



## Everyday Activism Habit Conversation with Nathalie Nia Faulk on Trans Activism

There's these people who are also using us as the current target. At some point it's either like Black people, folks who are undocumented, queer people, trans people, these are the scapegoats. Poor people are always the scapegoats. Yeah, homeless folks. I'm like, these are always the people who are like scapegoated to distract from the fact that they don't have solutions to our economic/climate woes. And so these people are right now, trans folks are being scapegoated because they don't want to have actual conversations around, like wage stagnation. They don't want to have conversations around what's going to happen to New Orleans in ten years or like the coastal cities in ten years. They're trying to distract us from not having the actual conversations of how do we build our power, build our resources, our connection, access to all those things.

And instead of saying look at those trans people who are turning your kids trans, which that's not a thing, right? Some of the beautiful thing about being trans is that we know that kids kind of figure out their gender identity really early. And that's not to say that things aren't hyper-imposed on them around being heterosexual or being cisgendered or whatever. So to say that you can have conversations around what being queer is in schools, to say that you can't talk about gender or sexuality in school, to say all that, kids are already having those conversations. And in fact, whether or not we want to talk about it, they are being exposed to all types of things already. And so it's better for us to have the language, the conversations, the parameters, and the framing to talk about those things than it's for us to just be like, no, it just doesn't exist. It's a lie. It's a lie. And so I think the other thing that's happening, too, is there's an intentional attack to continue the historic erasure trans people. But there's also an attempt to loop all these things in as "Woke" and being like, you can't learn about Black history, but you can't learn about Asian history because they're the model minority. And let's put a wedge into these people.

So you can't learn about trans people. You can't be trans or queer in schools, so it's persecuting people. You can't give your kid trans affirming care because then we'll take your kid away from you. You have to call these kids this way. We know that when people choose their names and their gender pronouns, the trans affirming care, which almost never is like surgery until you're 18 or until you're a certain age. It's meant to be a positive intervention. It's not meant to be this negative thing that they're making it out. It's not surgery.

It's not all this stuff. In fact, it's actually life-affirming and has saved lives. And having queer teachers and being able to talk about sexuality is life-affirming and saves lives. It's not there to convert anyone. It's actually there to provide these positive interventions are safe spaces for people to live longer and healthier lives. But of course, for some people they don't know that, and for some people they intentionally don't want us to have those things so that we



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can die off or kill ourselves or be harmed or not exist or not feel safe. Social isolation like not being played, We won't let trans people play sports.

So if we can isolate trans people from as much society as possible, we won't have drag shows. If we can isolate them, if we can make them other, then we can make people hate them. Then we get shot at, like drag clubs get shot up, trans kids can't exist in sports, so they don't have that social connection because the more you know a trans person, the more you're like, oh, this is not a big deal actually. It's like this person is just who they are. And so the intention of isolating us from communities so people don't get to know us, even though before colonialism, trans people were deeply rooted in communities. We're the medicine people. We're like the seers. We're the leaders. Colonization has done that work of pulling us away from our communities and our roles and isolating us. And legislators are continuing to do that work. And so I think the really powerful thing that's happening right now around legislation is that people are coming together from across movement spaces.

We have medical professionals, healing justice organizers, community organizers, artists, we have legislators. All of them are coming together and building out these networks of liberatory infrastructure. It's a beautiful thing, right? We're focused on the joy. We know that we can't win every, we can't defeat every bad bill and pass all the good bills. But we know that we can celebrate each other. We know that we can build alternative systems of care and we can be safe outside the system. And so that's what we've been working on, too, as well as fighting the legislation. But really I see us building these intentional communities of care in ways that are like, "We got us." Yeah, I think those are like the big overarching things.

Of course, there are small details around different things, but those are the big overarching things, I would say. And I would encourage everyone to think about how they're in allyship or accompliceship with trans people. I would encourage everyone to think about challenging the gender binary themselves and however they exist. I would think about normalizing conversations in which you're challenging things that are like binary, how language is talking about things. And I would encourage folks to also be in remembrance that our struggles are interlocking and that the same people are saying you can't have access to birth control, or abortion access, are the same people who are telling me I can't have determination over my body. So body autonomy, ability to identify and be in your truth and know your history, all those things are interlocking. So we all have to be on the same side.

And so your organizing strategy should include trans people, and it probably already does to some degree, but your strategy needs to include trans people and poor people, women folks. It all needs to be inclusive, which I know is something you talk about. Yeah, I think I would leave folks to that. And that like, the state or no bill is ever going to be our savior



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anyway. And so while we're fighting the good fight, make sure you're not just fighting against bad bills or reacting. Make sure you're controlling the narrative. So releasing some media, releasing some communications work...