

Recommended by Domestic Policy/Government Affairs Task Force
February 11, 2025: Approved by Domestic Policy/Government Affairs Task Force
February 17, 2025: Approved by JCRC Board



Position Statement on LGBTQ+ Rights

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Milwaukee Jewish Federation (MJF) supports human and legal rights for all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression. The JCRC is guided by the Jewish tenet of:

- *B'tselem Elohim* - All people are created in God's image and each life is of infinite value. Any pressure to hide oneself denies the individual the human dignity of being known as his/her full authentic self.

These foundational concepts of Jewish culture and faith inform our support of full rights for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and other identity (LGBTQ+) communities, especially the right to live free from fear of threats or violence.

Fighting all forms of hate and extremism is critical to both Jews and the LGBTQ+ community. We understand that marginalized groups can easily be targeted and scapegoated. We know this from Jewish lived experience throughout history. Jews are safest in a healthy, thriving democracy in which all community members are treated with dignity and respect. Full rights, inclusion and safety for the LGBTQ+ community is essential to advancing the rights and safety of all communities in American society.

Recent years have seen anti-LGBTQ+ policies and rhetoric aimed at denying basic rights, resources, respect, and appropriate medical care and privacy. In 2023 and 2024, many anti-LGBTQ+ bills were introduced in state legislatures across the country, including a book ban bill in Wisconsin which largely targeted books with LGBTQ+ themes or content.

Jewish tradition is rooted in the concept of honoring and respecting all people. The JCRC affirms its commitment to full human and legal rights for all people, including the freedom from fear of threats and violence, without regard to sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression.