



MOTION REGARDING SEPTEMBER 20 CALL TO ACTION

Submitted for: 2024-09-19

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-09-19-006

Moved by: Abe Berglas
Vice President University Affairs **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
 APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
 NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Eric Zhao
Science Representative

Issue There is a call to action against the (now yearly) protest on September 20 against inclusive education, transgender healthcare for youths, and transgender inclusion in all spheres of life.

Background and Rationale The right-wing organization Hands Off Our Kids (HOOK) called for the organization of protests nation-wide for the 20th of September¹. Ensemble Pour Protéger Nos Enfants (EPPNE), a Québec-based group, called for their members to gather in Montreal².

For the Legislative Council to sign onto the call to action helps lend it legitimacy and symbolizes Council taking transphobia seriously.

¹ <https://handsoffourkids.ca/>

² <https://eppne.ca/event/we-are-marching-again-from-coast-to-coast/>



Alignment with Mission This motion aligns with the Transgender Advocacy Plan.

Consultations Completed The Gender and Sexuality Commissioner and the Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee were consulted. The Policy and Advocacy Coordinator was consulted for structure and formatting.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications Taking a stand on transgender issues invites harassment and complaints from the reactionary community members who organized the original protest and their supporters. There is a risk that those who attend might face violence from the police and protestors.

Sustainability Considerations None.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps The Vice President University Affairs will email transdefense@la-fags.net to let them know that the SSMU Legislative Council would like to sign off on the call to action.

Motion or Resolution for Approval Be it resolved that the SSMU Legislative Council ask the communications coordinator to share on the SSMU's Instagram story [information related to the protest](#).

Results of the Vote

In favour	(15)
Opposed	()
Abstain	(4)



Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

The Call to Action, copied from the P!NK BLOC site:

Recently, the right-wing organisation Hands Off Our Kids (HOOK) called for the organization of protests nation-wide for the 20th of September, advocating for the regression of civil education and free expression in the name of "protecting our kids". Ensemble Pour Protéger Nos Enfants (EPPNE), a Québec-based group who champions similar conservative ideas, has called for their members to gather in Montreal to spread their hateful rhetoric.

We - Queer activists, anti-fascists, and trans people of many different walks of life - have come together to counter the hate of HOOK and EPPNE. We will stay as long as is necessary. With fun, love, and joy we will resist attempts to silence us and demonize us. Come join us!

We are all trying to protect children. We champion and encourage a child's right to freedom of expression and exploration of their identity. Our goal is no different than HOOK and EPPNE's, it simply includes the protection and inclusion of trans youth. We are on the side of liberation of all oppressed peoples.

HOOK and EPPNE's main stated concern is "Protecting kids from sexually explicit content and gender ideology" and the "erosion of parental rights", as well as false claims that schools are indoctrinating children. They protest courses that are based in science and oppose the simple mention of the existence of trans people and same-sex couples. More frightening is the framing of children's bodily autonomy as an erosion of parents' rights. The conservative inclination to treat their children as property is plainly demonstrated by the HOOK-approved slogan: "I belong to my parents".

These groups offer support to government attempts at restricting and erasing trans existence. The mobilization of anti-trans and anti-drag protestors last year gave rise to the Comité des Sages, who has worked hand in hand with EPPNE to slow pro-trans reforms throughout the provincial government. Their presence has emboldened anti-feminist movements who attempt to repeal abortion access throughout the country. Their goal is the erasure of trans people within the public eye, aiming to cloister children and to eliminate public teaching about non-cisgender existence.

To our cis and straight allies: this fight involves you too! Beyond defending ourselves from attacks against our existence, we are fighting against all repression. It is no coincidence that the entire spectrum of conservative and fascist ideologies have rallied together in a united front against a public trans existence. Whilst gathering support for the "protection of their kids", this movement uses their momentum to attack access to abortion, birth control, and scientific education. We must fight to stop the advance of conservatism and protect all of our freedoms.

Collective political self-defense is the only solution to the spread of hate. Again and again, it has been proven that the police will coddle and protect hateful speech, whilst brutally cracking down on appeals for peace. The recent months of violent escalation by the police on protests of Queer solidarity with Palestine proves without a doubt that the police are not a force to protect us. To this end, we want to make abundantly clear that we stand unequivocally in solidarity with Palestine, Sudan, Congo, Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island and the struggles of all oppressed peoples.

So, come on September 20th to collectively fight transphobia and advocate for trans liberation!