

Human Rights in the US

## **+ Meet the Transgender Americans Forced to Flee GOP Persecution**

Cerberus has their go-bag ready. Adrian is prepared to move at a moment's notice. Debra Guckenheimer has already fled the US with her nonbinary children. The GOP transgender assault is driving people from their homes - and their country.

By **Charles Hawley** in Lake Jackson, Seattle and Berlin

24.05.2026, 17.59 Uhr



Demonstration for transgender rights in front of the Supreme Court in January 2026. Foto: Jim Lo Scalzo / EPA

**It's just sitting there in the corner.** A small, red backpack leaning against the wall, seemingly just another item temporarily forgotten amid the detritus randomly strewn about this shared student apartment in Seattle's University District. But while

orderliness may not be a top priority for Cerberus, the charmingly outgoing, erudite library science student who lives here with their partner Fin, the contents of the little red backpack are anything but random.

Flashlight.

Pocketknife.



Emergency blanket.

First-aid kit.

Medications.

And, tucked away in the front pocket, Cerberus's passport.

This backpack is a go-bag. Carefully prepared and ready at a moment's notice should Cerberus, 22, have to get out fast. Out of the United States. Out of this country that has made it crystal clear that people like Cerberus are unwelcome. That in the eyes of the federal government, they don't even exist.

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A transgender woman from the deep-red state of Texas, Cerberus already fled



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