



Explore our exclusive footage [Advanced](#) SEARCH

US CO THIRD GENDER PASSPORTS 1 (CR)

Projects Details Shotlist Storyline Categories

Project [Go to top](#)

None

Details [Go to top](#)

US issues first passport with 'X' gender marker

Story No.: apus151800

Restrictions:

Duration: 00:02:00:22

Source: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: 20 July 2016 - 27 October 2021

Date: 10/28/2021 03:15 AM

Shotlist [Go to top](#)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fort Collins, Colorado - 27 October 2021

- 1. Wide of Dana Zzym sitting inside a hotel room
- 2. Close of Zzym holding their passport, the first in the US with an 'X' gender designation

ANNOTATION:

The U.S. State Department issued it's first 'X' gender passport. It's a milestone in recognizing the rights of people who do not identify as male or female.

++PARTIALLY COVERED++

3. SOUNDBITE (English) Dana Zzym, Intersex Activist:

"I'm an intersex person, and I have rights as such. And I still have those rights."

4. Mid of Zzym holding their passport ++UPSOUND++

(Zzym:) "It's the first U.S. passport with the 'X' marker which is over here... I've worked a long time to get this one. Six years and day through the federal court system."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Denver, Colorado - 20 July 2016

5. STILLS Various of Zzym and his attorneys outside a U.S. Federal Courthouse following a hearing on Zzym's lawsuit requiring people to pick a gender to get a passport

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fort Collins, Colorado - 27 October 2021

++PARTIALLY COVERED++

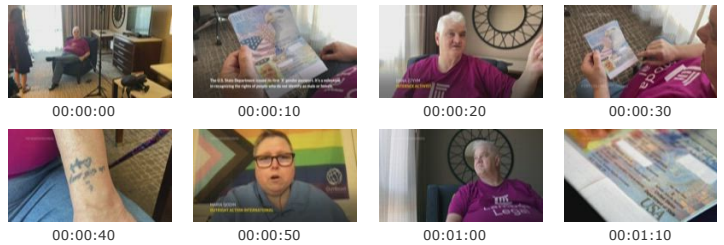
6. Close of a tattoo of Zzym's left arm ++UPSOUND++

(Zzym:) "And this my reminder to 'Never give up...'"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brooklyn, New York - 27 October 2021

Clip Bin Request Share Select In HH:MM:SS / HH:MM:SS Or



++PARTIALLY COVERED++

7. SOUNDBITE (English) Maria Sjodin, OutRight Action International, Acting Executive Director:

"That is something that as a member of the LGBTIQ community, I am incredibly grateful to those people who are really sticking out their necks and taking the fight, not just for themselves, but really setting a new precedent. And Zzyym got their passport today, and I am hoping that this will as soon as possible become routine so that anyone who wants can just access an X in their passport in the US and around the world."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fort Collins, Colorado - 27 October 2021

8. STILL mid of Dana Zzyym looking outside a hotel room window

9. STILL close of Zzyym's passport, the first in the US with an 'X' gender designation

10. SOUNDBITE (English) Dana Zzyym, Intersex Activist:

"I'm hoping the younger generation picks up... this thing of mine and starts fighting more for their rights. Because now they have legal recognition which is a good starting point for civil rights."

11. Mid of Zzyym holding their passport ++UPSOUND++

(Zzyym:) "The black community, or the Latino community, or the trans community. We exist. We all should be allies together in the fight for rights. Well that is what it means to me, and this is what this represents to me. The right to exist, the right to stand up for ourselves."

12. Mid of a rainbow flag with the Colorado State University Rams logo

ANNOTATION:

The State Department now allows U.S. passport applicants to self-select their gender, and expects to offer the 'X' gender option more broadly in 2022.

Storyline

[Go to top](#)

FOR CLEAN VERSION SEE STORY NUMBER: 4350361

The US State Department issued its first passport with an "X" gender designation to Dana Zzyym, an intersex person who says it's a milestone in the recognizing of the rights of people who do not identify as male or female.

Since 2015, Zzyym, who prefers a gender-neutral pronoun, has been in a legal battle with the State Department to obtain a passport that did not require Zzyym to lie about gender by picking either male or female.

Zzyym (pronounced Zimm) picked up the UPS package with the passport after getting an early morning text and phone call from a Lambda Legal lawyer that it had arrived. Zzyym had stayed up late celebrating Intersex Awareness Day with two visiting activists.

While Zzyym, 63, said it was thrilling to finally get the passport, the goal was to help the next generation of intersex people win recognition as full citizens with rights, rather than travel the globe, Zzyym said.

"I'm hoping the younger generation picks up this -- this thing of mine and starts fighting more for their rights. Because now they have legal recognition which is a good starting point for civil rights," Zzyym told the Associated Press.

Zzyym was born with ambiguous physical sexual characteristics but was raised as a boy and had several surgeries that failed to make Zzyym appear fully male, according to court filings. Zzyym served in the Navy as a male but later came to identify as intersex while working and studying at Colorado State University. The State Department's denial of Zzyym's passport prevented Zzyym from being able to go to two Organization Intersex International meetings.

The Acting Executive Director of OutRight Action International, Maria Sjodin, is also a member of the LGBTIQ community said she is grateful Zzyym took the fight to court to set 'a new precedent.'

"Zzyym got their passport today, and I am hoping that this will as soon as possible become routine so that anyone who wants can just access an X in their passport in the US and around the world," Sjodin said.

The State Department said in June that it was moving toward adding a third gender marker for nonbinary, intersex and gender-nonconforming people but that would take time because of required updates to its computer systems.

The department now also allows applicants to self-select their gender as male or female, no longer requiring them to provide medical certification if their gender did not match that listed on their other identification documents. It expects to be able to offer the third gender option more broadly in 2022.

Categories

[Go to top](#)

Subjects: Gender issues , Gender identity , Government and politics , International relations , Social affairs , Social issues , Human rights and civil liberties

Organisations: Colorado state government, United States government, U.S. Department of State

Locations: Fort Collins , New York , New York City , Brooklyn , North America , United States , Colorado

AP ARCHIVE

- [About Us](#)
- [Our Content](#)
- [How We Work](#)
- [News](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Help](#)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

- [About AP](#)
- [AP Leadership](#)
- [History](#)
- [Industry Leadership](#)
- [Intellectual Property](#)
- [Branding](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- [AP Compilations](#)
- [Instant Library](#)
- [British MovieTone](#)
- [Content Representation](#)
- [Photos](#)

CONTENT PARTNERS

- [ABC News](#)
- [CelebrityFootage](#)
- [TV-am](#)

All contents © Copyright 2020 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

[Cookies Settings](#)