



June 2026

## PATH EDUCATION



As Pride Month comes to a close in June, it is important to remember that the LGBTQ+ community is one of trafficking's most vulnerable communities. Whether facing difficult familial relationships or discrimination in jobs or housing, LGBTQ+ people have long been vulnerable to the "solutions" traffickers put in front of them.

Estimates report that up to 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+. And within ethnic groups these numbers can be staggering. According to frontsteps.org:

- **Native/Indigenous LGBTQ Youth:** Nearly half (44%) have experienced homelessness or housing instability, the highest among all groups.
- **Multiracial LGBTQ Youth:** 36% have faced these challenges.
- **Transgender and Nonbinary Youth:** Higher rates are reported among transgender girls/women (38%), transgender boys/men (39%), and nonbinary youth (35%) compared to 23% of cisgender LGBTQ youth.

In 2021, the U.S. House passed The U.S. Equality Act (H.R. 5). The U.S. Equality Act is a proposed federal civil rights bill that explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. It amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to add LGBTQ+ individuals as a protected class across employment, housing, public accommodations, and federally funded programs.

While the 2021 bill successfully passed the House of Representatives, it ultimately stalled in the Senate.

The Polaris Project wants us all to contact our Senators to get this bill out of the cobwebs and on its way to being passed into law.

[Contact Your Senator Here](#)

It is up to all of us in the anti trafficking community to support those who are vulnerable and to educate all those we come in contact with. Whether you are part of the LGBTQ community or one of its allies, take a moment to contact your federal or state legislator about pending legislation or educate yourself about how this community is affected and how they can be supported.

### [Polaris Project Resources](#)

## PATH IN THE FIELD



On June 16, 2026, PATH was once again honored to participate in the annual Youth Empowerment Conference. This conference is designed for social workers in the foster care system along with youth currently in foster care and their caregivers. This is PATH's 3rd year participating in the conference by offering our Human Trafficking 101 presentation and tabling.

PATH was represented by Sr Jacqueline Aceto, Chair, Dr. Theresa Hayden, Vice Chair and Dr. Ruben Pavlov, Board Member. Drs. Hayden and Pavlov presented a trafficking presentation to approximately 30 youth and social workers and were joined by Sr Aceto to host the PATH vendor table.

We appreciate our continued partnership with this organization and look forward to participating in future conferences.





## PATH AND YOU



In celebration of America's 250th Anniversary, the America 250 Commission has recently promoted July 4th as America Gives Day. The Commission is hoping this will become a future day of giving throughout the country. If you are so inclined to make a donation this year, PATH would love to be the recipient of your generosity.

[Donate Here](#)



The 24 hour day of giving returns on Thursday, September 10, 2026. Save the Date and be sure to support PATH during this amazing day of generosity.



Want to support PATH but perhaps don't have the resources? If you do your grocery shopping at Kroger, please consider signing up for Kroger Community Rewards and making PATH your beneficiary.

Follow instructions here: [Kroger Community Rewards Instructions](#)

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