed to strengthen core organizing skills across the movement. Our goal was to provide intensive training to a cohort of 40 fellows this first year.

The response revealed just how urgent this need is. The inaugural cohort received 277 from activists from across the country.. Participants completed an intensive training series focused on core organizing practices such as power mapping, coalition building, and campaign strategy.

The program graduated 28 fellows who returned to their communities with sharpened skills and renewed clarity about how to organize effectively in today's political environment. More importantly, they joined a growing network of organizers committed to supporting one another and strengthening campaigns across the country.

A National Space for Organizers to Connect and Act

The Task Force expanded its national organizing infrastructure through the **Organizing Committee (OC)**, a virtual space connecting activists, organizers, and partner organizations across the country.

Throughout 2025, the OC hosted bimonthly convenings where participants received political education, shared strategy, and learned concrete organizing tactics. More than **100 activists participated**, with nearly three-quarters

taking direct organizing action after engaging in the space. These convenings became a hub for collaboration, bringing together leaders working on democracy protection, racial justice, youth organizing, and LGBTQ liberation. By connecting organizers across movements and geography, the OC helped strengthen coordination and amplify partner expertise.

Strengthening the Movement Through Partnership

The Task Force continued to play a key role as a movement convener, bringing together organizations to share strategy and build collective power, and by providing technical support and coaching.

Throughout the year, the Task Force collaborated with national partners including youth organizing groups, racial justice organizations, and LGBTQ advocacy networks to develop training programs, coordinate messaging, and align organizing strategies.

These partnerships ensured that LGBTQ organizers remain deeply connected to broader progressive movements fighting for democracy, bodily autonomy, and racial justice.

By strengthening these relationships, the Task Force is helping build a movement ecosystem capable of responding to the escalating challenges facing our communities.



Building the Movement Infrastructure of the Future

The work of 2025 demonstrated the power of investing in people and partnerships. Through leadership training, national organizing spaces, and deep collaboration with state partners, the Task Force strengthened the connective tissue of the LGBTQ movement, ensuring that organizers across the country have the skills and relationships needed to meet this political moment.

With critical elections on the horizon and continued attacks on LGBTQ rights, this work is more important than ever.

By equipping organizers, expanding partnerships, and strengthening grassroots infrastructure, the National LGBTQ Task Force is helping communities transform courage into collective power and building the leadership that will guide our movement into the future.

IMPACT SNAPSHOTS

FLORIDA

In Florida, the Task Force worked with partners to strengthen coordination among LGBTQ organizations and expand civic engagement during a politically challenging legislative year.

In partnership with **Voices of Florida**, the Task Force supported organizing efforts across Central and Southwest Florida, helping community members engage in advocacy campaigns and legislative actions. During the 2025 legislative session, Task Force staff joined partners in Tallahassee to meet with lawmakers, participate in rallies, and support coordinated advocacy for LGBTQ rights and reproductive freedom.

At the same time, the Task Force partnered with the Contigo Fund to convene organizers and launch a **Central Florida needs assessment in Orange County**, where the focus of our partnerships are rooted, to guide future political education and leadership development.

Together, these efforts laid the groundwork for a stronger, more coordinated LGBTQ organizing infrastructure across Florida.

TEXAS

In Texas, the Task Force partnered with the **Trans Education Network of Texas (TENT)** to support community organizing and legislative advocacy during the state's legislative session.

Task Force staff worked with local organizers to prepare community members for advocacy meetings with elected officials, helping train **more than 100 constituents** to share their stories and advocate for policies that protect transgender Texans and their families.

Participants met with **over 15 legislative offices**, ensuring lawmakers heard directly from the communities most impacted by anti-trans legislation. The day concluded with a rally at the Texas State Capitol, where advocates called for policies grounded in dignity, safety, and equality.

Beyond legislative advocacy, the Task Force provided strategic support to partners preparing for upcoming electoral campaigns and ballot measure fights that could impact trans youth and families.

These efforts strengthened organizing infrastructure across the state and expanded the network of leaders prepared to defend LGBTQ rights in Texas.

NORTH CAROLINA

In North Carolina, the Task Force partnered with the **Freedom Center for Social Justice and Equality North Carolina** to mobilize voters and strengthen organizing efforts around key school board elections.

Working with partners, the Task Force helped coordinate a comprehensive voter outreach strategy that included volunteer

phone banking, canvassing, and targeted text messaging campaigns.

Volunteers completed **1,760 phone calls** to voters in priority districts and sent **over 20,000 text messages** encouraging participation in the election. Partner organizations conducted hundreds of door-to-door conversations and reached thousands more through social media outreach.

These efforts contributed to a significant outcome: **85% of races aligned with community priorities were successful**, helping protect inclusive education policies and LGBTQ-affirming leadership in local schools.

Beyond the election itself, the collaboration strengthened statewide organizing through spaces like the “Big Gay Meeting,” where organizations coordinate strategy and share resources to advance LGBTQ justice across North Carolina.



BY THE NUMBERS

VOTER ENGAGEMENT & CIVIC PARTICIPATION



250K+

Florida voters contacted through peer-to-peer text outreach

20K+

Voters responded to digital outreach campaigns

20K+

Get-out-the-vote texts sent in North Carolina priority districts

1,760

Calls completed by volunteers during North Carolina phone banks

BY THE NUMBERS

ON-THE-GROUND ORGANIZING



100+

Constituents trained
for legislative
advocacy in Texas

15+

Texas legislative
offices met with
community advocates

543

Total doors knocked
by partners during
North Carolina school
board elections

85%

Of targeted races
aligned with
community priorities
were successful

CREATING CHANGE: WHERE THE MOVEMENT COMES TOGETHER

A national convening that builds strategy, strengthens community, and fuels LGBTQ liberation

For nearly four decades, **National LGBTQ Task Force's Creating Change** has served as one of the most important gathering spaces for the LGBTQ movement, a place where organizers, advocates, artists, and community leaders come together to share strategy, deepen relationships, and build collective power.

In January 2025, that tradition continued as **more than 2,200 movement leaders and advocates** gathered in Las Vegas for one of the most dynamic and inclusive Creating Change convenings to date.

Over several days, participants from across the United States and beyond came together for learning, healing, and strategic action.

signaling the continued growth and evolution of the LGBTQ movement. Nearly half of attendees identified as transgender or gender nonbinary, and more than **60 percent identified as Black, Indigenous, or people of color**, reflecting the movement's deep commitment to intersectional leadership and community-driven change.

At a time when LGBTQ communities are facing escalating political attacks and cultural backlash, Creating Change offered both a sanctuary and a strategic hub for action.

“Creating Change is where our movement gathers not only to celebrate who we are—but to build the strategy and power needed to shape what comes next.”



A Gathering Built for This Political Moment

The 2025 convening took place during a critical moment for LGBTQ communities. Across the country, rights, particularly those of transgender people, are under increasing threat in legislatures and courts.

Creating Change responded by centering political education, movement resilience, and organizing strategy.

Participants engaged in **dozens of day-long institutes, more than a hundred workshops, and numerous caucuses and affinity gatherings** focused on issues ranging from combating political violence to strengthening digital security, protecting healthcare access, and building cross-movement coalitions.

Many sessions focused on equipping advocates with practical organizing skills they could bring back to their communities, whether mobilizing voters, challenging discriminatory legislation, or building stronger local networks of support.

For many participants, the convening provided not only professional development but also a rare opportunity to be surrounded by a vibrant, multigenerational LGBTQ community working toward shared liberation.

Mobilizing Communities to Take Action

Creating Change has always been about more than programming. It is about cultivating a space where every participant can show up fully and safely.

Creating Change has always been about more than programming. It is about cultivating a space where every participant can show up fully and safely.

In 2025, the Task Force expanded its commitment to accessibility and community care. More than **half of the event budget was dedicated to access**, including scholarships, language justice services, accessibility accommodations, and meal support.

These investments ensured that hundreds of participants who might otherwise face barriers were able to take part in the gathering. Mobility devices, language access services, and meal assistance supported participants with diverse needs and backgrounds.

The convening also featured wellness and safety initiatives. A Health and Wellness Center offered STI testing, crisis counseling, sobriety support, and hormone access, while trained crisis-response teams, known as the **Care Bears**, provided emotional and mental health support throughout the gathering.

Quiet reflection spaces, neurodivergent-friendly environments, and a community ofrenda honoring LGBTQ ancestors further reinforced the gathering's commitment to care and healing.

Amplifying Cultural Power and Storytelling

Creating Change continues to serve as a powerful platform for LGBTQ storytelling and cultural leadership.

In 2025, the convening launched and

expanded a **Creator Stage**, bringing together journalists, digital creators, artists, and activists to explore the role of media and storytelling in shaping public narratives about LGBTQ communities.

More than **900 attendees participated in conversations with leading cultural voices**, highlighting the growing importance of digital storytelling, independent media, and creative advocacy in today's political environment.

These conversations sparked collaborations and mentorship opportunities, connecting creators with organizers and movement leaders working on the frontlines of LGBTQ justice.

The Power of Gathering in Community

For many participants, the most transformative aspect of Creating Change was simply being together.

Participants described the gathering as life-changing, a space where they found renewed hope, practical organizing tools, and a deeper sense of belonging in the LGBTQ movement.

More than **140 volunteers contributed over 1,300 hours of service** to help make the event possible, demonstrating the deep community investment that sustains Creating Change each year.

Together, these volunteers, organizers, and participants created an environment where learning, healing, and strategic collaboration could flourish.

Looking Ahead

As the LGBTQ movement prepares for the challenges ahead, Creating Change remains one of its most vital engines for leadership development and movement strategy.

This gathering is where new organizers find their voice, where partnerships are forged across movements, and where the next generation of leaders gain the tools needed to drive lasting change.

When thousands of advocates come together each year through Creating Change, they do more than share ideas. They build the collective power needed to transform our future.



BY THE NUMBERS

CREATING CHANGE

2,257

Total participants at
Creating Change 2025

50.8%

First-time attendees

48.8%

Transgender and
gender-nonbinary
participants

60.6%

BIPOC attendees

479

Speakers and
facilitators

27

Day-long institutes

129

Workshops and
trainings

49

Community caucuses

140

volunteers
Contributing 1,323
hours of service

VOICES FROM CREATING CHANGE

“This was my first Creating Change gathering and it was life changing. I’ve never been in a space so full of acceptance, strategy, and love for our communities.”

“I’m leaving with real tools to protect my organization and organize my community.”

“Being in community with such a diverse range of queer people during this difficult moment gave me hope again.”

DEFENDING OUR RIGHTS AND SHAPING THE FUTURE



How the Task Force Responded to Key Supreme Court Decisions in 2025

In 2025, the National LGBTQ Task Force faced one of the most complex policy environments in recent history. Sweeping executive orders, escalating legislative attacks, and high-stakes Supreme Court rulings created an atmosphere of uncertainty for LGBTQ communities across the country.

But uncertainty has never stopped the Task Force from showing up. Rather than retreat, the Task Force moved quickly to provide analysis, education, and advocacy. The policy team closely monitored federal developments and translated complex policy changes into accessible guidance for

supporters and partner organizations.

Through direct engagement with lawmakers, the Task Force met with more than 70 legislative offices across state and federal government, advocating for policies that protect LGBTQ people and strengthen communities. At the same time, the team responded to dozens upon dozens of inquiries from supporters and partners, helping advocates understand how new policies could affect them and how they could effectively engage their representatives.

This rapid response ensured that communities were not navigating a rapidly shifting policy landscape alone.

When policy attacks come fast, our job is to meet the moment—educating our communities, engaging lawmakers, and ensuring LGBTQ voices are impossible to ignore.

Mobilizing Communities to Take Action

Policy advocacy does not happen only in courtrooms or legislative offices; it happens when communities organize.

Throughout the year, the Task Force prioritized political education as a cornerstone of its advocacy strategy. The policy team produced accessible content explaining executive orders, Supreme Court decisions, and federal legislation affecting LGBTQ communities.

The Task Force organized **Action Labs**, where staff and advocates came together to directly contact members of Congress. During these coordinated efforts, participants called congressional offices to share personal stories and urge lawmakers to reject provisions that would cut essential programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, and reproductive health services.

We officially launched **Policy Power Hour**, a bi-monthly virtual program to make policy and legislative matters accessible to our community members. The goal of this programming is to ensure anyone can find their political home, ask those burning questions, and engage with

elected officials at any level of government.

These efforts ensured that policymakers heard directly from the communities most impacted by their decisions.

Winning Key Battles in the States

While federal policy often dominates headlines, many of the most consequential fights for LGBTQ equality happen at the state level.

In Texas, the Task Force worked alongside the **Transgender Education Network of Texas** to confront an unprecedented wave of anti-LGBTQ legislation. Through strategic guidance, policy expertise, and community education, the partnership helped defeat more than **200 anti-LGBTQ bills**, blocking over **94% of harmful proposals** targeting LGBTQ Texans.

200+

Anti-LGBTQ bills
defeated in Texas with
support from Task
Force policy advocacy

94%

Of harmful bills
targeting LGBTQ
Texans blocked during
the legislative session

Even in the face of new legislative challenges, these victories demonstrated the power of coordinated advocacy

between national organizations and local partners.

Meanwhile, in North Carolina and other states, the Task Force strengthened relationships with key lawmakers and advocates, helping slow harmful legislation and expand opportunities for pro-equality policy change.

Looking Ahead

The policy challenges facing LGBTQ communities are far from over. But the work of 2025 demonstrated that organized advocacy can shape outcomes, even in the most difficult political environments.

Through direct engagement with lawmakers, strategic litigation responses, community education, and deep partnerships with advocates across the country, the National LGBTQ Task Force ensured that LGBTQ people remained at the center of policy debates shaping our future.

In moments of uncertainty, the Task Force continues to do what it has done for more than fifty years: show up, speak out, and fight for a future where every LGBTQ person can live with dignity, safety, and freedom.



BY THE NUMBERS

POLICY & ADVOCACY IMPACT IN 2025



70

Legislative offices
engaged across state
and federal
government

300+

Calls placed to
members of Congress
through Task Force
Action Labs

200+

Direct requests from
supporters and
partners answered
with policy guidance

RECLAIMING FAITH AS A FORCE FOR JUSTICE

How the National LGBTQ Task Force is Building Interfaith Power for LGBTQ Liberation

For decades, religion has been used as a weapon against LGBTQ people. In legislatures, courtrooms, and public discourse, faith is too often invoked to justify discrimination and exclusion.

In 2025, the National LGBTQ Task Force continued working with faith leaders and communities across the country to tell a different story, one where faith is a powerful force for justice, solidarity, and liberation.

Through national convenings, leadership development, and grassroots organizing, the Task Force strengthened a growing network of faith leaders committed to protecting LGBTQ people and building bridges across movements. Together, these leaders are reshaping how faith communities engage in the fight for equality.

Building an Interfaith Movement for LGBTQ Liberation

The Task Force's faith work begins with a simple truth: LGBTQ people exist in every faith tradition. When religious leaders speak out for justice, they can reach communities and moral frameworks that traditional political organizing often cannot.

In 2025, the Faith team focused on strengthening this movement by convening faith leaders across traditions—including Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and secular humanist communities—to build shared strategy and deepen collaboration.

From international conferences to local gatherings, these convenings created spaces where leaders could exchange ideas, sharpen their analysis, and explore how faith communities can confront rising authoritarianism and religious nationalism.



Task Force Faith Director Tahil Sharma has also emerged as a visible national voice advancing these conversations. In a panel hosted by Rev. Paul Raushenbush alongside national leaders including Chase Strangio of the ACLU, Jon Cohen of Keshet, and Ross Keys of the Interfaith Alliance of North Dakota, Sharma spoke about the role faith leaders must play in building solidarity and countering harmful narratives targeting LGBTQ communities.

“Religious folks, faith leaders, folks within faith institutions and communities need to do a better job at translating between communities so we can really understand how we can build solidarity,” Sharma noted. “If we want to build solidarity, we have to be clear that we are standing with one another.”

At the **WorldPride Human Rights Conference**, Task Force staff connected with global leaders working to protect LGBTQ rights. Meanwhile, at the **WorldPride Interfaith Service**, hundreds gathered for prayer, reflection, and collective action, demonstrating the growing momentum behind faith-rooted LGBTQ advocacy.

“We are not here to maintain the status quo of injustice by being peacekeepers. We are here to be the peacemakers who repair the world and make it anew.”

Moments like these remind us that faith communities can be powerful allies in the struggle for liberation.

Strengthening Leadership and Community

Leadership development remains at the heart of the Task Force’s faith work. In 2025, the organization expanded programs designed to support emerging leaders working at the intersection of faith and LGBTQ justice. One key initiative was the ongoing development of the **Trans Religious Leadership Cohort**, a program that supports transgender and gender-expansive faith leaders and organizers. We evolved and expanded the cohort from the previous iteration, known as the Trans Seminarian Cohort, to include trans and non-binary religious leaders who do not have formal educational spaces that either allow trans or non-binary religious leadership training or where denominations’ formal training occurs outside of a seminary.

Plans are underway to launch an alumni network connecting a decade of cohort participants—creating a space for mentorship, collaboration, and resource sharing across generations of faith-rooted organizers.

These leaders are already transforming their communities. From clergy speaking out against anti-trans legislation to organizers creating affirming spiritual spaces, alumni of the program are helping build a new vision of faith leadership grounded in justice and compassion.

Turning Conversation into Action

While national convenings help shape vision, the Task Force's faith work also focuses on practical organizing that empowers communities to act.

In October, the organization hosted the first SQuIRM (Strengthened Queer Inter-Religious Mobilization) convening in Orlando, Florida. The gathering brought together faith leaders, organizers, and community advocates to explore how faith communities can respond collectively to the political challenges facing LGBTQ people.

Participants represented multiple traditions and community organizations, including Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and secular leaders working on issues ranging from immigration justice to reproductive freedom.

Together, they engaged in workshops on coalition building, power mapping, digital security, and de-escalation strategies. Skills that equip communities to organize effectively in moments of crisis. The convening also sparked new partnerships and collaborations that will continue long after the event ended.

One participant later requested additional training for affirming faith leaders in their community, an encouraging sign that the

work is already spreading beyond the room where it began.

Equipping Faith Communities to Advocate

To support faith leaders navigating complex political and legal landscapes, the Task Force also developed new resources designed to guide faith-based advocacy.

In 2025, the organization created and began sharing its **Faith Advocacy Guide**, a resource created in close collaboration with the Alliance for Justice to help faith communities understand how they can engage in public policy and organizing efforts while remaining compliant with nonprofit regulations.

More than **50 faith leaders** have already received the guide, which provides practical guidance on legislative education, relationship building with policymakers, and strategies for participating in public discourse around issues affecting LGBTQ communities.

These tools ensure that faith leaders not only speak out for justice but do so strategically and effectively.

Looking Ahead

As attacks on LGBTQ rights continue to escalate, faith communities are playing an increasingly important role in defending equality and democracy. The Task Force is helping cultivate a new generation of faith leaders who understand that justice work is not separate from spiritual life, it is central to it.

Through leadership development, convenings, and grassroots organizing, the

organization is strengthening a movement that brings moral clarity, spiritual resilience, and deep community roots to the fight for LGBTQ liberation.

In a time when religion is often used to

divide, the National LGBTQ Task Force is helping faith leaders reclaim its power to unite and to build a more just and compassionate world for all.



KIERRA JOHNSON: LEADERSHIP RECOGNIZED, MOVEMENT STRENGTHENED



THE IMPACT OF TASK FORCE PRESIDENT KIERRA JOHNSON AND LGBTQ MOVEMENT BUILDING NATIONWIDE

In 2025, Kierra Johnson, President of the National LGBTQ Task Force, received national appreciation from across the LGBTQ movement and beyond. Honors from cultural and advocacy institutions affirmed her role in advancing justice, liberation, and intersectional organizing at a critical moment for LGBTQ communities.

These acknowledgments reflect both Johnson's leadership and the expanding influence of the Task Force's work to build power, strengthen communities, and advance equity nationwide.

Looking Ahead Honored Among Black LGBTQ Trailblazers

In September, Johnson was honored at the 3rd Annual **BET Black + Iconic Soirée**, which celebrated Black LGBTQ changemakers shaping culture, politics, and community life.

Hosted in Washington, D.C., the event brought together artists, advocates, policymakers, and community leaders to celebrate the enduring impact of Black LGBTQ leadership. Johnson earned the Active Advocate Award for her trailblazing work for reproductive justice and queer rights, spanning over decades now. She stood alongside a remarkable group of honorees like Ashlee Davis, Hope Giselle, Ashlee Marie Preston, and Bob the Drag Queen.

The recognition underscored Johnson's role as one of the most prominent voices advancing intersectional LGBTQ advocacy. Her work has intentionally connected LGBTQ liberation with issues such as voting rights, economic justice, healthcare access, and racial equity.

Accepting the honor, Johnson reflected on the power of community leadership and the importance of continuing the work of those who came before us.

"Our liberation has always been rooted in collective action, love for our communities, and the courage to imagine a more just future."

Moments like this highlight the profound impact Black LGBTQ leaders continue to have on shaping movements for change.

Named to The 2025 OUT100

Johnson was also named to the 2025 OUT100, Out Magazine's annual list

celebrating the most influential LGBTQ changemakers across culture, politics, and advocacy.

For its 31st year, the 2025 OUT100 included individuals whose work is shaping the future of LGBTQ communities around the world. Johnson was honored in the **Innovators** category for advancing bold strategies that bridged LGBTQ advocacy with broader social justice movements.

Johnson's purposeful approach to collaboration, movement-building, and collective action brought fresh perspective to achieving lasting change.

Under her leadership, the Task Force has strengthened its operations as a national advocacy organization and a movement convener. These tactics have made it possible to build essential capacity power by bringing together activists, partners, and organizers.

Leadership Rooted in Movement

For Johnson, these recognitions ultimately represent the strength of a broader movement.

The Task Force, for more than five decades, has organized people and resources to advance freedom, justice, and equity for LGBTQ communities. That legacy is actively reanimated by Johnson by centering intersectionality, uplifting community voices, and ensuring that those most impacted by injustice are leading the fight for change.

From convening thousands of advocates at Creating Change to strengthening state-

based organizing and national campaigns, the Task Force is building long-term infrastructure for LGBTQ movement power. In a year marked by increased legislative attacks on LGBTQ people, including restrictions targeting transgender communities and barriers to healthcare access, this work remains necessary.

The Call Forward

Johnson's leadership comes at a time of both urgency and possibility for LGBTQ communities.

The honors she received in 2025 powerfully remind us that we must support and uplift LGBTQ leaders who are willing to imagine bold solutions and organize effectively to achieve them.

It is the people—the supporters, partners, and organizers across the country—that make these recognitions possible. It is people like you that power the movement-building work happening at the Task Force every day. Your stories and impact are a testament to what we are doing together. Let's continue to strengthen our movement and empower the leaders of tomorrow.



SPECIAL FEATURE: X IS A QUEER ISSUE

Expanding the conversation about what true LGBTQ liberation requires

At the National LGBTQ Task Force, we believe LGBTQ liberation is inseparable from the broader systems that shape our lives, from culture and media to economic justice, democracy, and community safety. That belief inspired “**X Is a Queer Issue**,” a monthly conversation series hosted on Instagram Live designed to expand how we understand the issues that affect LGBTQ people.

Each installment invites organizers, artists, advocates, and cultural leaders to explore topics that may not immediately be recognized as LGBTQ issues but that profoundly shape our communities and our futures. Through dynamic conversations and storytelling, the series examines how power, policy, culture, and identity intersect in ways that influence the lives of LGBTQ people.

Throughout 2025, “X Is a Queer Issue” sparked discussions about everything from media representation and cultural narratives to the ways systems of inequality shape opportunity and safety for LGBTQ communities. By centering diverse voices and lived experiences, the series encourages participants to think critically and expansively about what true liberation looks like and requires.

Each installment invites organizers, artists, advocates, and cultural leaders to explore

to Each installment invites organizers, artists, advocates, and cultural leaders to explore topics that may not immediately be recognized as LGBTQ issues but that profoundly shape our communities and our futures. Through dynamic conversations and storytelling, the series examines how power, policy, culture, and identity intersect in ways that influence the lives of LGBTQ people.

Throughout 2025, “X Is a Queer Issue” sparked discussions about everything from media representation and cultural narratives to the ways systems of inequality shape opportunity and safety for LGBTQ communities. By centering diverse voices and lived experiences, the series encourages participants to think critically and expansively about what true liberation looks like and requires.

More than an Instagram Live series, “X Is a Queer Issue” is an invitation to connect the dots between struggles that are too often treated as separate. It reminds us that LGBTQ justice cannot be achieved in isolation, but must be pursued alongside movements for racial justice, economic equity, reproductive freedom, and democracy.

By creating space for deeper reflection and cross-movement dialogue, the National LGBTQ Task Force continues to nurture the ideas, partnerships, and strategies that will drive the next chapter of LGBTQ liberation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Thank you to our donors

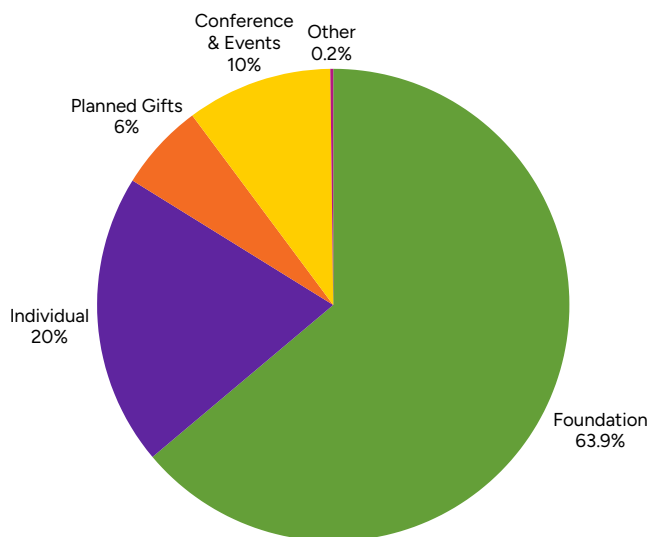
The National LGBTQ Task Force extends our most sincere and deepest appreciation to the many individuals, foundations, and corporate partners who generously fund our fight for full equality and justice. Every dollar you have contributed has brought us closer to the day when we all have achieved true liberation.

In consideration of the safety and privacy of those who make our work possible, the Task Force has decided not to publish a list of our donors.

Fiscal Year 2025 Financials

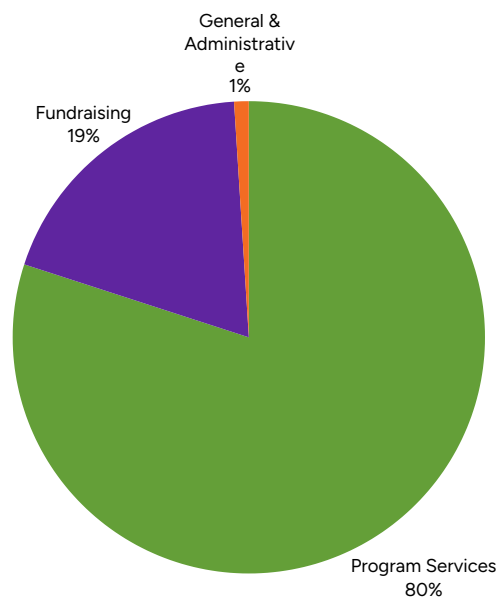
Revenue

Total Revenue - \$6,352,361



Expenses

Total Expenses - \$9,777,647





be you.
thetaskforce.org


**NATIONAL
LGBTQ
TASK FORCE**