

**Statement on Women’s, Transgender’s, and Gender Non-Conforming’s  
Health and Reproductive Justice**

Alliance of Baptists

Submitted for consideration April 2021

As the Alliance of Baptists, we recognize and affirm the dignity and worth of all persons with full respect to gender, sexual, racial, and ethnic identities. We value all voices and hold space for all persons with varying abilities, social standing, or economic status. We envision and work to shape a world more aligned with the God-movement of justice-love that we see most clearly in Jesus the Christ, a movement nurturing a world in which all people can flourish and thrive.

As a part of the church, the Body of Christ, we affirm God as the Source of life, the sacredness of all life, and our call as Christians to protect and defend human life in particular – especially the lives of those who are the most vulnerable among us, suffering oppression because of systems of racial, social, political, economic and ecological injustice.

The Alliance of Baptists is committed to the protection and advancement of women’s reproductive health, as well as comprehensive reproductive healthcare for transgender<sup>1</sup>, and gender non-conforming<sup>2</sup> individuals who are in need of access and care which affirms their identities as well as their individual health needs, which many queer people may avoid out of fear of discrimination.<sup>3</sup> We are committed to the protection of all individuals’ reproductive health, including guaranteeing the right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, or not have children. We are committed to the removal of barriers that impede all individuals from attaining equal access to the full range of reproductive healthcare services—including safe and legal abortion services, affordable and reliable forms of contraception, breast and cervical cancer screenings and sexually transmitted diseases treatment and prevention. We are committed to the creation of the beloved community where all people can create families in a healthy and safe environment.

As Baptists, we are committed to the protection of religious liberty for every individual and believe each person should be empowered to follow their own soul when making decisions about their reproductive health, free from undue constraint or impediment. We support unencumbered access to accurate information. We affirm and trust women’s, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals’ capacity to make decisions in consultation with their health care professionals, their community, and their God. We affirm and trust women’s, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals’ moral capacity to make decisions that benefit their families and contribute to the good of the broader community.

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<sup>1</sup> Transgender is sometimes used interchangeably with gender non-conforming, but more often refers to one's gender expression or identity being inconsistent with the one assigned at one's birth

<sup>2</sup> Gender non-conforming is used to describe and individual where one's gender norms or gender expression do not match the male/female traits expected by society.

<sup>3</sup>

<https://transequality.org/issues/resources/transgender-sexual-and-reproductive-health-unmet-needs-and-barriers-to-care>

Furthermore, as a people of faith, we strongly believe it is wrong to allow any political/religious group to impose their beliefs on others. The religious freedom guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution encompasses both freedom of religion and the freedom from any one set of religious beliefs being encoded into public law.

In a desire for equality and justice, we pray for the health and well-being of every person, calling particular attention to the women, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in this country and around the world, who lack full access to reproductive healthcare. In addition to prayer, we pledge to work to protect and advance healthcare, human rights, and justice for all.