

THEY THINK KINDNESS IS SOFT.

Like it doesn't have a spine.
Like it doesn't know how to stand up
to a flame and speak in fire.

But this is Texas.
So we know something about heat.

Know something about pressure.
About being tested.
About **SURVIVING ANYTHING**
trying to break the backs of something
tender. So when we say Power in Kindness,
understand I am not speaking
in a whisper;

or being anything less than loud.

**THIS DECLARATION IS HERE,
QUEER, AND PROUD.**

But for LGBTQIA+ Texans,
kindness has not always met us
where it could
where it should or
where it promised it would.

Too many exam rooms felt like
interrogations. Too many waiting
rooms a new closet. **OUR BODIES
ON BALLOTS** battling laws
and government judgements;

trying to remove our access to healthcare.
Our dignity questioned at counters.
Our care threatened in headlines,
as if dignity were conditional.

And still –
OUR KINDNESS IS NOT A WEAKNESS

**WE PREP, PREVENT, PROMISE, AND
PROTECT HERE.** We build community,
stand in unity, and we fight here.
We show up like we all we got
Cause we all we need, here.

For the radical act of long-living,
undetected, gender-affirming, and
being more than just a number.

There's strength in knowing our status.
Power in being alive – fearless and free.
And kindness says,

WE CARE BECAUSE WE MATTER

So when the world tells us "No,"
we answer back with "Yes."
When it tells us to be smaller,
we stand taller.
And when it tells us to disappear,
Our kindness is still here.
And **THAT IS NOT SOFTNESS**

That, is strategy.
That, is community.
That, is **POWER**

And it doesn't matter if we're in the Panhandle,
The valley, a small-town, a city with skylines,
or anywhere under this wide Texas sky.

There are one million LGBTQIA+
Texans. **ONE MILLION TEXAS STORIES.**
One million sparks and beating hearts.
And we shine bright, like the stars we are.

Because there's Power in Kindness.
Power in access and being seen.
So when the state asks us to shrink
Know, it is the power in our kindness that
caused them to squint from the liberation
our light brings.

**AND WE ARE NOT RETREATING.
SO YOU. BE. YOU. AND WE'LL BE, KIND.**

BY EBONY STEWART

kindTM
CLINIC

**POWER
IN
KINDNESS**