



# Bi+ Censorship in the News: Invisibility Rising in Trump's Second Term

January 20, 2025 - January 19, 2026



REWRITE THE  
**BILINE**

# Introduction.

*There have been “several incidents in the past few days that show the Trump administration’s enthusiasm for censoring speech by both the press and ordinary citizens.”*

-David A. Graham, *The Atlantic*, Feb. 17, 2026

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Acknowledgements:  
The primary author of the report is **Christina Fialho**. The primary researcher is **Michelle Hernandez-Garduza**.

## **About Rewrite the BiLine:**

Rewrite the BiLine aims to rewrite the narrative on bi+ people and non-nuclear families in film, television, and the media through consulting, public education, and investment in bi+ leaders in order to create lasting social and political change. Learn more and consider a tax-deductible donation at [www.rewritethebiline.org](http://www.rewritethebiline.org).

On Inauguration Day 2025, censorship took a tangible form. Within hours of taking office, the Donald Trump administration removed nearly all LGBTQ+ and HIV-focused content from the White House website, along with related materials across major federal agencies. Terms such as “lesbian,” “bisexual,” “gay,” “transgender,” “sexual orientation,” “gender identity” were rendered inaccessible almost overnight. Within the administration’s first month, more than 350 LGBTQ+ pages, policies, and educational guides disappeared from government platforms.

This erasure did not simply remove information; it signaled whose lives, identities, and stories were no longer considered worthy of public acknowledgment. For bi+ people in particular, whose visibility has long been fragile and conditional, the sudden disappearance of affirming language reinforced a pattern of institutional silence that echoes throughout the media landscape.

This silencing is unfolding amid a broader decline in freedom of expression. According to UNESCO, global freedom of expression is deteriorating faster than at any point in the past twelve years. In the United States, censorship increasingly operates through subtler mechanisms: self-censorship, editorial hesitation, and fear of political retaliation. Journalists have reported altering or deleting social media content to avoid scrutiny or political backlash, creating a chilling effect that shapes what stories are told and which identities are deemed “too risky” to center.

Surveys conducted in [2025 by Pew](#) reveal a public caught in tension: while most people in the United States affirm the importance of press freedom, many believe it is weaker than in the past, reflecting growing unease about how political power and media regulation constrain independent reporting. For LGBTQ+ people, the media's refusal to consistently and respectfully acknowledge LGBTQ+ identities has forced people back into a quieter and more cautious form of existence. According to the Human Rights Campaign's [Annual Community Survey](#), "47.5% of respondents have stepped back from sharing their identity in public spaces, workplaces, and healthcare settings" in the last year alone.

There is no doubt that under the Trump administration, conservative rhetoric has hardened into a climate of fear and censorship, shaping what can be said—and who can be seen—in all forms of media.

- In Books: According to [The Hill](#), the return of the Trump administration has created a chilling effect, with publishers reportedly hesitant to release LGBTQ+ titles—particularly those aimed at children and Young Adult readers. Additionally, during the 2024-2025 school year, "6,870 titles were pulled across 23 states," signaling a broader effort to censor certain groups, namely "Authors of Colour, Women, and Queer writers."
- On Screen: Over 200 LGBTQ+ characters (41%) are vanishing due to series cancellations or endings, a "two steps forward, three steps back" scenario according to [GLAAD](#).

**We are living through a period of silencing,** as representation becomes increasingly restricted and political forces aim to control which stories and identities are made visible.

Now more than ever, it is critical to examine how LGBTQ+ individuals—including bi+ individuals, who make up the majority of the LGBTQ+ community—are portrayed in news media.

Our research shows that, over the past year, print newspapers have provided little to no substantive positive representation of bi+ individuals. While bi+ people are consistently included under the broader LGBTQ+ umbrella, they are rarely given individual attention, voice, or nuance. This report demonstrates that bi+ identities and issues are frequently minimized, sidelined, or nearly absent from mainstream coverage, reflecting broader patterns of erasure. By calling for more consistent and meaningful coverage of bi+ individuals, this analysis argues that media must move beyond simply reporting harm and instead actively represent the full diversity and complexity of LGBTQ+ experiences.

## ‘Modern Family’ child star is bisexual

**LOS ANGELES >>** A former “Modern Family” child star has opened up to fans about her sexuality.

Aubrey Anderson-Emmons played Lily Tucker-Pritchett, the adopted daughter of a same-sex couple, on the 22-time Emmy-winning series. And on Sunday, she took to TikTok to announce that she is bisexual. In her post, the 18-year-old lip-syncs to audio of a scene from the hit ABC show.

“No, I’m not, I’m gay! I’m gay!” her character says, while her stepgrandmother, Sofia Vergara’s Gloria Delgado-Pritchett, tells her “You are Vietnamese.” Her father Mitchell Pritchett, played by Jesse Tyler Ferguson, responds, “You’re not gay, you’re just confused ... Oh my God, what is wrong with me?”

However, the reveal came in the layover text, in which Anderson-Emmons wrote, “People keep joking so much abt (sic) me being gay when I literally am (I’m bi).” The caption said, “happy pride month and to all a good night.”



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

**Anderson-Emmons**

## Methodology.

This report examines English-language print news coverage of bi+ people and bi+-related issues in the United States during the first year of the second term of the Trump administration (January 2025 to January 2026). The study employed a mixed-methods content analysis consisting of both quantitative and qualitative components.

First, we conducted a quantitative analysis of the manifest content of newspaper articles drawn from the archival database Newspapers.com. This database was examined in relation to two additional archival sources—ProQuest and Gale OneFile: News—which were utilized in Rewrite the BiLine’s initial study released in 2023 called “Bi+

Censorship in the News.” Articles published within the specified time frame were identified and systematically coded to assess the frequency and distribution of media coverage related to bi+ people and bi+ issues. In addition to bi+ coverage, the quantitative analysis also captured reporting related to lesbian, gay, queer, transgender, polyamorous, and non-monogamous identities and issues, allowing for broader contextualization within LGBTQ+ and relationship-diversity media coverage.

Following the quantitative phase, we conducted an inductive qualitative content analysis to evaluate the nature of the coverage. This analysis focused on two primary dimensions: (1) the depth of coverage, defined as whether bi+ issues were central to or tangential within each article, and (2) the visibility of coverage, assessed by the prominence of the publication (e.g., major newspapers) and placement within the newspaper (e.g., front-page coverage). For all articles, we further categorized content by subject matter to identify recurring themes and the various ways bi+ people and issues were represented in print news media.

This report does not constitute a comprehensive examination of all newspaper coverage related to bi+ people and issues. Rather, it provides an empirical snapshot of print news reporting during the period under study, with an emphasis on descriptive statistics and thematic patterns.

Importantly, print newspapers represent only one segment of the contemporary media ecosystem. Social media platforms and non-print news outlets, including digital-only publications, broadcast media, and alternative media sources, may offer additional and distinct forms of visibility and discourse around bi+ issues. For example, no bi+ person will forget the summer of 2025, when debates around artists like Fletcher and Billie Eilish falling in love with men during Pride Month sparked intense discourse that often framed their relationships as a betrayal of queerness—reinforcing the persistent idea that bi+ women become “less queer” or even invisible when they date men. Future research should incorporate these media formats to provide a more in depth understanding of bi+ representation in public communication.

## News Spotlight

# Update on government shutdown

By Rep. Ashley Hinson

I wanted to give you an update on the government shutdown. I voted to keep the government open while we continue bipartisan work in the appropriations process.



Rep. Ashley Hinson

Unfortunately, Democrats voted to shut down the government unless we gave into their liberal wish list demands including: \$1.5 trillion in new spending, free health care for illegal immigrants and \$500 million in funding for PBS and NPR.

While Chuck Schumer plays political games (and let's be honest, is trying to avoid a primary from AOC), real Americans will pay the price. Our military, Border Patrol, and first responders pay is at risk, and Americans will lose access to critical services.

I was proud to vote to keep the government open, and urge my Democrat colleagues to stop trying to score political points and vote to reopen the government. In the meantime, I am withholding my pay. I have also cosponsored several bills to ensure our troops and first responders are paid during the shutdown.

My offices will also all remain open and ready to serve Iowans. Please don't hesitate to reach out should you have a question.

### FIGHTING FOR COMMON SENSE AT LINN-MAR

Last week at Linn-Mar High School — where my 14-year-old son goes to school — students were shown morning announcements promoting

“Bisexual Plus Awareness Week” without parental knowledge or consent. One segment encouraged students to use terms like “bisexual plus” and discussed “non-monosexual identities,” stating that attrac-

tion isn't limited to traditional binaries.

This sexual content does not belong at school. Students should be learning reading, writing, and arithmetic — not about sexual attraction. This is not the first time Linn-Mar has tried to box parents out.

In 2022, the school tried to allow kids to change their gender at school without parental consent.

I have called for a full investigation — what administrators green-lit this content and why did they not notify parents or give us the ability to opt our kids out? Mama bears like me are fed up. Our kids shouldn't be ex-

posed to sexual content at school or hear about various kinds of attraction on the morning news. We need to let kids be kids.

### PARENTS DON'T WANT CRIMINALS RUNNING A SCHOOL DISTRICT

Speaking of education, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement recently arrested the Superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools, where they found a loaded gun, \$3,000 cash, and a fixed blade knife in the school-owned vehicle he was in.

As a mom, it sickens me that this con man with an active deporta-

tion order from 2024 was running the largest school district in the state.

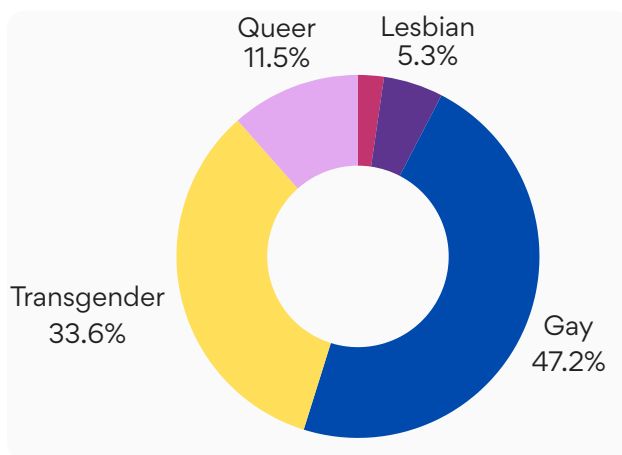
And to make matters worse - the Des Moines School Board put him on paid leave after his arrest and continued to have taxpayers foot his \$300,000 salary instead of firing him right then and there. Those defending him are so out of touch with the vast majority of parents who feel so upset and violated that this fugitive was placed in this position of trust.

He should have never been trusted around kids, and we have to get to the bottom of this to ensure no other kids are endangered.

# Our Findings.

## By The Numbers.

Only **2.3 percent** of LGBTQ+ news coverage was of bi+ people or issues, a significant decline from the previous decade.



### Bi+ people and bi+ issues receive disproportionate visibility in the news.

Over the last thirty years, newspapers disproportionately covered bi+ issues, as we detailed in our report “Bi+ Censorship in the News” (2023). Bi+ people make up the majority (nearly three-fifths) of the LGBTQ+ community, yet “bisexual” appeared in the media less than “lesbian,” “gay” “transgender,” and “queer.” In the most recent decade (2013 to 2023), only 6.67 percent of LGBTQ+ news coverage was of bi+ people or issues.

Unfortunately, in the last year, we have seen that percentage take a sharp turn downward. From January 20, 2025 to January 19, 2026, only 2.3 percent of LGBTQ+ news coverage was of bi+ people or issues.

We found a total of 2,944 print newspaper articles that mentioned bi+ people or issues, but only 503 of them were original articles as many were reprints. A large percentage of these articles were in top news outlets (*The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, AP, Reuters, and *The Washington Post*). In fact, 114 articles that mentioned bi+ people or issues were in top news outlets.

In reading through all of the articles, however, we found only 13 articles (2 in top news outlets) that focused on bi+ people and issues as the main subject. Sadly, a majority of these articles were about how U.S. Representative Ashley Hinson (IA-02) said that mentioning Bi+ Awareness week in a high school’s morning announcements was “sexual content” that “does not belong in school.”

Other terms under the bi+ or multi-sexual spectrum umbrella were used minimally by print newspapers. For example, the term “pansexual” was printed only a total of 89 times. 45%

### New York and California had the most news media coverage of bi+ people and issues.

Newspapers in 45 U.S. states had at least one article with the term “bisexual.” New York had 82 original articles, followed by California (35), Florida (30), Illinois (21), Massachusetts (2), and Virginia (20).



## Most news articles focused on law and policy.

Most of the articles referencing bi+ individuals or issues focused on legal and policy matters (94 articles) or addressed themes of discrimination and inequality (93 articles). This distribution may suggest that media coverage is increasingly framing bi+ experiences within structural and systemic contexts, emphasizing rights, protections, and social equity rather than solely individual or health-related narratives.

One article that prominently featured a bi+ individual appeared in both *USA Today* and the *Tallahassee Democrat*, a Florida paper. The piece examined the experience of the daughter of a Southern Baptist minister, identifying her as bisexual and non-monogamous, and explored how her disclosure contributed to the minister's own public identification as bisexual. The article further reported that this development ultimately led to his removal from his pastoral position. Although the subject matter centered on discrimination and inequality, the coverage was notably nuanced. Rather than positioning bi+ individuals solely as subjects of the narrative, the article incorporated their direct voices through quotations, allowing them to articulate their own experiences and perspectives.

Interestingly, this article was the only print news article found that included both a mention to polyamory and/or non-monogamy and bisexuality. During the year under study, "polyamory" or "polyamorous" appeared 414 times, while "non-monogamy" or "non-monogomous" appeared 115 times.

### News Spotlight

## Political attack exposes pastor's lifestyle, rocks local church

**Jeff Burlew**

Tallahassee Democrat

USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

What began with an anonymous political hit ahead of last year's general election – when both sides were battling for control of Tallahassee City Hall – ended earlier this month with a local church congregation parting ways with one of its pastors.

Thomas Whitley, the city's director of operations and innovation and a close friend and ally of the mayor, may have been the intended target of the hit piece. But it was Trinity Whitley, the daughter of a Southern Baptist minister and a self-described "ethically non-monogamous" bisexual, who

We also observed a notable decline in articles centered on HIV and/or restrictions on bi+ men's eligibility to donate blood (only 15 out of the 503 articles). This shift is encouraging, given that such topics accounted for approximately half of all newspaper coverage of bi+ people and issues over the past decade (see our 2023 "Bi+ Censorship in the News" report). The reduction in this type of coverage may indicate a gradual move away from historically stigmatizing associations and toward more diverse and representative portrayals of bi+ communities.

# Our Findings.

## Qualitative Content Analysis.

### 1. **Passing mentions within broader LGBTQ+ topics**

**Bisexuality is rarely the central focus of print news coverage.** Instead, bisexuality appears in a wide range of contexts—often briefly or incidentally—within broader LGBTQ+ coverage. This pattern reveals a contemporary form of bisexual erasure in which visibility is achieved through inclusion in the acronym “LGBTQ+,” but substantive representation is lacking.

As a result, bi+ people are most often portrayed either as part of generalized political conflict or as members of vulnerable populations defined by risk, while their specific experiences, perspectives, and identities remain underreported. This imbalance suggests that bisexuality continues to occupy a marginal and often depersonalized position in news media.

The print news articles that mention bi+ people and issues fall into several major categories:

### 1. **Passing mentions within broader LGBTQ+ topics**

Most commonly, “bisexual” appears as part of the acronym LGBTQ+ in stories about:

- Law and public policy (healthcare, education, military history, immigration-related matters)
- Pride events and community announcements
- Resource guides, support groups, and public hearings

In these cases, bisexuality is included but not specifically discussed. For example, in a September 2025 article in the *Hawaii Tribune Herald* discussing the deportation of LGBTQ+ migrants from the United States back to their countries of origin, the article calls out the case of K.S. who had already been deported to Gambia, where he is in hiding.

### 2. **Policy, politics, and controversy**

Bisexuality appears in stories about:

- Book bans and school curriculum debates
- Government rollbacks of LGBTQ+ protections
- Political backlash (e.g., Bi+ Awareness Week controversy in Iowa)
- Historical milestones (e.g., “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” early military bans)

Here, bisexuality is often treated as part of a collective political category associated with conflict, regulation, or censorship.

### 3. **Cultural and entertainment references**

Bisexuality appears in:

- Film, TV, and book discussions (characters, authors, actors)
- Celebrity identity mentions
- Pride-related arts and festivals
- Advice columns

Our analysis identified two primary trends. First, articles that referenced a well-known individual’s bisexuality seldom included direct interviews with the individual in question. In several instances, references to sexuality were vague or speculative. For example, an October 2025 article in *The Portland Herald Press* covering a stage adaptation of *Love, Sex, and Frankenstein* described the creator as “rumored to be bisexual.” Similarly, an April 2025 article in *USA Today* featured an interview with Author Dray, who had written a biography of Frances Perkins; the reporter asked Dray about the “prevalent belief that Perkins was bisexual.”



Second, the two articles referencing bisexuality that achieved the highest number of reprints were both Dear Abby advice columns. One column, published in March 2025 and reprinted 153 times, addressed a case involving a married man engaging in a same-sex affair; in response, Dear Abby suggested that the individual might be bisexual. While this acknowledgment reflects a degree of openness, it is notable that bisexuality is framed within the context of infidelity—a portrayal that reinforces a persistent stereotype.

## 4. Community and everyday life

A smaller portion of articles highlights:

- Support groups (e.g., PFLAG directories)
- Local LGBTQ+ centers and events
- Personal advice columns or human-interest stories

These pieces come closest to portraying bisexuality as part of lived experience, but even in these articles never once was a bi+ person quoted.

### News Spotlight

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a gay man living in a predominantly straight community. About a year ago, a married couple moved in. One day, the husband asked me to come over and help him put a table together, which I did. He thanked me by opening a bottle of wine. Then he asked me what turns me on. I thought the question was unusual, but I didn't hold back -- I showed him.

We've had more encounters since then, and now I'm feeling used and thinking about telling his wife. I think she deserves to know her husband might be gay and sleeping with other men. He used some "gay lingo" that makes me think I may not be the only one.

I heard there were some other neighbors talking badly about gays, and he didn't defend or take up for us. That upsets me, too. What do I do? They live a few doors down, and it's uncomfortable when I see him and his wife. She's always waving and is a sweet lady.  
-- RETHINKING IN FLORIDA

**DEAR RETHINKING:** Your mistake was becoming involved with a married man. You may feel "used," but remember, you went into that affair enthusiastically. I do not think you should be the person to tell his wife her husband might be gay. (He could be bisexual.) The person who delivers that tidbit should be her husband, if she doesn't already know. As for you, it's time to step out of the picture, don't you think?

# Conclusion.

The rollback of federal support for LGBTQ+ research, the removal of inclusive language from government platforms, and the broader chilling effect of the Trump administration have created an environment where many news organizations have defaulted to risk-averse editorial practices. This tendency is especially pronounced in print journalism, where entrenched institutional norms, billionaire owners, and ongoing financial constraints reinforce conservatism in coverage. The result is reporting on bi+ people and issues that is narrower in scope and less frequent in appearance.

**A central finding of this report is that bi+ individuals are rarely treated as a distinct population within news narratives.**

Coverage overwhelmingly subsumes bisexuality into generalized LGBTQ+ frameworks, thereby obscuring the specific experiences, challenges, and forms of marginalization unique to bi+ communities.

This pattern perpetuates the misconception that broader LGBTQ+ advocacy sufficiently addresses the needs of bi+ individuals. This misconception leads to real-world impacts, such as the fact that less than one percent of domestic grant funding allocated to LGBTQ+ causes is directed toward bi+ communities. Did you know that last year that amounted to only \$96,500 nationwide?

Furthermore, this structural neglect has measurable and deeply concerning consequences. Bi+ individuals experience lower average earnings than their gay, lesbian, and straight counterparts, alongside higher rates of poverty and anxiety. Rates of sexual violence are particularly alarming: over 60 percent of bi+ women report having experienced rape, assault, or stalking, while nearly half of bi+ men report experiencing sexual violence in their lifetimes. These disparities are further exacerbated for bi+ people of color, who face compounded inequities in employment, income, food security, and access to healthcare.



# Recommendations.

The disparity in print news coverage is neither inevitable nor intractable. News organizations possess both the capacity and the responsibility to address the gaps identified in this report. We offer four recommendations for where to begin:

## > Center Bi+ Voices

First, news agencies, journalists, and reporters must commit to centering bi+ voices directly—not merely referencing bisexuality as an incidental identity marker within LGBTQ+ coverage. News articles on bi+ people or issues must feature bi+ individuals as primary subjects, expert sources, and narrative authorities.

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## > Expand Scope

Third, journalists covering LGBTQ+ issues should substantially expand the scope of their reporting on bi+ experiences. This includes moving beyond deficit-based or episodic portrayals to incorporate coverage of culture, relationships, labor, and everyday life.

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## > Refine Editorial Practices

Second, newsrooms must institutionalize editorial practices that support consistent and inclusive coverage. This may include establishing dedicated LGBTQ+ beats and forming sustained partnerships with advocacy organizations. Such measures would help ensure that coverage of bi+ communities is systematic rather than reactive, and reflective of the full complexity of lived experience.

## > Change the Narrative

If all we read about bi+ people involves disease and oppression, how will we reimagine a society where bi+ people are thriving? We need to see more news agencies adopt a solutions-based approach to coverage of bi+ issues.

# Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read our report. If you would like to discuss our findings or support our work with a tax-deductible donation, please don't hesitate to reach out.



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