

**University of Pittsburgh Staff Council
Statement in Support of LGBTQIA+ Community**

The Staff Council of the University of Pittsburgh is an inclusive and representative collection of employees from across all disciplines and programs. The [mission](#) of Staff Council is to represent the interests of and advocate for all staff at the University of Pittsburgh and provide opportunities for comprehensive professional development.

[Staff Council](#) commits to addressing inequity and marginalization within our campus environment. It is our intent to work to expand the diversity of our campus community by challenging the systemic racism, sexism, and transphobia that persists in the city and University we love. We, as Staff Council, pledge to use our platform to amplify voices and to advocate for the entire University community including staff, students, and faculty. We will devote ourselves to ensuring equity of opportunity, acknowledgment and respect of basic rights, and above all, safety for every community member. We commit to cultivating an environment where all members of the University of Pittsburgh community feel safe, feel heard, are respected, and are included.

Staff Council as an organization recognizes the intersecting identities of its members and the greater Pitt community and stands in support of the LGBTQIA+ community. We commit to protecting and championing inalienable human rights, especially during times of targeted persecution. We respect the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and recognize that opinions and perspectives can be complex. We appreciate good faith dialogue; however, we are concerned that holding certain events on campus may promote exclusion and hate. We understand these events are not representative of the University's point of view; however, the events held on the University campus do not represent and are in absolute opposition to the [Pitt Promise](#):

. . . cultivating an environment of Mutual Respect, Diversity, Concern for Others, Academic Integrity, Inclusion, Civility. These core values are the bedrocks of our community.

These values represent what it means to be a member of Staff Council and what it means to be a member of the University of Pittsburgh Campus Community.

We, the members of Staff Council, renew our commitment to civility. We pledge allegiance and vow to remain resolute to our promise "to accept a moral obligation to behave in ways that contribute to a civil campus environment and resolve to support this behavior in others. This commitment to civility is [our] promise to the University of Pittsburgh and its community of scholars."

We will help plan, promote, and support parallel activities that are in keeping with the Pitt Promise and encourage caring and inclusivity, creating safe spaces for our community during the derisive scheduled events.

We extend solace and safe spaces to all who are sexual and gender minoritized people, with particular emphasis on those who are identifying beyond the gender binary and those who identify as transgender people. We are here for you, hear you, we see you, celebrate you and stand with you in solidarity.

Passed by vote of general membership on March 24, 2023

Signature of Staff Council President: *Lindsay Rodziewicz*

Staff Council

Lindsay Rodzicz, President
Kenny Doty, Executive Vice President
Yvonne Way, Vice President of Finance
Christine Jackson, Parliamentarian
Amy Beth Porta Kleebank, Vice President
of Public Relations

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Support Resources

<https://www.lgbtq.pitt.edu/>

<https://pghequalitycenter.org/>

<https://www.glsen.org/>

<https://hughlane.org/>

<https://www.persadcenter.org/>

<https://pflag.org/>

<https://www.sisterspgh.org/>

<https://www.transunitingpgh.org/>

Policy Procedure Resources

[Demonstration and Protest Guidelines.pdf \(pitt.edu\)](#)

[Information Related to Guest Speakers on Campus | Student Affairs](#)

[Pitt Promise | Student Affairs](#)

[University of Pittsburgh The Pitt Promise: A Commitment to Civility](#)

If you're aware of discrimination against anyone based on their gender identity or expression, please report such incidents to the Pitt Concern Connection by texting 412-903-3456, calling 800-468-5768, or completing [this online form](#).

You also can reach out to the Office for Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion at 412-648-7860 or diversity@pitt.edu.

If you are in need of resources that support the LGBTQIA+ community, lgbtq.pitt.edu has a list of organizations and programs that provide support and networking.

If you have concerns about your own mental health, resources are available for students through the [University Counseling Center](#) at 412-648-7930; staff and faculty are encouraged to contact Life Solutions at 1-866-647-3432, which provides 24/7 crisis counseling and support.