

OPINION

Stand up against transgender bigotry

By **LOWELL SUN**UPDATED: July 11, 2019 at 12:00 AM EDT

On Thursday, Nov. 17, Lowell will hold its annual vigil for International Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR).

Since it was first organized in 1999 in response to the death of a transgender woman in Boston, the observance has grown to be an international event held in more than 166 cities and 20 countries. More than a memorial for people killed by anti-transgender violence during the past year, TDOR is also a vigil for justice, raising awareness about the violence, which too often goes unacknowledged and unsolved.

This year will be particularly difficult for the transgender community, which has been targeted in a number of states with bills designed to prevent their full participation in public life, and has experienced an increase in violence directed at them.

With the current surge in intolerance in this country, it is important for their allies to show up and let transgender people know there are people who care about them and stand with them. Lowell's observance is structured so that people can participate in any or all segments.

The event will begin with a gathering at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Lowell Community Health Center at 161 Jackson St. From there, people will walk to City Hall, for a vigil that will begin at 6:10 p.m.

At City Hall, people will read the names of those around the world known to have been killed during the past year as a result of anti-transgender violence. After the reading of the names, there will be a walk back to the Lowell Community Health Center at 7 p.m., where a reception will include speakers and light refreshments, and a chance for people to debrief from the vigil.

Let's show the transgender community that Lowell cares.

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Lowell

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2016 > November > 17