

A new service could fix the damage from past transphobia and homophobia

The new service of ‘need-response’ seeks to correct lingering transphobia and homophobia echoing from past legal actions with a more personable approach grounded in love

Kalamazoo MI, 1/13/2025 – Despite their best of intentions, government agencies risk replicating transphobia and homophobia of the past. Instead of risking a poor outcome pursuing adversarial legal options, the new service of “need-response” invites you to try its mutuality alternative.

Shortly after coming out as trans to their trans sibling in 1993, Steph Turner’s world turned upside down. Both trans siblings were falsely accused of widely accepted transphobic tropes.

By the end of 1993, both were wrongly convicted without corroborating evidence, of a sex crime that never occurred. And quite impossible for a couple of asexual trans folks. But it perfectly fit into the transphobic and homophobic prejudices popular at the time.

Legal systems cannot respond to every need

Legal options repeatedly rebuff Steph’s attempts to overturn this wrongful conviction. Despite presenting a [compelling claim of innocence](#), the adversarial legal process remains [slow to acknowledge](#) or correct its many damaging miscarriages of justice.

Because of how gender nonconforming people can be readily targeted by law enforcement, trans folks tend to be overrepresented in our criminal justice system. Long after discharge, the damage can reverberate for years to come. Underemployment. Poor housing options, if any at all. And potentially worse.

In 2015, the wrongful conviction prevented Steph from receiving their masters in counseling degree. Then it hindered their ability to fully pay the tuition bill. Consequently, they cannot use the degree to find a good paying job.

Reverberating this transphobic injustice

"Now the state of Michigan is coming after me," Steph reports. "I received a letter from them in January threatening to garnish my wages to collect this unpaid tuition." Steph works at a low paying factory job due to discrimination from the wrongful conviction.

"It feels like a form of privileged extortion," Steph adds. "It feels like the state gets to exploit me once again for being a discarded trans."

Creating an alternative

Steph recognizes a need for an alternative to this adversarial legal process. They realize many years for something more responsive to their specific needs.

To fill that need, Steph is seeking to start a new service called ‘need-response’. It aims to replace what Steph labels as “reactive adversarialism” with a “responsive mutuality”.

Transcending barriers to solving problems

Instead of opposing others in a conflict, *need-response* incentivizes all sides to affirm and support each other's affected needs. It could revolutionize how we solve conflicts by grounding each other in our potential to be more loving toward each other.

Steph self-identifies as a "transspirit". Which they describe as one spiritually compelled to transcend not only limiting gender norms, but also other social norms getting in the way of our full human potential. They credit this "transspirituality" for the inspiration for this new kind of service.

Podcasting this new service to the world

Steph is launching a podcast to share this new service with the world. The [Need-Response podcast](#) drops episodes each Wednesday, starting 30 April 2025, wherever you get your podcasts.

The [trailer](#) is already available. Steph invites you to listen along to follow news of how the state will respond to this more loving alternative.

#

CONTACT

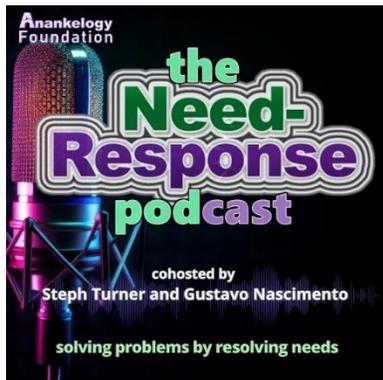
Steph Turner, founder

engage@anankelogyfoundation.org

(517) 462-9350

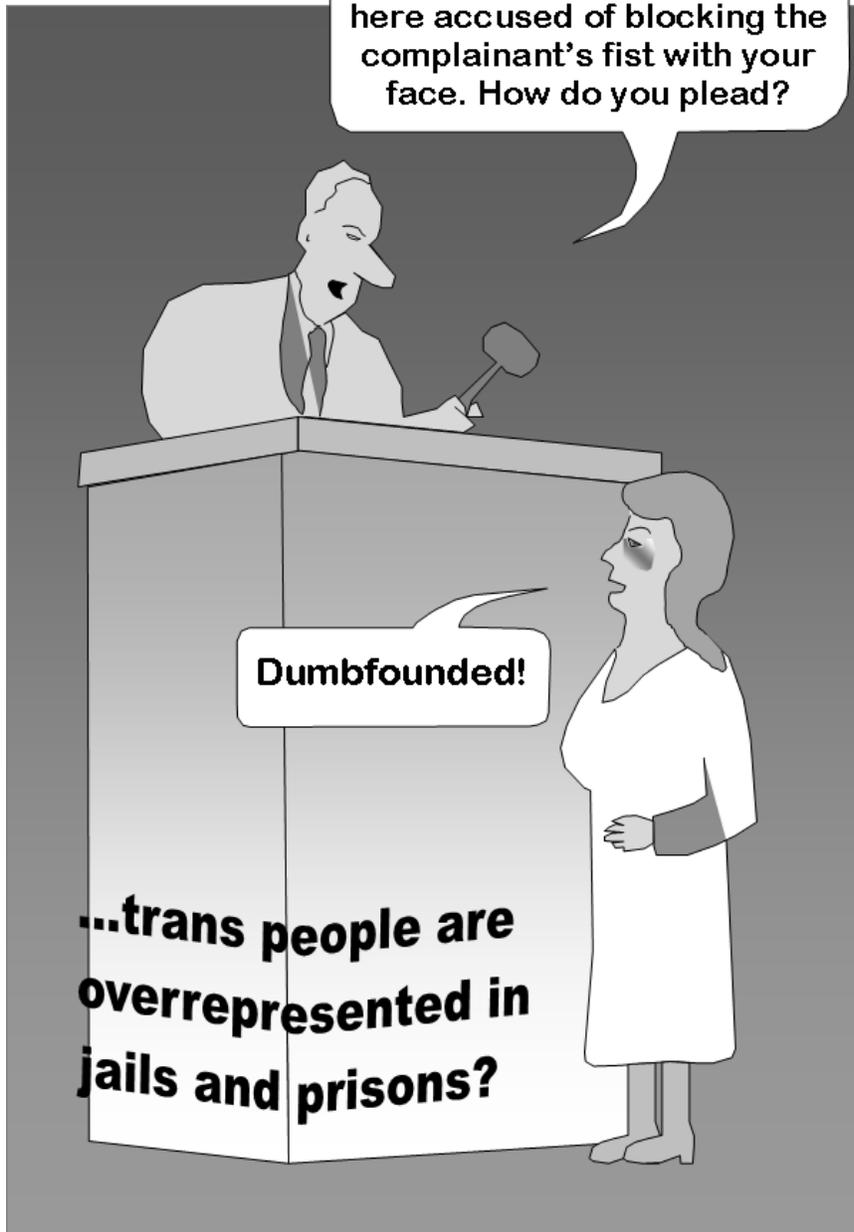
<https://www.anankelogyfoundation.org>

IMAGES (JPEGs):



Did you know...

We don't care if you identify as transgender. You stand here accused of blocking the complainant's fist with your face. How do you plead?



VIDEO (YouTube): [Does innocence matter to you?](#) (29:04)

Support article: <https://www.anankelogyfoundation.org/post/does-innocence-matter-to-you>