



## STATEMENT AGAINST TEXAS DISCRIMINATION

16 March 2022

We believe in equality for all and the power of inclusive communities, where a person's value is not defined by their gender, age, nationality, race, gender identity, religion, or other inherent traits. Like many in our community, we are opposed to efforts underway in Texas, and other areas of the US, to enact policy that chips away at equal rights for all.

The Linux Foundation from its inception has advocated for open, global collaboration across communities and without barriers. We believe diversity and inclusion lead to stronger communities and technologies. Study after study has also shown this to be true.

Community events are a key aspect of this global collaboration and like many, we have been looking forward to seeing each other in person this year. It is deeply saddening to know that some of those in our community who have been waiting so long to meet in person again, will not feel safe doing so in Texas.

Our events in Texas this year were contracted in 2019 & 2020. Unable to hold them then due to the pandemic, they were postponed to June and October of 2022. We never expected that in the intervening period Texas would pursue policies targeting reproductive rights and trans youths, their families, and care providers.

We are dismayed by this turn of events but take some solace that we will be in Austin where the Mayor has [declared the city a safe and inclusive place](#), and instructed prosecutors not to enforce anti-trans policies. Our events are safe and inclusive spaces. We have strict codes of conduct, provide gender-neutral restrooms, offer nursing rooms, provide free child care, use gender pronoun stickers, present diversity scholarships, and more.

Diversity and inclusion have always been a factor in choosing our event locations. Beyond the events already contracted to take place this year, we will not host future events in Texas or other locations where anti-equality efforts are underway. In addition, for the events scheduled in Austin in 2022, we are committed to:

- Providing a virtual component for both speakers and attendees who do not feel safe traveling to Texas in person.
- Using the events to support the efforts of the people and organizations in Texas working to fight anti-equality sentiment and legislation.

We call on Texas lawmakers and those in other states building barriers with anti-equality policies, to do the right thing, to stop discriminating, and abandon these efforts. To show our support we have also signed onto the [Business Coalition for Equality Act](#) organized by the Human Rights Campaign.

Signed,

Handwritten signature of Jim Zemlin in black ink.

Jim Zemlin

Handwritten signature of Robin Ginn in black ink.

Robin Ginn

Handwritten signature of Chris Aniszczyk in black ink.

Chris Aniszczyk