

Racial Justice

Equality New York believes that we must use an anti-racist framework when working within the movement to advance LGBTQI rights. Our racial justice legislative strategy is grounded in three objectives: (1) building cross-movement solidarity with coalitions and campaigns that center commitments to racial equity and reparative justice in policy solutions; (2) partnering with established advocacy coalitions that are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) led and center the voices of those most impacted by the existing policy failures; and (3) Amplifying powerful intersectional stories of BIPOC LGBTQ New Yorkers.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act - MRTA

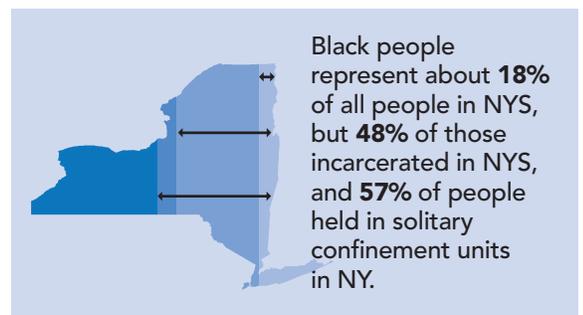
This bill relates to the legalization of adult-use recreational cannabis.

The LGBTQI community, especially those identifying as BIPOC, have been historically over policed, often through the discriminatory enforcement of marijuana laws. This has resulted in a large number of LGBTQI New Yorkers with arrests and convictions that limit their ability to get a job, attend college, or receive social support. This new framework will decrease the amount of arrests and convictions for LGBTQI New Yorkers and establish an important foundation to address the harm caused by the war on drugs.

Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act - HALT

This bill restricts the use of segregated confinement and creates alternative therapeutic and rehabilitative confinement options.

The use of solitary confinement is inhumane and must be banned in New York State prisons and jails. In addition to this bill, we call for ending solitary confinement in another bill we champion, the Gender Identity Respect and Safety Act. The use of extended isolated confinement is often used under the guise of keeping Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming and Non-Binary (TGNCNB) people safe, but is used as a punishment for those already experiencing increased risks of physical violence and emotional harm in prisons and jails that are inconsistent with their gender identity.



Protecting the Rights of Juveniles During Interrogation Act

This bill amends procedures required for the custodial interrogation of children to provide additional protections and for taking juveniles into custody

LGBTQI BIPOC youth are some of the most vulnerable members of our society. They are more likely to be arrested and interrogated by the police due to racial profiling and other discriminatory policing practices and require special care to ensure that their Constitutional rights are protected when they are involved in the criminal legal system. Police misconduct during interrogation happens too frequently and without the right safeguards young people can be taken advantage of and subjected to severe trauma.

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