

WGS LGBTQ Solidarity Statement

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater stands in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, condemning acts of violence against LGBTQ+ persons. We offer a message of support to the diverse LGBTQ+ communities at UWW, in our classrooms, in Wisconsin, and beyond. On the eve of the [Transgender Day of Remembrance](#), 5 persons were killed and 19 persons injured at an LGBTQ+ nightclub in Colorado Springs. This tragedy occurred on a weekend already dedicated to recognizing the lives lost to transphobic murders of transgender and gender-nonconforming persons this past year. Threats of violence against LGBTQ+ persons are so serious that the Department of Homeland Security has issued a [domestic terrorist threat](#), indicating increased concerns for LGBTQ+ communities gathering in public spaces. And although the United States federal government has taken steps to ensure the stability of [gay and lesbian marriage rights](#), the most vulnerable of LGBTQ+ communities face violence in their daily lives. Women's and Gender Studies strives to educate, research, and build communities that understand and challenge systemic intersectional oppression of gender, sexuality, race, class, ability, and more, advocate for vulnerable community members, and work toward futures built on equity. In the midst of so much violence against LGBTQ+ persons, the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater affirms our support of LGBTQ+ persons. We will continue to prioritize the inclusion and safety of LGBTQ+ studies, LGBTQ+ students, and LGBTQ+ colleagues in our classrooms, our department, our university, and the wider community.