

Who We Are

The Queer Detainee Empowerment Project is the only queer/trans-centric Alternative-To-Detention program in the United States. Based in New York, we assist LGBTQ and HIV+ detainees from all over the country build lives outside the detention system through social services and community organizing.

Our Mission

The Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP) is a post-release support, detention center visitation, direct service, and community organizing project that works with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Two Spirit, Trans, Intersex, Gender Non-Conforming, and HIV+ (LGBTQIA* GNC TS) immigrant prisoners and their families currently in detention centers, those that have been recently released from detention centers, and those at risk at entering immigration detention in the Tri-State Area (Connecticut, New Jersey, New York).

Donate & Get Involved

You can donate securely and immediately at qdep.org/donate

If you are in the NYC area and want to volunteer, send us an email at info@qdep.org

Contact Us



Hotline

(347) 645-9339

Our hotline is open Monday – Friday
10 am – 5 pm (Eastern Time). Call the
number above for assistance.



Email

info@qdep.org



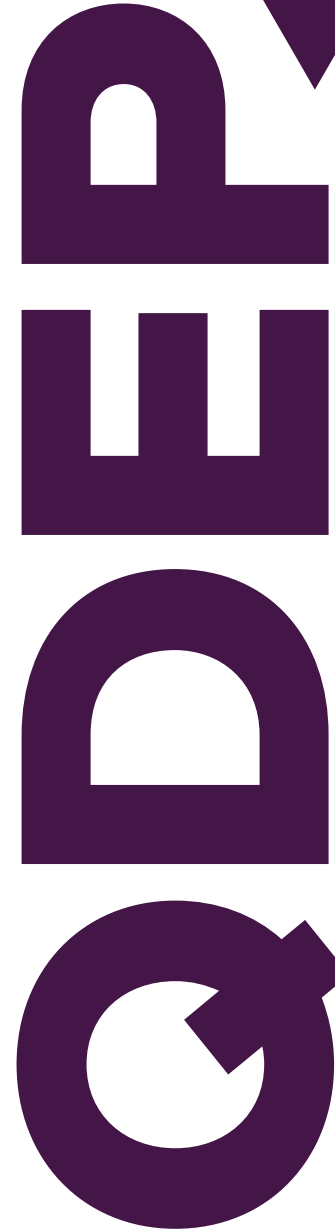
Twitter

[@queerdep](https://twitter.com/queerdep)



Facebook

facebook.com/qdepnyc



Queer Detainee Empowerment Project

Facts

- Homosexuality and/or homosexual conduct is currently criminalized in **more than 75 countries**.
- **10 of those countries implement the death penalty** for those who violate these barbaric laws.

72% 

of surveyed asylum seekers or asylees **needed housing support** when they arrived in the U.S.

84% 

of surveyed asylum seekers or asylees **needed money for food, travel, and basic needs**.

84% 

of surveyed asylum seekers said **mental health care was urgently needed**.

- Of the 96,046 total asylum applications received in 2014, **4,802 would have cited anti-LGBT persecution**.
- Recent accounts also speculate that **the number of LGBT asylum seekers in the U.S. has risen sharply in recent years**, particularly those coming from Central America and Russia.

- Many queer and trans people come to the border fleeing persecution.

45% 

of asylum seekers are **put into mandatory detention indefinitely**.

- Trans detainees are often misgendered and placed in solitary confinement.
- The NYPD collaborates with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain and deport immigrants, particularly trans women of color.

Queer and trans detainees are

15 times

more likely to be **sexually assaulted**.

Sources

<http://www.lgbtasylumproject.org/the-facts.html>

<https://www.hrc.org/press/groundbreaking-report-to-support-lgbt-asylum-seekers-released-today-by-hrc>

Our Services

For folks in detention:

- Legal assistance
- Writing letters of support for court hearing
- Maintaining contact with detainees through pen-pal correspondence, hotline and visitations
- Accompaniment to the court hearings
- Visitation program (only to detention centers in New Jersey)
- Providing money for the commissary (for food and phone calls)
- Organizing fundraisers for their bonds
- Staying in contact with the attorneys and social workers to prepare one's release

Our post-release program:

- Legal assistance
- Assistance with housing (short term and long term)
- Access to food pantries
- Access to free clothing, toiletries and other items needed
- Access to health care and mental health care
- Access to free English classes
- Assistance in applying for NYC ID