

**AMS LGBTQ STUDY GROUP
COMMUNITY and INDIVIDUAL SAFETY 2025**

Working doc on privacy resources for academics in 2025

We want to help support the safety and intellectual thriving of LGBTQIA+ music academics from their application to school through retirement. Now more than ever, our rights to be in public, teach our subject areas, and exercise our civil rights are under attack. Here's some basic info about the climate for LGBTQIA+ folks in 2025.

To combat this, we are sharing out resources on individual and community safety and privacy as well as ways to protect your rights in the classroom and campus.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Rollback of LGBTQIA+ civil rights for all

Suppression of educational materials dealing with LGBTQIA+ and intersectional knowledge

Defunding of LGBTQIA+ resources, healthcare, community spaces on and off campus

Criminalization of many parts of academic life and scholarly personhood

General climate of bullying and intimidation in person and online

Key findings in [GLAAD's 2025 Social Media Safety Index & Platform Scorecard include:](#)

- Recent hate speech policy rollbacks from Meta and YouTube present grave threats to safety and are harmful to LGBTQ people.
- Platforms are largely failing to mitigate harmful anti-LGBTQ hate and disinformation that violates their own policies.
- Platforms disproportionately suppress LGBTQ content, via removal, demonetization, and shadowbanning.
- Anti-LGBTQ rhetoric on social media translates to offline harm.
- Platforms continue to withhold meaningful transparency about content moderation, algorithms, data protection, and data privacy practices.

WHAT'S GOING ON

ACLU tracker of anti-LGBTQIA bills <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2025>

Ohio's SB1 against DEI in plain language

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/141BbOG7RzWJD96S2CkRPL2mGK6nxU9cqYU4dWvUMbyU/edit?tab=t.0>

LGBTQIA COMMUNITY RESOURCES

GLAAD's guide to helping LGBTQ be more safe online

<https://glaad.org/smsi/lgbtq-digital-safety-guide/>

Beyond Pride Month: Protecting Digital Identities For LGBTQ+ People

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2024/07/beyond-pride-month-protecting-digital-identities-lgbtq-people>

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

American Association of University Professors: Digital Security tips

<https://www.aaup.org/digital-security-resources>

"Start your privacy journey" online module. Privacy Guides is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run project that hosts online communities and publishes news and recommendations surrounding privacy and security tools, services, and knowledge. <https://www.privacyguides.org/en/>

What is privacy and why does it matter?

<https://www.privacyguides.org/en/basics/why-privacy-matters/>

Center for Defense of Academic Freedom: YouTube tutorials on privacy and security

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcNZDPcn0WGC-cv78O5bgK0nVihm0Khyq>

Helpline if you need help on digital security: <https://www.accessnow.org/help/>

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL/BORDERS

Electronic Frontier Foundation - Border Search Pocket Guide

<https://www.eff.org/document/eff-border-search-pocket-guide>

ACLU's recommendations for trans folks getting passports

<https://www.aclu.org/trumps-assault-on-transgender-rights/qa-orr-v-trump>

IMMIGRATION SUPPORT

Legal service clinic locator: <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/>

Lawyers for Civil Rights: PROVIDES FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR IMMIGRANTS FACING IMMINENT THREATS CALL 617-988-0606 OR
EMAILHOTLINE@LAWYERSFORCIVILRIGHTS.ORGMORE

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

American Association of University Professors
Academic Freedom Field Guide <https://www.aaup.org/academic-freedom-field-guide>

Faculty First Responders <https://facultyfirstresponders.com/>

If you are a higher education worker or student and have experienced targeted harassment, please feel free to contact us any time at **facultyfirstresponders@gmail.com**.

In addition to our online resources, we offer peer-to-peer support and advice, including whatever types of mutual aid we can provide, and we can connect you with other organizations working against online harassment. However, we cannot and do not provide legal advice.

If you are facing a threat to academic freedom on your campus, you can also reach out to the staff at the AAUP's Department of Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance (academicfreedom@aaup.org). DAFTG responds to queries from AAUP members and non-members, and provides advice regarding Association-supported principles and standards.

PROTEST AND OTHER FIRST AMENDMENT ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS

Protest Surveillance Safety <https://www.stopspying.org/protest>

Know your rights, ACLU: <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights>

DOXXING

“Doxing (or doxxing) is the internet-based practice of researching, documenting, and broadcasting PII (private or personally identifiable information) about an individual or organization to harass and traumatize activists. Additionally, such attacks can also be accompanied by physical violence, intimidation, psychological harassment, weaponized unreality, and disinformation about an individual and/or a movement—all of which have serious implications for our livelihoods and safety.”

—Equality Labs, [“De-Doxing Guide for Activists”](#)

AAUP's anti-doxxing info <https://www.aaup.org/dox-defense-resources>

Digital Defense: Doxx Yourself (see what info you have online and how to protect/change it)
<https://digitaldefense.noblogs.org/doxx-yourself/>

Library Freedom Project: Anti-doxxing zine <https://libraryfreedom.org/resources/>

Emergency steps to take if you've been doxxed:
<https://onlineviolenceresponsehub.org/doxxing-emergency-steps-to-take>

ACLU's doxxing suggestions:
<https://www.aclu.org/news/free-speech/some-steps-to-defend-against-online-doxxing-and-harassment>

GENERAL SURVEILLANCE PREPAREDNESS

Surveillance Technology Oversight Project <https://www.stopspying.org/protest>

iPhone security settings:
<https://ssd.eff.org/module/how-to-get-to-know-iphone-privacy-and-security-settings>

Android Security Settings
<https://ssd.eff.org/module/how-to-get-to-know-android-privacy-and-security-settings>

Canvas safety concerns
<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/canvas-surveillance/>

SELF- DEFENSE

Look for local/regional queer-led self defense classes. If you don't have them, consider helping start one with your local LGBTQIA center/group + a queer martial arts expert

Practice, practice, practice! Self defense techniques work best when they're done so often they become muscle memory. Practice with your friends and attend self defense courses multiple times.

[Intro to Self Defense Zine](#) by [Soar Over Hate](#)

[Self Defense Study Guide for Trans Women](#) (content warning, discusses violence)

[Self Defense Starter Kit](#) by [Malikah](#)

Traction Project (Trans led <https://traction-project.org/>)

Care-mapping <https://www.childrenshospital.org/integrated-care/care-mapping>

ACADEMIC UPSTANDING

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wxWYNL5kY7WNSARffqassrpqZbV5JXwhXGXHfkyw1VE/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.f4fi7fd6uhn0>