

Statement by Curtis Lipscomb, Executive Director of LGBT Detroit

LGBT Detroit is an education and advocacy organization that helps people who struggle with multiple identities. Rooted in the traditions of the black church, religious institutions and services are known present and historical sources for intentional healing. When those establishments aren't welcoming, damage to seekers of support are possibly harmed. As a black led LGBT charity, we receive and bare witness to the pain the suffered bring for healing.

The twentieth century holds many examples of the harm religious affiliations can impose. Discrimination against any persons , based on race, gender, orientation or otherwise, purposely destroys the security and well being of an individual and, collectively, of a society. I know, because I was fired for being a gay man within a religious institution.

I have not met one person who welcomes harmful public interactions. I also have not met a person who seeks religious services, — usually during a crisis, and expects rejection. Tools to discriminate looks different in the twenty first century. Let's not use state sanctioned methods or religious objections to regress advancements for us all.

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