Laverne Cox is an American actress, reality television star, television producer and LGBTQ advocate best known for her portrayal of Sophia Burset on the Netflix series “Orange is the New Black.” Cox is the first openly transgender person to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy award for acting.

An outspoken advocate for the transgender community, Cox received the Dorian Rising Star Award for her work in “Orange is the New Black”; the Courage Award from the Anti-Violence Project; the Community Leader Award from the LGBT Center of New York City; GLAAD’s Stephen F. Kolzak Award; and in 2014, was one of Glamour magazine’s Women of the Year.

Cox is also the first openly transgender person to appear on the cover of Time magazine.

NYSUT, a statewide union of professionals, proudly supports equal rights for all people, a non-discriminatory workplace and non-discrimination based on gender identity and expression. NYSUT’s goal is that union members feel safe and welcome in their environment. For more on the contributions of LGBTQ individuals, visit www.nysut.org.