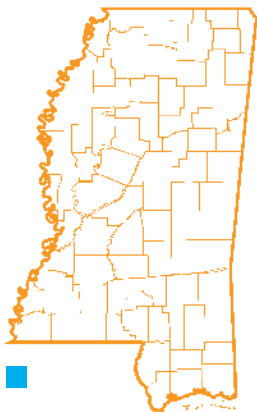




This is our home.



We live here. We work here.
We go to church here. Have children here.
Pay taxes here. We serve in the armed forces.
We volunteer in our communities. We are
lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT).
We are also straight allies.

We are Mississippi.





We are Mississippians.

Young and old, men and women, working, retired and studying. We are different races and religions. Urban, suburban and rural. We are your neighbors, co-workers, and family members. **And we are lesbian gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT).** Today, Mississippi is home to tens of thousands of LGBT people.

We stay here because we grew up here. Our families live here. Our lifelong friends surround us. It might not surprise you to hear that it's not always easy to be an LGBT person in Mississippi. It's even harder to raise a family. But as Mississippians we know this state can make a positive change. **Everyone in this state deserves the same equal opportunities and respect of the law.**

We are Mississippi

57% of LGBT people who live here have called Mississippi home for more than 20 years.



53% volunteer in their communities.

50%

More than half of all LGBT people in the state are in committed relationships.

Half of LGBT people here in Mississippi are people of faith, including 63% of African American LGBT people.

10% of LGBT Mississippians are currently serving or have served in the Armed Forces.

This state has the highest percentage of LGBT people raising children of any state in the nation.



75% of 18-to 25- year-old LGBT young people in Mississippi intend to have children someday.

LGBT Mississippians have:

- No legal recognition for their relationships or families.
- No rights to jointly adopt children.
- No protections from discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodations.
- No state protections from hate crimes.
- No anti-bullying protections for LGBT students.

The goals are clear:

- Preventing harassment and violence against LGBT people.
- Reducing the stigma of HIV/AIDS and advancing awareness of treatment and prevention.
- Increasing workplace protections and opportunities.
- Supporting LGBT youth in schools and their communities.
- Ensuring LGBT families have the protections and dignity they deserve through marriage.

“I was made to remove my membership from my church due to ‘engaging in a homosexual lifestyle.’ It broke my heart.”

“The bullying almost pushed me to suicide in middle school and high school.”

“I was harassed by a police officer due to my HIV status.”

“I am fearful that I may get hurt, or worse, be killed for being a transgender woman.”

“I have been denied an apartment several times because I am lesbian.”

Information provided is according to an online survey conducted for the Human Rights Campaign by Anzalone Liszt Grove, Feb. 6 – March 20, 2014.

Highest percentage of LGBT people raising children
Source: Census study by the Williams Institute (2010)

Everyday Realities for LGBT Mississippians

41% of LGBT households earning less than **\$45K** experience harassment at work.

More people face workplace harassment in rural Mississippi (54%) than those in urban settings (37%).



More than one in five experience harassment monthly or more at their respective houses of worship.

50%

Almost half don't consider their doctor LGBT-friendly.

Almost half experience harassment at school—the most (42%) at the high school level.

Almost half experience harassment in public establishments.

Roughly a quarter experience harassment from a public servant like a police officer or firefighter.

A third of LGBT students in rural areas experience harassment in school on a weekly basis.



Project One America is an unprecedented, multi-year effort to expand equality in the Deep South by changing hearts and minds, advancing enduring legal protections, and building more inclusive institutions for LGBT people from the church pew to the workplace.



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