

Response to Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA)

Saint Mary's College does not issue statements on legislative policies or action. A 1 April 2015 e-mail to faculty and staff stated that "discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. The College's policies are consistent with our Catholic identity to respect all persons because of their God-given dignity." The city of South Bend's Human Rights Ordinance (HRO) prohibits discrimination in the areas of housing, employment, education, and public access on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The South Bend HRO exempts houses of worship and religiously-affiliated employers from acting against their stated beliefs.

As a department guided by feminist theoretical insight and supportive of human freedom and agency, we think that the RFRA is an attempt to solve a non-existent problem and has given a platform to those who oppose the full humanity of LGBTQ people. We affirm the rights of all people to be free from discrimination.