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Today we remember the lives of those who were taken from us for simply existing, amazing humans across a diverse spectrum. People whose lives had meaning and joy.

Unfortunately, we continue to experience this loss.

Earlier today, there was a mass shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs. As of now, five members of our queer community have been murdered.

It was a grim reminder of the mass shooting that took place at the Pulse nightclub, where 49 members of our community were murdered.

When will this violence end? When will we be free to exist, without the fear of individuals and larger systems tearing us apart? As trans and gender diverse humans, as POC and Indigenous humans, we are not the danger.

Yet every day we are forced to build our armor, armor fused by the blood, sweat, and tears of our transcestors, against a never-ending war.

Discrimination and bigotry continue to ravage this nation, from laws banning abortions, to children not being able to compete in sports, to access to essential gender-affirming care.

We cannot allow those in power to promote their hateful rhetoric and strip away our rights, simply because they fear what they don't understand. Because they are afraid of our power.

We cannot let what happened in Colorado, Florida, and at Old Nick's Pub push us back. We cannot give away the ground we fought with our lives for.

My heart goes out to all of the victims at Club Q.

We are here today to remember those who are no longer with us, but this day is also a reminder that our fight must be front and center, against all oppression, until we are no longer feared, hated, and hunted.

Until we are all free, none of us are free.

-Kyle Rodriguez-Hudson, Executive Director of TransPonder

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