

Bodily Autonomy & Reproductive Justice

Equality New York believes all LGBTQI New Yorkers can and should self-determine what they do with their bodies. Bodily autonomy and reproductive justice does not just focus on rights, but seeks meaningful equality. The framework we use encompasses work for access to health care more broadly, as well as access to resources, freedom from racial discrimination, police violence, and other oppressions.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Promote Comprehensive Sex Ed in Schools

This bill requires that comprehensive, age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education be taught in public schools.

Comprehensive Sex Education is a rights-based approach that seeks to equip young people with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they need to determine and enjoy their sexuality—physically and emotionally, individually and in relationships. It is important that young people navigate the difference between gender and sex; exploring gender roles and attributes; society’s changing norms and values; gender bias, stereotypes and inequality (including self-stigmatization).



4% of LGBT youth in middle school & high school report having any positive discussion of LGBT people or issues in their health classes.

Decriminalizing Sex Work Bill / Stop Violence in the Sex Trades Act - SVSTA

This bill relates to the decriminalization of sex work; repealer.

The decriminalization of prostitution and related acts can be viewed through many lenses, including: labor rights, sexual freedom, bodily autonomy, gender justice, racial justice, gay rights, transgender rights, and criminal justice reform. Sex workers’ rights is all of these things – and sits at the intersection of so many critical social justice movements. Supporting people who engage in sexual labor is a natural fit for LGBTQI rights. Many sex workers identify as queer, and a disproportionate number of transgender women engage in sex work. Cisgender and transgender women who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) bear a disproportionate brunt of enforcement of New York laws criminalizing sex work, and the adverse consequences that follow. And police mistreatment of LGBTQI people, especially Black and Latinx LGBTQI people, is a persistent problem.

Citations can be found at www.equalityny.org/policypriority/