



Anti-Trans Measures Don't Just Target Transgender Men and Women – A Sociologist Explains How 'Male' or 'Female' Categories Miss the Mark for Nonbinary Americans

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Since his inauguration in January 2025, President Donald Trump has issued several executive orders that seek to limit federal recognition of transgender people. These orders have attempted to **ban transgender athletes** from women's sports, require identity documents to label people as **biologically male or female**, **bar federal funding for gender-affirming care** for minors and bar transgender people from **serving in the military**.

The common element in each of these policies is a promise **from Trump's inaugural speech** that his administration would recognize only two genders: male and female.

These executive orders make life difficult for transgender people, many of whom do identify as women or men, just **not the sex they were assigned at birth**. Apart from that, however, the emphasis on two and only two genders denies the existence of another group that is often misunderstood: nonbinary people.