



Basic Rights Oregon has built a politically powerful LGBTQ movement by passing landmark legislation. In 2015, Oregon became the third state to pass a ban on conversion therapy when Gov. Kate Brown signed the Youth Mental Health Protection Act.

Basic Rights Oregon emerged from a community response to anti-gay attacks that began in the late 1980s. After facing numerous anti-gay ballot measures, the organization was formed in 1996 to sustain and strengthen Oregon's LGBTQ rights movement to create lasting political change.

Basic Rights is building a broad progressive statewide movement that is shifting policy for and acceptance of LGBTQ Oregonians. In 2007, the organization passed landmark legislation, the Oregon Equality Act, providing comprehensive non-discrimination protections for sexual orientation and gender identity. In the ensuing years, Basic Rights moved policy to expand health care access for transgender Oregonians, protect LGBTQ youth from bullying in schools, ban youth conversion therapy and win the freedom to marry. Today, more than 150,000 volunteers and donors support our LGBTQ pro-equality efforts and in 2015 Oregon was rated the second most LGBTQ friendly state in the country.

### **Our Approach**

Basic Rights Oregon uses an intersectional approach to movement building, recognizing that LGBTQ individuals face different experiences depending on their various identities and where they live or work in the state. We strive for justice and equality for LGBTQ individuals in every community, every county and every corner of Oregon by:

- Electing pro-equality officials who share our vision to change policy that will end homophobia, transphobia and racism and bring dignity to all LGBTQ Oregonians.
- Building a politically powerful movement that secures legal equality for all LGBTQ Oregonians by passing legislation.
- Ensuring LGBTQ Oregonians' ability to effectively advocate in their communities.
- Building coalitions and partnerships that contribute to lasting, vibrant movements for LGBTQ justice and progressive politics.
- Supporting policy victories with implementation, public education and leadership development.

## Our Programs

Race, gender identity, age and geography dramatically affect LGBTQ Oregonians' ability to live without discrimination or fear. Basic Rights prioritizes programs that lift up Oregonians struggling for justice and fairness.

**Racial Justice:** Since the Stonewall Riots, LGBTQ people of color have played leadership roles in the fight for LGBTQ equality, yet few LGBTQ-focused organizations centered the leadership of queer and transgender people of color. Basic Rights learned that by not having an authentic racial justice program, our opposition could divide LGBTQ communities and communities of color, further marginalizing those most impacted by racism and homophobia--LGBTQ people of color.

Our Racial Justice work seeks to centralize the experiences and leadership of LGBTQ people of color through leadership development, educational programs and coalition work with organizations led by communities of color.

**Transgender Justice:** Transgender people face alarming rates of poverty, violence and suicide due to lack of acceptance and societal discrimination. We advance equality for transgender Oregonians under the leadership of our community advisory team, the Trans Justice Working Group. We fight for policy changes that:

- Increase the safety and wellbeing of transgender Oregonians who are incarcerated.
- Enforce Oregon's ban on discrimination.
- Increase access to comprehensive health care within public and private insurance systems.



**Youth Justice:** LGBTQ youth represent 10 percent of the nation's minors, yet account for 20 percent of the nation's homeless youth population. Compared to their peers, LGBTQ youth disproportionately experience homelessness, bullying, suicide, and rejection by family members. Youth Justice is a new program that Basic Rights is developing in the coming years with other statewide advocates.

**Statewide Engagement:** LGBTQ people living in small towns and rural communities face unique barriers to coming out and being out. Additionally, they often live in communities with limited or no resources for LGBTQ people, and as a result have to travel long distances to access the services and care they need. Basic Rights Oregon works with local community leaders to tailor engagement to the needs of community members and enlist their participation in statewide efforts.

### About Basic Rights Oregon

Basic Rights Oregon is one of the state's leading progressive organizations. We work to ensure that all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Oregonians experience equality by building a broad and inclusive politically powerful movement, shifting public opinion and achieving policy victories.

To support our movement, visit [basicrights.org](http://basicrights.org).