

# **LGBT Sign-on Letter in Support of the October 5 National Day of Dignity and Respect for Humane Immigration Reform**

An Open Letter in Support of the National Day of Dignity and Respect for Humane Immigration Reform

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) and allied organizations listed below strongly support the October 5 National Day of Dignity and Respect for Humane Immigration Reform. Our broken immigration system causes great harm and suffering to hundreds of thousands of LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants and aspiring citizens. We urge the House of Representatives to act quickly and urgently to pass humane immigration reform, including a pathway to citizenship and protection for vulnerable LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants, asylum seekers, and detainees.

We will stand with a broad spectrum of organizations and individuals on October 5 to tell Congress: Act NOW to pass humane immigration reform.

This year, the LGBT community has celebrated a tremendous victory in the fight for equality and justice for LGBT immigrant families. While we celebrate, we remain committed to humane immigration reform to ensure no LGBT immigrant – or any immigrant – is left behind. Our community and families have been excluded from our nation’s immigration laws for decades. Lesbian and gay immigrants were banned from immigrating to the United States until 1990, HIV-positive immigrants were banned from immigrating until 2010, and shockingly, the immigration ban on LGBT families continued until June 26 of this year when the Supreme Court overturned part of the Defense of Marriage Act.

After decades of discrimination and exclusion, LGBT family ties are finally recognized in our country’s immigration system, allowing us to now sponsor our spouses for green cards. As we celebrate this landmark win for LGBT immigrant families, we are working to fix the immigration system for all LGBT immigrants. We urgently need immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of undocumented LGBT immigrants, including LGBT DREAMers – young people who are doubly vulnerable for being undocumented and LGBT. We need reforms for LGBT and HIV-positive people seeking asylum in the U.S. because they face persecution and violence in their home countries, including many who are needlessly suffering in immigration detention. For these members of our community, the continued need for immigration reform is real and urgent.

We also need reforms that enable LGBT immigrants to contribute to and participate in affordable health care, housing, education, and nutrition programs as LGBT immigrants experience poorer health outcomes and higher barriers to the programs that support their health, success, and full integration.

Thus, we urge Congress to pass humane immigration reform that includes a meaningful pathway to citizenship, family reunification, a strong DREAM Act for undocumented youth, new protections for

workers, asylum-seekers, and detainees, and a commitment to the integration, health, and success of aspiring citizens.

We urge Representatives in Congress to oppose the SAFE Act (HR 2278), a punitive enforcement bill that would lead to dramatic levels of incarceration of immigrants. The SAFE Act would eliminate protections for immigrants – including the current policy that provides discretionary relief to prevent deportation of same-sex partners, and the policy that allows young undocumented LGBT DREAMers to receive temporary authorization to live and work in the U.S., the only country they've ever known as their home. The SAFE Act would also subject many LGBT and HIV-positive asylum seekers fleeing persecution to indefinite detention in the U.S., re-traumatizing them following brutal mistreatment in their home countries. Finally, the SAFE Act would devolve immigration enforcement to states and localities, leading to racial profiling and rupturing the critical ties between police and LGBT immigrant communities, thus making our communities less safe for everyone.

We will take action and join our local communities and immigrant brothers and sisters on October 5 in support of humane immigration reform. As LGBT and allied organizations, we are proud to speak with a strong, unified voice for LGBT and all immigrants.

Signed by:

Immigration Equality Action Fund  
9to5  
Advocates for Women  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)  
Americans for Immigrant Justice  
API Equality - Northern California  
Arab American Association of NY  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC  
Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council  
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice  
Believe Out Loud  
Bethel Christian Church- DC  
Border Action Network  
Breakthrough  
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice  
Campus Pride  
CAUSA, Oregon's Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Center for APA Women  
Center for Popular Democracy  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Central American Resource Center—CARECEN—of Northern California  
CHOICES Memphis Center for Reproductive Health  
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity Reproductive Rights  
Community United Against Violence (CUAV)  
Council for Global Equality

CourageCampaign.org  
DRM Action Coalition  
Equal Justice Task Force-African American Ministers In Action  
Equality California  
Equality Federation  
Equality Florida  
Equality Ohio  
Equality Pennsylvania  
Equality Utah  
Family Equality Council  
Florida Immigrant Coalition  
Garden State Equality  
Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders  
Generational Alliance  
GetEqual  
Hispanic Federation  
Human Rights Campaign  
Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.  
Kansas National Organization for Women  
Lambda Legal  
Latino GLBT History Project  
Love Exiles Foundation  
Make the Road New York  
Marriage Equality USA  
Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)  
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National Organization for Women  
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance  
Network on Religion and Justice for Asian Pacific Islander LGBTQ people  
New York City Anti-Violence Project  
New York Legal Assistance Group LGBT Project  
One Colorado  
OneAmerica  
Our Family Coalition  
Out4Immigration

Pineros Y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, PCUN  
People For the American Way  
PFLAG National  
Pride at Work AFL CIO  
Promise Arizona  
Queerocracy  
San Francisco Day Labor Program & Women's Collective  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)  
South Carolina Equality  
Stonewall Community Foundation  
Student Working for Equal Rights  
The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries  
The Reproductive Health Access Project  
The Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition  
The Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
Transgender Law Center  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
United We Dream  
Unity Coalition|Coalicion Unida, Inc