

## **Anti-rights Movement and Global Impact—The growing global anti-gender movement and its impact on bodily autonomy, self-determination.**

How are global anti-rights movements threatening bodily autonomy and the rights of trans and gender diverse communities worldwide?

### **1. Global anti-gender movement**

- We must be clear: attacks on trans rights are not an isolated issue, they are a deliberate entry point for broader assaults on democracy, gender equality, freedom of expression, and freedom of assembly. Anti-gender mobilization is deeply intertwined with democratic backsliding.
- [GATE's 2023 Global Report on the Impact of Anti-Gender Opposition](#) covered seven regions worldwide,
- and our more recent [SWANA report](#)
  - reveals how anti-gender opposition has evolved from disparate national actors into a well-funded, well-connected transnational network that shares strategies, messaging, and resources across regions.
  - Across every region we studied, anti-gender actors exploit the same emotionally charged topics — "family values," children's protection, "Western ideals" — to generate moral panic and public outrage.
  - These narratives are then weaponized to restrict bodily autonomy: blocking access to gender-affirming care, criminalizing trans identities, denying legal gender recognition, and rolling back protections that took decades to build

### **2. The real-world impact on trans and gender diverse communities**

- The most widespread impact reported by organizations in our research is psycho-emotional stress and burnout among staff, volunteers, and board members — this is the single most common consequence of anti-gender opposition
- Organizations report being forced to cancel events, cease operations, relocate staff, and in some cases shut down permanently:
  - in Uganda, groups face criminal accusations of "promoting homosexuality," resulting in office closures and permanent shutdowns, while police refuse to investigate attacks;
  - in Latin America, coordinated verbal abuse targets activists and organizations are forced to cancel events;
  - in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the so called "LGBTQI propaganda" and "Foreign Agent" laws represent state-sanctioned repression, with physical attacks on organizations going unpunished

- When these organizations are dismantled, the communities they serve lose access to life-saving services — HIV prevention, legal aid, emergency shelter, psychosocial support.
- These movements have penetrated UN spaces. We've seen a UN Special Rapporteur systematically use official platforms to attack civil society organizations defending trans rights, including directly targeting GATE — questioning our research capacity, our methodological rigor, and our professional legitimacy and directly targeted Executive Director (myself)
- In context of CSW, anti-gender actors have deliberately manufactured a false conflict between trans rights and women's rights to divide movements that share the same principles. The gap between gender equality commitments and reality widens every time anti-gender actors succeed in excluding trans people from protection.

### **3. The funding crisis compounds the threat**

- Anti-gender mobilization is directly linked to the systematic defunding of trans-led work.
- The situation is about to get dramatically worse. The expanded U.S. Global Gag Rule, now renamed "Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance", goes far beyond restricting abortion-related funding.
- it explicitly prohibits activities that recognize the dignity of trans, nonbinary, and intersex people, and restricts diversity, equity, and inclusion programming.
- This is a political weapon being used to export an anti-trans and anti-rights agenda globally

### **4. A call to action**

- At GATE, we are not just documenting this crisis — we are building the tools and capacity to respond. We have published a series of toolkit: [Recognizing, Documenting and Addressing Anti-Gender Opposition](#) — all designed for trans activists on the front lines.
- Through the [GATE Learning Hub](#) and our membership grants program, we provide technical assistance, training, and direct funding to strengthen trans-led organizations' capacity to respond to anti-gender attacks.
- But we cannot do this alone. We need governments, donors, and allies to invest in the safety and long-term sustainability of trans-led organizations — not project-based, short-term funding, but flexible core support.
- we need meaningful participation of trans communities in policymaking — because our survival, and the integrity of the broader human rights and feminist agenda, depends on it