

# QUEERING THE CROWN ACT

HOW THE CROWN ACT AND INSPIRED LEGISLATION  
PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF BLACK-AFRICAN AMERICAN  
QUEER PEOPLE IN ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SPACES



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# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS THE CROWN ACT?

As an extension of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, California Senate Bill 188, most notably known as the CROWN (Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair) Act, is intended to provide necessary protection to all people at risk of hair discrimination due to their racial and ethnic identity.

The Act was marketed a huge success for Black women professionals.

## THIS SOUNDS GREAT.

## SO, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

- Efforts to pass legislation on the federal level have not been successful.
- This piece of legislation will significantly benefit LGBTQ+ members of the Black community; however, Black LGBTQ+ positioning is, once again, not acknowledged within Black social movement.

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# QUEER PHENOMENOLOGY



**Queer phenomenology** seeks to answer the seemingly simple question of how “queered bodies” are oriented in relation to the lines and shapes carved out by cis-het normativity.

Defining queerness.

Defining  
non-normativity.

Empowering one  
another.

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# DATA + METHOD

APPLIED MIXED METHOD RESEARCH



(A) CONTENT ANALYSIS OF FOUR MOST-VIEWED YOUTUBE VIDEOS  
**KEYWORDS:** BLACK, LGBTQ+/LGBTQ, QUEER, TRANS, FTM, MTF, HAIR  
(B) AUTOETHNOGRAPHY

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# FINDINGS

**Two prominent themes were discovered:**



1

Hair is a vital part of Black and queer gender expression, especially for trans people during their transition.

2

Safe grooming spaces are hard to come by for Black, queer people due to discomfort and vulnerability, and queer disorientation with cis-heteronormativity and its proximity to whiteness.

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# GOING FORWARD

Extending Ahmed's **queer phenomenology** into Black social spaces; the exclusion of LGBTQ+ people from Black sociopolitical movement should no longer be accepted.



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# GOING FORWARD

Call for pro-Black, pro-woman, and pro-LGBTQ+ lawmakers to **apply the necessary pressures** to local, state, and federal legislative bodies for the immediate passage of the CROWN Act.



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# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In a world that's anti-Black, anti-LGBTQ+, anti-woman, and anti-free thought, how will you be the change outside of this program?

The conversations don't stop here.



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# THANK YOU



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