

QUEER EQUITY INSTITUTE

Contact: Brad Bauman, Raben for Queer Equity Institute

bbauman@raben.co

Phone: (202) 520-2155

Website: <https://queerequityinstitute.org/>

Leigh Finke: “Non-Binary Awareness Week is an Opportunity for All of Us to Commit to Each Other’s Safety and Freedom to Be”

Statement comes as folks around the world begin to mark the week

Saint Paul, MN - Leigh Finke, Executive Director of the Queer Equity Institute and Minnesota’s first out transgender elected member of the legislature made the following statement to mark the beginning on Non-Binary Awareness Week. This year, Non-Binary Awareness Week will be held from July 8 to July 14th, with Non-Binary Awareness Day on July 14th.

“Non-Binary awareness week is an opportunity for all of us to acknowledge the fundamental scientific truth that gender is not a binary construct and any attempt to deny that— is a fundamental assault on the civil rights of someone who is non-binary,” said Leigh Finke, Executive Director of the Queer Equity Institute. “We must take this opportunity to commit openly, and fearlessly, to that fundamental truth. We must openly and fearlessly commit to each other’s safety and freedom to be. We must openly and fearlessly commit to allowing all of us to live as our fullest selves, no matter how much it makes some people uncomfortable. That is the only way that we can ensure that everyone is able to live freely.”

The year, Non-Binary Awareness week takes place at a time where violence against queer communities has become an epidemic. Even before such high profile cases as that of Nex Benedict, the statistics showed that we had entered into a period of national emergency with regard to violence against queer and trans folks. According to a report authored by the [Human Rights Campaign](#) in November of 2023, Almost 500 gender identity-motivated hate crimes were recorded in 2022, accounting for 4% of all hate crimes recorded in that year; anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes overall accounted for more than one in five (20.8%) hate crimes. And this number is an undercount, given that FBI data

reporting does not capture all hate crimes, as not all jurisdictions track anti-trans hate crimes, nor do all jurisdictions report hate crimes to FBI databases.

If you would like to speak to Leigh, please contact Brad Bauman at bbauman@therabengroup.com.
