

Queer people and healthcare.

During the chaos of covid 19, it's no secret that governments have been trying to push more oppressive and authoritarian legislation. An example of this is the Trump administration passing legislation that discriminates against transgender individuals in healthcare. According to the new version of the policy, the Department of Health and Human Services will be "returning to the government's interpretation of sex discrimination according to the plain meaning of the word 'sex' as male or female and as determined by biology". (Guardian article about the legislation - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/12/trump-transgender-lgbt-healthcare-protections>)

The nail in the coffin of this policy is that it was announced on the fourth anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting, making 2020 even more of a dystopian nightmare than it already was. (Guardian article about the Pulse nightclub shooting <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/18/orlando-nightclub-shooting-pulse-florida-attack-timeline>)

Amnesty's Article 25 states that "everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for... health and well being". This details that everyone has the right to a decent standard of health care, especially those who are vulnerable minorities in society. Trans and queer people rely on healthcare for therapies, surgeries and mental health services. By limiting services and allowing discrimination for LGBTQ people, the Trump administration is showing that trans lives are disposable.

We would be naive to think that this issue is only applicable to America, trans and queer people are victims of discrimination in England too, even within our developed health care system. The conservatives have consistently defunded mental health services, since a regime of austerity was introduced to Britain after the financial crash in 2007. While this may not seem like an issue that is unique to queer people, lgbt people are disproportionately affected by mental health issues, meaning that from birth lgbt people are disadvantaged, by not receiving the support that they need.

Whatever you may think about Trans and queer lifestyles, Trans rights are human rights and as amnesty international we have a responsibility to fight for human rights.