# San Francisco Bookstore Launches Books Not Bans to Fight Anti-Gay Censorship



Fabulosa Books, situated in San Francisco's Castro district, has initiated a program called Books Not Bans, aimed at addressing the rise in anti-LGBTQ+ book bans across the United States. Since its inception last year, the program has successfully sent over 700 queer-themed books to various states, including Texas, Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. The initiative was founded by Becka Robbins, who also serves as the store’s events manager.

Books Not Bans allows customers to purchase and send books to LGBTQ+ organizations in conservative regions. This grassroots effort, operating from a small space within the store, has garnered significant support, particularly during Pride month. The American Library Association reported a record number of books banned in 2023, targeting texts on race and LGBTQ+ topics.

The program aims to provide these books to readers who might otherwise be unable to access them due to increased censorship in schools and libraries. Donations have poured in following media coverage, enabling more books to be distributed to communities facing such bans.

Store owner Alvin Orloff highlighted the solidarity aspect of the initiative, stating that it helps individuals in restrictive environments feel supported and less isolated. The program resonates with many patrons who understand the challenges of growing up in conservative areas, reinforcing the importance of making diverse literature accessible to all.