

Good news for equality

In massive win for equality, Supreme Court rules no one can be fired for being gay or transgender

"Gorsuch [wrote the majority opinion](#), with Chief Justice John Roberts joining: "An employer who fires an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex," he wrote. "Sex plays a necessary and undisguisable role in the decision, exactly what Title VII forbids."

Title VII bars discrimination on the basis of "race, color, national origin, sex, and religion," but the original statute did not define what "sex" meant. The Trump administration argued that the original intent of the drafters of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 would not have included LGBTQ workers, but was focused specifically on women and meant only cis women. Gorsuch doesn't let them pass it off that way—he acts like an actual textualist. "Only the written word is the law," he wrote, "and all persons are entitled to its benefit."

Civil rights belongs to everyone, equally. If we don't stand up for one another's, no matter what the kind or reason for the discrimination, then none of us can be sure of our rights. It might be timely to remember that it was the black Americans, and their supporters, who sacrificed the most for the marches and protests and sit-ins that led to the passage of the Act in 1964, but we all gained by it. We all, as a result, live in a better, more equal society.

As we know, it is still far from perfect. Change comes hard, but it comes only if we keep working for it.

-cosmic rat June 15, 2002