

Pauli Murray Center Condemns Federal Efforts to Erase Murray's Queer and Transgender Legacy

Durham, NC - March 6, 2025

The Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice condemns the federal government's efforts to erase Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, and their invaluable contributions to our society, from the digital record.

The federal government has disabled at least one webpage, and scrubbed language related to Murray's transgender and queer identities on others, on the National Park Service (NPS) website. Murray's legacy has been obscured alongside other figures and sites recognized by NPS, including the Stonewall National Monument, Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and others on a still-growing list.

Members of the LGBTQIA+ community have always been a part of the rich fabric of our society. Rev. Dr. Murray exists in a lineage of LGBTQIA+ Southerners who have advanced social justice work on a national scale, and whose contributions have gone on to shape history. Erasing this truth at the federal level censures American history, and compromises the work of transgender and queer activists who stand in Murray's wake today.

"We will not be deterred from uplifting Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray's identity, life, and legacy as we work towards addressing today's inequities and injustices," said Angela Thorpe Mason, Executive Director of the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice. "We equally condemn the federal government's actions, and stand firm in ours. The Pauli Murray Center will be a space for us to continue to articulate what we know to be true."

The [Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice](#) in Durham, NC – a National Historic Landmark which held its public grand opening last fall – serves as a space for truth-telling, joy, and affirming the dignity of all people. The Center offers exhibitions, [tours and field trips](#), LGBTQIA+ legal clinics, [equity-centered educator fellowships](#), and programs grounded in Murray's activist framework. These experiences connect people to Murray's legacy of activism, while providing them tools to move contemporary justice work forward. "Creating opportunities for people to encounter Pauli is transformative and life-saving," said Mason.

The Pauli Murray Center affirms that wholeness is foundational to social justice activism, and integral to understanding and honoring American history, and the transgender and queer folks who have shaped it. "Murray teaches us that true emancipation lies in the acceptance of the whole past. Thus, we remain convinced that this decision to remove part of our shared history is not a sustainable practice of freedom," said Jesse Huddleston, Board Chair of the Pauli Murray Center. "Any undignified attempt to invisibilize LGBTQ+ people or their meaningful impacts in the United States will neither sway our convictions to champion important justice causes nor shrink our collective resolve as an organization anchored by the example of our beloved ancestor – we shall not be moved, and we will not be rendered invisible or silent."