

Cross-Country Response to Anti-2SLGBTQI+ Protests

To: Presidents and Local Executives
From: Joel Duff, Associate General Secretary – Professional Services

For Immediate Action

On September 20, 2023, the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL), the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), and labour organizations across the country are mobilizing counter-protests in response to planned anti-2SLGBTQI+ rallies in many communities.

OSSTF/FEESO, as part of its proud commitment to defending 2SLGBTQI+ rights and protecting staff and students from hate and discrimination, will be participating in counter-protests across the province.

Members are encouraged to take part in a local counter-protest and local leaders are asked to review the OFL organizational materials attached.

While a majority of the hate-centered rallies are planned for Wednesday, September 20, more are planned for the coming weeks. This onslaught of homophobia, transphobia, and hate must be countered with continued and sustained efforts.

Labour's role as a protector of human rights and equity principles is long established, and our united efforts in countering the right's anti-Queer agenda is vital.

Locations of Hate Rallies and Counter-Protest Locations

Local leaders are encouraged to review the [list of locations](#) where hate rallies and counter protests are being held and to work with your local Labour Council and other unions to mobilize members and community. We ask that you keep this list **confidential** and not to post it publicly.

Anti-Hate Rapid Response Resources

See the attached [resources](#) for tips and strategies for rapid response organizing as well as safety planning for counter-protests.

What You and Your Members Can Do

Many OSSTF/FEESO members will be at their workplaces during these rallies, and while attendance at the counter-protests may not be feasible for them, members who cannot attend are still able to show solidarity in a variety of ways:

- Share OFL and OSSTF/FEESO anti-hate social media posts

- Contact your [MPP](#) and urge them to be part of the counter-protests and demand that they speak up against these hate-filled events and that they challenge anti-2SLGBTQI+ policies and actions by the government
- Contact your school board Trustee and call on the board to ensure the safety and protection of all staff and students, including those who are part of the 2SLGBTQI+ community
- Attend anti-hate protests in your community outside of the work day

In the event that a hate rally is staged in front of a school, we encourage you to engage the school board to discuss safety planning and to ensure that all educators, students, and staff are supported and protected. For additional information and advice, please contact your field secretaries.

For more information, please contact Vanessa Stoby (Vanessa.Stoby@osstf.ca), Munib Sajjad (Munib.Sajjad@osstf.ca), or Tracey Germa (Tracey.Germa@osstf.ca).

VS/MS/TG/yb cope 343