

**From:** [Palana Belken](#)  
**To:** [DOJ: Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability](#)  
**Subject:** Belken 8/10 Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, August 10, 2020 11:34:33 AM  
**Attachments:** [june 2020 trans 101.pptx](#)  
[PronounsACLU.pdf](#)

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**EXTERNAL:** Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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Dear Commissioners,

It's Palana again. I appreciate the time allotted for testimony and thoughtful questions you asked this morning.

As ACLU-NH's Trans Justice Organizer, I have worked with members of the New Hampshire's trans and gender non-conforming (TGNC) population for the past two years, as well as those that interact with this population like lawmakers and service providers.

I developed a training titled Being Proactive With Pronouns at the urging of a Seacoast police department looking to better their interactions with trans folks. I have now given this presentation about pronouns dozens of times, to medical professionals, school districts, and law enforcement. Even the folks who still struggle with understanding typically leave the tools needed to move forward with respectfully interacting with trans and gender non-conforming folks.

I am here to ask the Commission to consider adding something about respectfully interacting with trans folks, which boils down to pronoun inclusion. Folks being misgendered in sensitive police reports or being made uncomfortable when a legal ID and lived identity present a dissonance are just a few examples of the situations police training can better inform interactions with TGNC folks.

I have attached my training materials. Note that the PowerPoint is the fullest version possible, and is often slimmed down for time.

Regarding the list of local LGBTQ organizations to potentially connect with: every state Pride celebration has a sponsoring organization: Rural Outright (Claremont), Seacoast Outright (Portsmouth), Concord Pride, Rochester Main Street, White Mountain Pride (Conway), and Queen City Pride (Manchester). The City of Nashua also organizes a yearly celebration. Regarding legal or policy expertise, I recommend connecting with GLAD (Boston) or ACLU-NH.

I am also a founding member of a project titled the Affirming Spaces Project, who are establishing ourselves as a non-profit to provide best practices and free education on TGNC identities. We are establishing a web presence and group e-mails this month - I can provide more info upon request.

Thank you for your time today and hard work all of this summer!

[Palana Belken](#)  
*she / her / hers*

(Self-expression and self-identification are two of my professional and personal values. One way to practice these values is to

share gender pronouns. My name is Palana and I use she/her pronouns. What pronouns do you use?)

Trans Justice Organizer  
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**From:** Palana Belken  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 9:32 AM  
**To:** LEACT@doj.nh.gov  
**Subject:** August 10th LEACT hearing

Hello! My name is Palana Belken from ACLU-NH and I'd like to speak at the commission hearing today. I'm wrapping up my written testimony right now and will send along before I speak.

**Palana Belken**  
*she / her / hers*

(Self-expression and self-identification are two of my professional and personal values. One way to practice these values is to share gender pronouns. My name is Palana and I use she/her pronouns. What pronouns do you use?)

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