



Advocating for Youth in the Maine Juvenile Justice System

LGBTQ youth are at higher risk of discrimination and harm than their peers due to stigma associated with being LGBTQ. That's why GLAD is committed to making sure that LGBTQ youth across New England feel safe when they are in the custody of the state, and have access to community-based care and support.

In Maine, GLAD is working with local partners—Portland Outright and Maine Inside Out—to advocate for the LGBTQ youth at Long Creek Youth Development Center, the state's youth prison. To keep those young people safe, we are urging the state to:

- Release the 25-50% of youth currently at Long Creek who, according to a recent federal audit, should not be there (*see bit.ly/2MrDBJj*);
- Correct the serious safety concerns of LGBTQ youth held in Long Creek, including experiences of harassment, violence, and sexual assault;
- Develop policy and training that address the needs of LGBTQ youth, as well as disabled and traumatized young people and youth of color, including immigrant and refugee youth;
- Increase funding from Health and Human Services and Department of Corrections for community-based alternatives to incarceration, such as wraparound support services that provide better outcomes for youth than prison.

If you or someone you know is an LGBTQ youth involved in residential care, foster care, or in the juvenile justice system and needs legal support or resources, contact GLAD Answers, our legal info line, at www.GLADAnswers.org or 800-455-GLAD.



This document (published June 16, 2018) provides general information only and should not be taken as legal advice. If you have questions, need more information, or need help with a problem you are facing, please contact us at GLADAnswers.org or 800-455-GLAD.

