



US Supreme Court Rules Businesses Can Refuse Service to LGBTQ+ Customers (QBurgh)

The US Supreme Court today issued a ruling granting businesses the authority to refuse service to LGBTQ+ customers. This decision, which has sparked significant controversy, raises concerns about equal rights and discrimination.

The court's decision comes as a result of a long-standing legal battle centred around the clash between "religious freedom" and LGBTQ+ rights. By allowing businesses to deny service based on their religious beliefs, the ruling has ignited debates about ensuring equal treatment for all individuals.

This ruling sets a troubling precedent, potentially enabling discrimination against marginalized communities. Advocates for LGBTQ+ rights express deep concern over the potential ramifications of this decision, fearing it could pave the way for a rollback of hard-fought protections.



This ruling does not go unchallenged. Many lawmakers and civil rights organizations are actively working to address this issue and push for legislation that protects the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

QBurgh will also continue to exercise its First Amendment rights by calling attention to any business that refuses service to LGBTQ+ individuals in the Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania region.

If you believe you were refused service by a business because you are LGBTQ+ send QBurgh a text message at +1 412-353-9759. They'll exercise their freedom of speech and freedom of the press!!

Of course, it could be much, much worse than this... honestly, would you want to spend money in a place that didn't respect the person you are? I'd rather have this go through the Supreme Court then overturn the right to marry. We'll come back to this case later, as it was started on a lie. The plaintiff never attempted to purchase services from the defendant – this was all a sham to get this before the Supreme Court. I would now turn our focus to the upcoming elections and pressure our elected representatives to do something about the Supreme Court immediately before they fuck up more things.

Furthermore, I would like to see a court case come about that shows proof of someone's firmly held religious beliefs in all areas of their life prior to being able to deny service to a protected class. I'd also like to point out that Christians are not a protected class under our constitution, and I would strongly recommend we start discriminating against them such as no religious paraphernalia like jewellery in the shape of crosses allowed in private businesses, insignia symbols and clothing that represents any secular belief, begin open discrimination of straight females coming into gay bars without a gay man accompanying them... you get the idea. The sword cuts on both sides and we need to turn this into a positive!



And most importantly: Get all your friends to VOTE against this left-over Republican fascism from when Trump was in office!

Gay Pride, the Emilio Carranza Memorial & Wreath Laying, and Barnight at U-Bar (Philly)



There's been a lot going on at empire city in a positive way over the past few years. One of the things that should be coming apparent to everybody is that we are no longer based solely in New York City. We now have representation and chapters in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh PA. We have not yet determined the best way to manage multiple clusters of people in various cities but we're working on it and so far, we've done pretty good.



There was significant representation at New York city's Gay Pride March in June, we also attended the Emilio Carranza memorial wreath laying in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, followed by a fantastic bar night at **U-Bar** in Philadelphia that evening. Despite stormy weather, we made it to all of these events staying 99% dry.



Our bar night at U bar in Philadelphia was so successful, we are definitely going to be doing more of them in the future as well as a few bar nights in New York City which we haven't done in quite some time. All of this is going to assist us in ramping up for our 60th anniversary which is coming up next year!



See many more photos on our social media site at: <http://MeWe.EmpireCityMC.com>

Date Change!

Just a quick heads up that we had listed our upcoming holiday party and toy drive benefit for rising ground in early December but in order to coordinate better with Excelsior MC, who hosts trim-a-tree the night before, we were asked to align our event with theirs, so our new **date for our holiday party in 2023 is now 9th December.**

DECEMBER 9th 2023

Please make a note of this in your calendar as we were unable to change our AMCC sanction from the week prior to the new date. We will not have any events during our posted sanctioned date!

Excelsior MC's trim-a-tree will be 8th December 2023.

CHANGE OF PLANS



Why is Russia ramping up its attacks on LGBT rights during the Ukraine invasion?

Russian president Vladimir Putin has authorised the creation of an institute for the “study of LGBT people” within the country’s federal psychiatric unit.

At the same time, the State Duma – Russia’s lower house of parliament – unanimously approved a bill prohibiting the change of documents and sex-change surgery to be provided for transgender individuals.

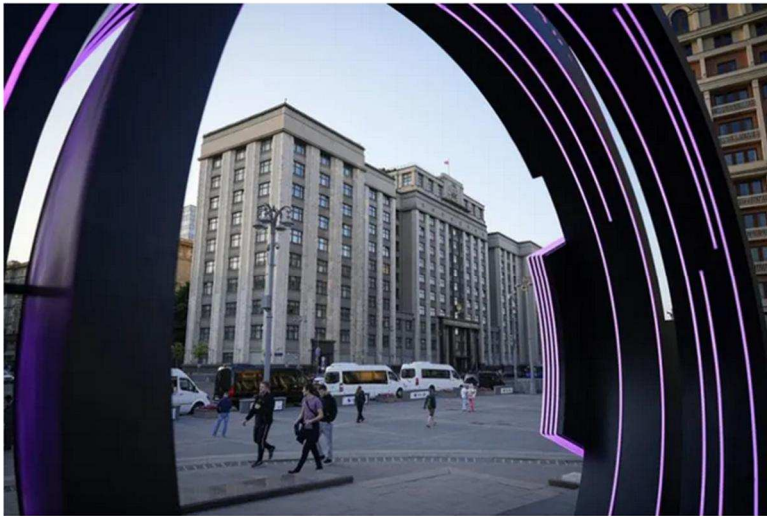
Human rights activists in Russia have sounded the alarm over this, and they warn that it could lead to individuals resorting to black market surgeries and a spike in deaths, as well as penalties and imprisonment.



LGBT activists rally to cancel the results of voting on amendments to the constitution in Pushkin Square

While Russia has had one of the worst records when it comes to protections for the LGBT community for years, the recent slew of legislation seems to be tied to the ongoing invasion of Ukraine, according to lawmakers who backed the controversial bill.

“This is another step in protecting national interests,” Pyotr Tolstoy, the Deputy Speaker of the Duma, said in an address on 14 June. “We are implementing this because Russia has changed since the beginning of the special military operation. And those guys who today defend our country with weapons in their hands, they must return to another country, not to the one that was before the start of the [invasion],” he continued.



People walk past the State Duma, Lower House of the Russian Parliament in Moscow, Russia. 14 June

that “trans-friendly doctors and psychologists” do this because of the “active support of LGBT organisations” and intentionally denigrate traditional values for “a very profitable area of medical services.”

“The Western transgender industry is trying to infiltrate our country in this way, to break the window for its multi-billion-dollar business... a number of doctors defend this field so vehemently, hiding behind their academic knowledge, including that gained abroad during studies in the U.S. and other countries.”

According to a statement by Russian Minister of Health Mikhail Murashko, Putin instructed the ministry to “create an institute for the study of social behaviour of homosexual people” at the The Serbsky State Scientific Center for Social and Forensic Psychiatry, a psychiatry hospital and research centre.

Read more at: <https://nordot.app/1047009233170907149>

‘Imported Western ideology’

A common talking point among leaders in countries reversing or curtailing LGBT rights is that policies favouring these individuals are a result of an imposed Western set of values that clash with what they deem to be traditional or historic beliefs in their countries.

Leaders in Poland and Hungary, among other places, have actively propagated the claim that those who promote pro-LGBT beliefs – such as NGOs, activists or journalists – are either working for or being paid by the West to undermine the country from the inside.

A similar sentiment was reiterated by Duma lawmakers when the recent set of bills was discussed, who claimed

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Some Featured Rides & Events from our calendar:

Thu-Sun 13th-16th July: EVENT: LI Ravens MC Hillside Camping Weekend - Furry Leather Weekend at Hillside Campgrounds, 948 Creek Rd, New Milford, PA

Wed 19th July, 20:00 – 21:00: SOCIAL MEETING: Empire City hosts a social teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All interested parties are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. Enter the gathering with this link: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

Fri-Sun 22nd-23rd July: EVENT: Bear Albany Presents "Summer Sizzler" at Rocks, 77 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12206. More information at <http://www.bearalbany.com/p/upcoming-events.html>

Fri-Sun 28th-30th July: RIDE: Jersey Shore & Rehoboth Beach. Please contact Gary P (Vice-President@EmpireCityMC.com) for important details. Cape May Ferry tickets REQUIRED to participate!

Wed 2nd August, 20:00 – 21:00: OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties my attend.

Sat 12th August, 08:00-21:00: RIDE: LI Ravens MC Ride LI 23 Bike Tour - Gold Coast. Southampton, NY 11968. A full day's ride with Lunch for Riders and Buddies. Destination and overnight in Southampton, NY. Lunch, Dinner and light breakfast supplied. Billeting is first come, first served. Max 20 spots available. Contact the Long Island Ravens, MC for details and reservations.

Wed 19th August, 20:00 – 21:00: RIDE: NYC-> Hillbilly Hall. Meet at Lexington Candy Shop, 1226 Lexington Ave, for coffee/light breakfast at Lexington Candy Counter at 09:00, Kick-Stands Up (KSU) at 09:30 SHARP and we'll head to Western New Jersey for lunch and some 2024 ECMC 60th Anniversary planning! All welcomed.

Sat-Sun 2nd-3rd August: RIDE: New York State Fair. We'll ride from NYC to the New York State Fairgrounds, 581 State Fair Blvd in Syracuse, NY. Meet-Up at 10:00 for breakfast at Adam's Family Restaurant, 41 US-46, Budd Lake, NJ 07828 (<http://adamsfamilyrestaurantmountolive.com/>), KSU: 11:00 with full gas tank, empty bladder! We'll ride ~3 hours to Syracuse NYS Fair Grounds to see the NYS Fair, then crash at hotel and come back a different route with fun stops along the way, including: visiting the *original* Dinosaur BBQ for dinner, Barnight at Traxx Bar Saturday night, brunch at "Modern Malt" and more!



Chaz are standing by for your call now!

Interested in any of these events or rides? Call Chaz, the Road Captain of Empire City MC to find out more, or RSVP.

In Empire City MC, the Vice President (Gary P) oversees coordinating all EVENTS (designated with the word "EVENT" in the calendar), and the Road Captain (Chaz A) is in charge of all rides/travel and accommodation (designated with the word "RIDE" in the calendar).

Chaz is happy to act as a conduit to arrange your involvement with any of our events/rides with a simple voice phone call to +1 212-212-CHAZ (2429) – hours for live assistance are 9am-10pm, 7-days a week. Voice only: No texts are allowed on this number at this time [we're working on that]. If you get voice mail, please leave a message.

REMEMBER: There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Be sure to bookmark <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> and come along with us on some great rides! Our physical mailing address is: **Empire City MC, 10 W 15th St, Suite 609, New York, NY 10011-6821.**

For membership information, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view and download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on social media at <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc> where you can chat with us.

Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org
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