

Resource centers support academic programs, just as the academic programs enlighten and empower students. Such centers provide oases of refuge, community, and safe spaces within colleges and universities that can at times feel hostile, unsafe, or isolating. While the minor in Women's and Gender Studies has not been eliminated, the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at USC Upstate that supports that minor, now is. A faculty member told the [Charleston City Paper](#),

"the center was a sign of a positive and progressive workplace for faculty and staff and a safe haven for students, gone now with no input from the faculty, staff, and students it served."

The Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals supports and advocates for the creation of sustained Gender, Women, Sexuality, and Cultural Centers as well as job security and academic and employment equity for all LGBT faculty members, students, and staff.