

# Statement of Solidarity

Associated Youth Services of Peel (AYSP), as a provider of youth justice and children's mental health services, add our voice to show support for the human rights and well-being of gender diverse, trans, and queer children and youth.

We loudly and unequivocally say there is "No Space for Hate".

We know that 2SLGBTQ+ children and youth are at higher risk of mental health issues and suicidality due to the impacts of marginalization, discrimination and hate, as well as intersecting impacts from racism, poverty, and other factors.

That is why policies aimed at fostering inclusion and representation and honouring the human rights of 2SLGBTQ+ people are vitally important. For example, research has shown that, for transgender youth who choose a name or pronoun different from the one given at birth, the use of their chosen name or pronoun in multiple contexts affirms their gender identity and reduces mental health risks known to be high amongst this group. A 2018 study found that transgender youth allowed to use their preferred names and pronouns reported a 34% decrease in suicidal thoughts and a 65% decrease in suicide attempts.

AYSP is fully committed to supporting the safety, belonging and mental health of 2SLGBTQ+ children and youth, 365 days a year. We stand in solidarity with the equity-deserving 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Collectively, we must work to ensure the safety and inclusivity of all. We want a community where all children and youth can realize their potential and thrive.