



JORDAN GWENDOLYN DAVIS

Good morning, my name is Jordan Gwendolyn Davis, and in the 2 1/2 years I have lived in Philadelphia, I have experienced pervasive street harassment, not just as a woman, but as a transgender, disabled, lesbian, and low income woman. I have been whistled at, propositioned, called such ugly terms as “ho”, “ratchet”, “bulldyke”, “fat white retarded faggot”, “Jer-RY, Jer-RY”, “you take it in the ass”, “dude look like a lady”, had questions asked about my sexuality and gender, had my rear slapped by men, and had violence threatened against me.

But perhaps one of the worst instances of harassment came this June at Suburban Station. I was waiting for a train when a older man started stalking me, and the next thing I knew, in midday, on the platform, the guy rubbed his genitals against my buttocks. I have survived sexual assault before, and that and other disabilities caused me to panic. I ran onto my train and the guy continued to follow me. I screamed for him to go away, but he didn’t listen, and the other passengers seemed to blame me. People ask me to go to the police. However, the police, especially SEPTA police, have been known to lack sensitivity towards transgender as well as disabled people. I feared, based on previous interactions, that they would pathologize, politicize, and even accuse me of being a sex worker. I dream of a day that all people of all races, religions, colors, genders, abilities, classes, gender identities, and sexual orientations can be safe in this city, but we are a long way from that. Thank you for accepting this testimony, and I hope to see a difference be made.