

# The Role of Jewish Community Spaces Amid Hostile Legislation for LGBTQ+ Youth

A resource from

Thrive: The National Jewish Coalition to Protect Trans and LGBTQ+ Youth

**Jewish organizations, such as synagogues, Hebrew schools, camps, and day schools, are *private religious institutions*.** For better or for worse, there are limits to the extent that the government can regulate your programs and policies.

**Your Jewish organization might be one of the few places where LGBTQ+ people in your community - especially youth - can exist in an affirming way.** Many anti-LGBTQ+ laws that apply to public schools and public spaces do not apply to our Jewish spaces.

**Anti-LGBTQ+ legislation can open the door for people to claim that they have a right to express homophobia or transphobia in your Jewish space, or to push back against inclusive programming.** The key to combating this pushback is to understand the specifics of laws, and *not overcorrecting* in the name of adhering to them.

## Jewish institutions can:

- Continue to be a supportive and safe space for trans youth
- Know that, in general, as a Jewish institution, most anti-LGBTQ+ state laws do not apply to whatever happens in your building
- Prepare with thorough understandings of the laws in your state so that you can confidently and accurately combat any pushback