



## **FGG Supports the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender Diverse Athletes in Sports Participation.**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, USA, 16 March 2021**

To the National Collegiate Athletic Association,

In response to the NCAA college athlete movement calling for the NCAA to cancel tournaments in US states that ban transgender and gender diverse athletes from games participation, the Federation of Gay Games wishes to express its firm support of the inclusion of transgender and gender diverse athletes in competition.

While there are, of course, differences between the male and female bodies and their respective abilities, it is our view that rather than proposing blanket bans, cases are considered on an individual basis.

College sport in the USA is seen globally as the gold standard, and a silent stance on the banning of transgender and gender diverse athletes from participation could influence other college governing bodies around the world to do the same. This is an opportunity for the NCAA to lead by example with fairness and logic.

The lack of understanding about transgender and gender diverse people lead to continuous persecution, often resulting in murder, simply for wanting to live as their authentic selves.

The Federation of Gay Games' guiding principals are "Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best," principals that help us govern our day-to-day operations. Support for organizations that exclude transgender people from taking part in

activities and competition - and taking part in life - actively goes against these principals.

Sport must, as must anything, come from a place of inclusion first and any reasons to exclude must be based on data, reason and objectivity.

We implore the NCAA to review their stance on inclusion of transgender and gender diverse athletes and take firm action against those states proposing to ban transgender and gender diverse athletes from taking part in NCAA competitions.

Sincerely,

FGG Board