



## Support Hamilton Pride Defenders! No Homophobes, No Fascists, No Bullshit Charges!

OPIRG Brock would like to state our unequivocal support for the people still facing charges for allegedly defending Hamilton Pride against violent bigotry in June 2019. Although it's been almost two years since far-right groups attacked Hamilton's Pride festival, queers and their allies there are still dealing with the fallout of that day's events.

That year, for the second year in a row, fundamentalist preachers and other far-right groups attempted to disrupt the Pride festival and harass attendees. Many queers and their allies organized to prevent them from doing so. The haters were successfully chased out of the park, but their continued aggression also resulted in a fight that saw several Pride attendees injured.

In total, six queers and allies were charged in connection to the defence of Pride and its aftermath. As of this winter, three people are still charged, although charges against two of them are expected to be dropped in the coming days.

We are thrilled about those victories, but we need to make sure this doesn't result in the last person being isolated. The last person is a long time labour activist and ally who showed up to stand with his queer friends and neighbours, and we need to stand with him now. His trial begins on March 15th 2021.

Community self defence is legitimate. Stop the political persecution of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community in Hamilton. **DROP THE CHARGES!**

Please follow, share, and support. E-transfer donations for legal support can be sent to: [pridedefenderssolidarity@riseup.net](mailto:pridedefenderssolidarity@riseup.net).

For background:

- 'Hateful' protest at Hamilton Pride event condemned (CBC Hamilton) : [www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-pride-festival-altercation-police-1.5177439](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-pride-festival-altercation-police-1.5177439)
- Pride in Hamilton Report by Bergman and Associates: [www.criminal-lawyers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Pride-in-Hamilton-Report-June-8.pdf](http://www.criminal-lawyers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Pride-in-Hamilton-Report-June-8.pdf)

In solidarity,

**OPIRG Brock**