

U.S. Policy on LGBT Issues and HIV / AIDS

– Selected Documents and Speeches –



U.S. Consulate General Hamburg





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on LGBT Issues and HIV /AIDS
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**U.S. Consulate General Hamburg
March 2012**



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Message from Consul General Inmi K. Patterson



On Human Rights Day 2011, President Obama directed “all agencies engaged abroad to ensure that U.S. diplomacy and foreign assistance promote and protect the human rights of LGBT persons.” Secretary of State Hillary Clinton summed up our guiding principle on LGBT issues in June 2010 with her declaration, “Gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights, once and for all.” Under the leadership of Ambassador Murphy, U.S. Mission Germany has played an active role in promoting the human rights of LGBT individuals in Germany.

Equality for all has been one of my life-long priorities. Naturally, advocating equal rights for LGBT persons is part of this effort. My work in Hamburg is no exception. This is why I participated in the Hamburg Christopher Street Day gala and reached out to the *Hinnerk*, northern Germany’s largest LGBT magazine. The Hamburg Consulate team also joined the LGBT community on World AIDS Day 2011 to emphasize our support in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

This publication of documents and speeches on the U.S. Government’s domestic and global efforts to improve the human rights of LGBT persons and to combat HIV/AIDS will help all of us with future programs. They serve only as a reference point; our work must continue. All people deserve to be respected for who they are.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Inmi K. Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Consul General Inmi K. Patterson



U.S. Policy on LGBT Issues – Selected Documents and Speeches –



Factsheet: The Obama Administration's Commitment to Winning the Future for the LGBT Community

The Obama Administration has taken decisive actions and made historic strides to advance Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender equality and strengthen LGBT families and communities, and continues to do so. Some of these accomplishments include:

Preventing bullying and hate crimes against LGBT Americans

- President Obama signs the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law – the first federal civil rights legislation to include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity”
- President Obama, Vice President Biden and other Administration officials record “It Gets Better” videos to address the issue of bullying and suicide among LGBT teens
- The President and First Lady Michelle Obama host the White House Conference on Bullying Prevention
- The Department of Education issues guidance to support educators in combating bullying in schools by clarifying when student bullying may violate federal education anti-discrimination laws

Supporting LGBT families

- Following a directive from the President, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) requires all hospitals receiving Medicare or Medicaid funds to allow visitation rights for LGBT patients; the President also directs HHS to ensure that medical decision making rights of LGBT patients are respected
- HHS creates the National Resource Center for LGBT Elders
- The Department of Labor clarifies that the Family Medical Leave Act ensures that LGBT parents can provide care for their children in the event of illness
- The State Department clarifies that transgender applicants can obtain, under certain conditions, passports that accurately reflect their gender



- The Justice Department clarifies that persons with HIV and persons with AIDS are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act and that it would be illegal to exclude them from occupational training and state licensing
- The Justice Department issues a memo stating that federal prosecutors should enforce criminal provisions in the Violence Against Women Act in cases involving gay and lesbian relationships
- HHS's Administration for Children and Families issues a memorandum to ensure that LGBT and questioning youth in foster care are protected and supported
- The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness releases "Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness," the nation's first comprehensive strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, including LGBT homeless youth
- The Obama Administration works to ensure that the Census provides a fair and accurate count of all Americans, including LGBT couples

Ensuring equal access to housing for LGBT families

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announces the first ever national study of discrimination in housing against LGBT persons
- HUD proposes new regulations to ensure that housing programs are open to all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity
- HUD requires grant applicants to comply with state and local anti-discrimination laws

SUPPORTING LGBT HEALTH

- President Obama releases the first-ever National HIV/AIDS Strategy
- President Obama urges Americans to get tested for HIV
- President Obama signs the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act
- HHS issues recommendations to improve the health and well-being of LGBT communities
- Despite challenging budgetary times, the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget not only maintains, but increases domestic HIV/AIDS funding
- Veterans Affairs issues a directive to ensure respectful and non-discriminatory care for transgender veterans



Supporting job creation among LGBT-owned businesses

- The Department of Commerce signs a Memorandum of Understanding with National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce to support federal contracting and exporting

Setting precedents in hiring and benefits for LGBT Americans

- The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announces that gender identity is a prohibited basis of discrimination in federal employment
- President Obama expands federal benefits for same-sex partners of federal employees
- OPM allows same-sex domestic partners to apply for long-term care insurance
- President Obama sends the first U.S. Executive branch official to testify in support of an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) before Congress
- President Obama continues to appoint LGBT Americans to positions at every level throughout his Administration

Repealing the discriminatory “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Law

- President Obama signs the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act of 2010, which allows gay, lesbian and bisexual service members to serve openly and with integrity

Providing global leadership on LGBT issues

- The U.S. lifts the discriminatory entry ban for individuals with HIV
- President Obama and his administration play active roles in protecting LGBT populations in Uganda, Honduras, Malawi and other countries
- The U.S. leads an effort at the United Nations resulting in 85 countries supporting a resolution to end violence and human rights violations related to sexual orientation and gender identity
- The White House announces major three-year investment in combating global AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria



Honoring LGBT history

- President Obama honors the 40th Anniversary of Stonewall riots
- President Obama awards the Medal of Freedom to Harvey Milk and Billie Jean King

Supporting LGBT Progress

- President Obama has called for the Congressional repeal of the discriminatory “Defense of Marriage Act” and has announced that in his view, Section 3 of DOMA is unconstitutional
- President Obama also continues to support legislation that would directly impact the LGBT community, including an inclusive ENDA and the Domestic Partners Benefits and Obligations Act
- President Obama believes that all students should be safe and healthy and learn in environments free from discrimination, bullying and harassment; that we must ensure adoption rights for all couples and individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation; and that Americans with partners from other countries should not be faced with a painful choice between staying with their partner or staying in their country

Source: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/LGBT_factsheet_092611.pdf (03/12/2012)

President Barack Obama signs the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 during a ceremony at the Interior Department in Washington, D.C., December 22, 2010





Presidential Memorandum – International Initiatives to Advance the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
December 6, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES
SUBJECT: International Initiatives to Advance the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons

The struggle to end discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons is a global challenge, and one that is central to the United States commitment to promoting human rights. I am deeply concerned by the violence and discrimination targeting LGBT persons around the world whether it is passing laws that criminalize LGBT status, beating citizens simply for joining peaceful LGBT pride celebrations, or killing men, women, and children for their perceived sexual orientation. That is why I declared before heads of state gathered at the United Nations, “no country should deny people their rights because of who they love, which is why we must stand up for the rights of gays and lesbians everywhere.” Under my Administration, agencies engaged abroad have already begun taking action to promote the fundamental human rights of LGBT persons everywhere. Our deep commitment to advancing the human rights of all people is strengthened when we as the United States bring our tools to bear to vigorously advance this goal.

By this memorandum I am directing all agencies engaged abroad to ensure that U.S. diplomacy and foreign assistance promote and protect the human rights of LGBT persons. Specifically, I direct the following actions, consistent with applicable law:

Section 1. Combating Criminalization of LGBT Status or Conduct Abroad. Agencies engaged abroad are directed to strengthen existing efforts to effectively combat the criminalization by foreign governments of LGBT status or conduct and to expand efforts to combat discrimination, homophobia, and intolerance on the basis of LGBT status or conduct.



Sec. 2. Protecting Vulnerable LGBT Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Those LGBT persons who seek refuge from violence and persecution face daunting challenges. In order to improve protection for LGBT refugees and asylum seekers at all stages of displacement, the Departments of State and Homeland Security shall enhance their ongoing efforts to ensure that LGBT refugees and asylum seekers have equal access to protection and assistance, particularly in countries of first asylum. In addition, the Departments of State, Justice, and Homeland Security shall ensure appropriate training is in place so that relevant Federal Government personnel and key partners can effectively address the protection of LGBT refugees and asylum seekers, including by providing to them adequate assistance and ensuring that the Federal Government has the ability to identify and expedite resettlement of highly vulnerable persons with urgent protection needs.

Sec. 3. Foreign Assistance to Protect Human Rights and Advance Nondiscrimination. Agencies involved with foreign aid, assistance, and development shall enhance their ongoing efforts to ensure regular Federal Government engagement with governments, citizens, civil society, and the private sector in order to build respect for the human rights of LGBT persons.

Sec. 4. Swift and Meaningful U.S. Responses to Human Rights Abuses of LGBT Persons Abroad. The Department of State shall lead a standing group, with appropriate interagency representation, to help ensure the Federal Government's swift and meaningful response to serious incidents that threaten the human rights of LGBT persons abroad.

Sec. 5. Engaging International Organizations in the Fight Against LGBT Discrimination. Multilateral fora and international organizations are key vehicles to promote respect for the human rights of LGBT persons and to



bring global attention to LGBT issues. Building on the State Department's leadership in this area, agencies engaged abroad should strengthen the work they have begun and initiate additional efforts in these multilateral fora and organizations to: counter discrimination on the basis of LGBT status; broaden the number of countries willing to support and defend LGBT issues in the multilateral arena; strengthen the role of civil society advocates on behalf of LGBT issues within and through multilateral fora; and strengthen the policies and programming of multilateral institutions on LGBT issues.

Sec. 6. Reporting on Progress. All agencies engaged abroad shall prepare a report within 180 days of the date of this memorandum, and annually thereafter, on their progress toward advancing these initiatives. All such agencies shall submit their reports to the Department of State, which will compile a report on the Federal Government's progress in advancing these initiatives for transmittal to the President.

Sec. 7. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this memorandum, agencies engaged abroad include the Departments of State, the Treasury, Defense, Justice, Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Export Import Bank, the United States Trade Representative, and such other agencies as the President may designate. (b) For the purposes of this memorandum, agencies involved with foreign aid, assistance, and development include the Departments of State, the Treasury, Defense, Justice, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security, the USAID, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Export Import Bank, the United States Trade Representative, and such other agencies as the President may designate.

This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

The Secretary of State is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

BARACK OBAMA

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/12/06/presidential-memorandum-international-initiatives-advance-human-rights-1> (03/13/2012)



Presidential Proclamation – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 31, 2011

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: A PROCLAMATION

The story of America’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community is the story of our fathers and sons, our mothers and daughters, and our friends and neighbors who continue the task of making our country a more perfect Union. It is a story about the struggle to realize the great American promise that all people can live with dignity and fairness under the law. Each June, we commemorate the courageous individuals who have fought to achieve this promise for LGBT Americans, and we rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.



President Barack Obama delivers remarks at an event observing LGBT Pride month in the East Room of the White House, June 29, 2011

Since taking office, my Administration has made significant progress towards achieving equality for LGBT Americans. Last December, I was proud to sign the repeal of the discriminatory “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy. With this repeal, gay and lesbian Americans will be able to serve openly in our Armed Forces for the first time in our Nation’s history. Our national security will be strength-



ened and the heroic contributions these Americans make to our military, and have made throughout our history, will be fully recognized.

My Administration has also taken steps to eliminate discrimination against LGBT Americans in Federal housing programs and to give LGBT Americans the right to visit their loved ones in the hospital. We have made clear through executive branch nondiscrimination policies that discrimination on the basis of gender identity in the Federal workplace will not be tolerated. I have continued to nominate and appoint highly qualified, openly LGBT individuals to executive branch and judicial positions. Because we recognize that LGBT rights are human rights, my Administration stands with advocates of equality around the world in leading the fight against pernicious laws targeting LGBT persons and malicious attempts to exclude LGBT organizations from full participation in the international system. We led a global campaign to ensure “sexual orientation” was included in the United Nations resolution on extrajudicial execution – the only United Nations resolution that specifically mentions LGBT people – to send the unequivocal message that no matter where it occurs, state-sanctioned killing of gays and lesbians is indefensible. No one should be harmed because of who they are or who they love, and my Administration has mobilized unprecedented public commitments from countries around the world to join in the fight against hate and homophobia.

At home, we are working to address and eliminate violence against LGBT individuals through our enforcement and implementation of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. We are also working to reduce the threat of bullying against young people, including LGBT youth. My Administration is actively engaged with educators and community leaders across America to reduce violence and discrimination in schools. To help dispel the myth that bullying is a harmless or inevitable part of growing up, the First Lady and I hosted the first White House Conference on Bullying Prevention in March. Many senior Administration officials have also joined me in reaching out to LGBT youth who have been bullied by recording “It Gets Better” video messages to assure them they are not alone.

This month also marks the 30th anniversary of the emergence of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has had a profound impact on the LGBT community. Though we have made strides in combating this devastating disease, more work remains to be done, and I am committed to expanding access to HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Last year, I announced the first comprehensive



National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States. This strategy focuses on combinations of evidence-based approaches to decrease new HIV infections in high risk communities, improve care for people living with HIV/AIDS, and reduce health disparities. My Administration also increased domestic HIV/AIDS funding to support the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and HIV prevention, and to invest in HIV/AIDS-related research. However, government cannot take on this disease alone. This landmark anniversary is an opportunity for the LGBT community and allies to recommit to raising awareness about HIV/AIDS and continuing the fight against this deadly pandemic.

Every generation of Americans has brought our Nation closer to fulfilling its promise of equality. While progress has taken time, our achievements in advancing the rights of LGBT Americans remind us that history is on our side, and that the American people will never stop striving toward liberty and justice for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2011 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/31/presidential-proclamation-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-pride-mon> (03/13/2012)



Statement by the President on the Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 20, 2011

Today, the discriminatory law known as 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is finally and formally repealed. As of today, patriotic Americans in uniform will no longer have to lie about who they are in order to serve the country they love. As of today, our armed forces will no longer lose the extraordinary skills and combat experience of so many gay and lesbian service members. And today, as Commander in Chief, I want those who were discharged under this law to know that your country deeply values your service.

I was proud to sign the Repeal Act into law last December because I knew that it would enhance our national security, increase our military readiness, and bring us closer to the principles of equality and fairness that define us as Americans. Today's achievement is a tribute to all the patriots who fought and marched for change; to Members of Congress, from both parties, who voted for repeal; to our civilian and military leaders who ensured a smooth transition; and to the professionalism of our men and women in uniform who showed that they were ready to move forward together, as one team, to meet the missions we ask of them.

For more than two centuries, we have worked to extend America's promise to all our citizens. Our armed forces have been both a mirror and a catalyst of that progress, and our troops, including gays and lesbians, have given their lives to defend the freedoms and liberties that we cherish as Americans. Today, every American can be proud that we have taken another great step toward keeping our military the finest in the world and toward fulfilling our nation's founding ideals.

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/20/statement-president-repeal-dont-ask-dont-tell> (03/13/2012)



Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010

H.R.2965 *One Hundred Eleventh Congress of the United States of America AT THE SECOND SESSION* Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, two thousand and ten.

An Act to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010'.

SECTION 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICY CONCERNING HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) Comprehensive Review on the Implementation of a Repeal of 10 U.S.C. 654-

(1) **IN GENERAL** - On March 2, 2010, the Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum directing the Comprehensive Review on the Implementation of a Repeal of 10 U.S.C. 654 (section 654 of title 10, United States Code).

(2) **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF REVIEW** - The Terms of Reference accompanying the Secretary's memorandum established the following objectives and scope of the ordered review:

(A) Determine any impacts to military readiness, military effectiveness and unit cohesion, recruiting/retention, and family readiness that may result from repeal of the law and recommend any actions that should be taken in light of such impacts. (B) Determine leadership, guidance, and training on standards of conduct and new policies. (C) Determine appropriate changes to existing policies and regulations, including but not limited to issues regarding personnel management, leadership and training, facilities, investigations, and benefits. (D) Recommend appropriate changes (if any) to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. (E) Monitor and evaluate existing legislative proposals to repeal 10 U.S.C. 654 and proposals that may be introduced in the Congress during the period of the review. (F) Assure appropriate ways to monitor the workforce climate and military effectiveness that support successful



- follow-through on implementation. (G) Evaluate the issues raised in ongoing litigation involving 10 U.S.C. 654.
- (b) Effective Date- The amendments made by subsection (f) shall take effect 60 days after the date on which the last of the following occurs:
 - (1) The Secretary of Defense has received the report required by the memorandum of the Secretary referred to in subsection (a).
 - (2) The President transmits to the congressional defense committees a written certification, signed by the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stating each of the following:
 - (A) That the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have considered the recommendations contained in the report and the report's proposed plan of action.
 - (B) That the Department of Defense has prepared the necessary policies and regulations to exercise the discretion provided by the amendments made by subsection (f).
 - (C) That the implementation of necessary policies and regulations pursuant to the discretion provided by the amendments made by subsection (f) is consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention of the Armed Forces.
 - (c) No Immediate Effect on Current Policy- Section 654 of title 10, United States Code, shall remain in effect until such time that all of the requirements and certifications required by subsection (b) are met. If these requirements and certifications are not met, section 654 of title 10, United States Code, shall remain in effect.
 - (d) Benefits- Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed to require the furnishing of benefits in violation of section 7 of title 1, United States Code (relating to the definitions of 'marriage' and 'spouse' and referred to as the 'Defense of Marriage Act').
 - (e) No Private Cause of Action- Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed to create a private cause of action.
 - (f) Treatment of 1993 Policy-
 - (1) TITLE 10 - Upon the effective date established by subsection (b), chapter 37 of title 10, United States Code, is amended –
 - (A) by striking section 654; and
 - (B) in the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, by striking the item relating to section 654.



(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT**- Upon the effective date established by subsection (b), section 571 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (10 U.S.C. 654 note) is amended by striking subsections (b), (c), and (d).

Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

Source: <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h2965/text> (03/13/2012)

President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden shake hands with people in the audience after signing the Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. December 22, 2010



Factsheet: **The Department of State's Accomplishments Promoting the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People**

“Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights, once and for all.”

– Secretary Hillary Clinton, June 2010, Washington, D.C.

Human rights are inalienable and belong to every person, no matter who that person is or whom that person loves. Since January 2009, Secretary Clinton has directed the Department to champion a comprehensive human rights agenda – one that includes the protection of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. The Department uses its full range of diplomatic and development tools to press for the elimination of violence and discrimination against LGBT people worldwide, particularly those forced to flee their homes or countries.



The Department continues to counter efforts globally that discriminate against, criminalize, and penalize members of the LGBT community. The United States recognizes the unflagging efforts and courage of advocates and organizations fighting to promote equality and justice around the world, especially in countries where doing so puts their lives and their families at risk. At the same time, u.s. personnel policies must protect the human rights of all LGBT people, and consular and other tools must be used to provide equal access and equal rights to LGBT people.

u.s. leadership on advancing human rights for LGBT people is consistent with the Obama Administration's policy of principled engagement with the world and our commitment to uphold universal standards that apply to everyone. By supporting the inherent dignity of each person we help to foster a just world for all people and we lead by example, enhancing u.s. strategic interests as we advance our values.

Under the Secretary's leadership, the Department's recent accomplishments include:

Bilateral and Regional Engagement:

- The Department has included the status of the human rights of LGBT people in each country included in the Department's annual Human Rights Report.
- The State Department works with u.s. embassies, civil society, and multi-lateral mechanisms, agencies, and forums to encourage countries to repeal or reform laws that criminalize LGBT status.
- Alongside Ugandan civil society's strong and sustained outreach to parliamentarians and the Uganda Human Rights Commission, and advocacy of other governments, u.s. Government advocacy against Uganda's proposed Anti-Homosexuality Bill established a precedent for the United States, the international donor community and civil society to collaborate to counter efforts to criminalize same-sex conduct.
- The u.s. Ambassador called on the Honduran government to investigate a rise in violence and the unsolved murders of over 30 LGBT individuals. With u.s. Government support, Honduras created a special unit to investigate crimes against vulnerable groups, including women, LGBT people, and journalists. A u.s. prosecutor and senior detective collaborated with the unit to prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes.



- The Bureau of African Affairs compiled a complete analysis of the LGBT environment for every country on the continent, which includes comprehensive information on discriminatory laws, NGOs, societal attitudes, and prosecutions of LGBT individuals. This analysis will guide U.S. diplomatic efforts to promote the human rights of LGBT persons across the continent.
- In the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Chiefs of Mission are speaking publicly on behalf of human rights of LGBT people, engaging with local media on LGBT issues, and building strong partnerships with NGOs. When many European countries celebrated the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia in May and LGBT Pride Month in June, U.S. embassies engaged robustly, with Ambassadors marching in Pride parades and Embassy staff securing high-profile speakers and advocates for LGBT Pride events.
- The Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA) authored the Department's first regional strategy on LGBT engagement after analyzing criminalization of and discrimination against LGBT persons. The strategy promotes expanding public outreach, and awareness of human rights of LGBT people, by creating and leveraging partnerships and utilizing multilateral venues like the United Nations and the Organization of American States. WHA holds regular roundtables with LGBT groups and civil society organizations and, in March, hosted the first interagency conference on LGBT communities. The U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica constantly raises LGBT issues in conversations with Jamaican officials and media. During Pride Month, the Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs met in San Salvador with LGBT civil society organizations from 21 countries.
- The Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs continues to promote LGBT issues through advocacy, outreach, and high-level engagement. Embassy Jakarta organized a meeting between LGBT rights groups and Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero in July 2011.

Successfully Promoting LGBT Human Rights In Multilateral Forums

- At the UN Human Rights Council's (HRC) June 2011 session, the United States, South Africa, and Latin American and European Union countries led efforts to pass the first-ever UN resolution on the human rights of LGBT persons.



- At the HRC’s March 2011 session, the United States co-chaired efforts of a core group of countries to issue a statement entitled “Ending Acts of Violence and Related Human Rights Violations Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.” The statement garnered the support of 85 countries, including 20 that had never before supported similar statements on the promotion of LGBT persons’ rights.
- In December 2010, the State Department led efforts at the UN General Assembly to reinsert language on sexual orientation into a resolution on extrajudicial, summary, and arbitrary executions, after the language’s removal in committee. The amendment was approved by a 93–55 margin.
- The State Department is working to establish a special rapporteur on the protection of the human rights of LGBT people within the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights, after President Obama raised the importance of LGBT issues in a meeting with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff earlier this year.
- The United States also partnered with Brazil and others to secure adoption of a resolution on human rights, sexual orientation, and gender identity at the Organization of American States General Assembly in June.

Protecting LGBT Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Migrants

- The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) is working to improve the security of LGBT refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants by implementing a comprehensive LGBT refugee protection strategy developed in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs.
- Progress includes additional funding to UNHCR in places such as Turkey to help with resettlement of LGBT refugees, training for staff working on refugee protection, and the expansion of PRM’s NGO guidelines to ensure partners know that LGBT refugees and asylum seekers are a priority population of concern.
- PRM is also funding new programs in this area, including research to develop best practices for serving LGBT refugees in urban areas and a pilot initiative in Costa Rica on the needs of LGBT migrants.



Supporting LGBT Human Rights Defenders and Civil Society Groups

- To strengthen civil society groups, support advocates, and increase public dialogue, the Department of State is launching the Secretary's Global Equality Fund, a public-private partnership initiative to advance the human rights of LGBT people. The State Department is contributing more than \$3 million to this important effort, and will seek partnership commitments from donor governments, corporations, and foundations.
- The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) will support programming through the Global Equality Fund in the following priority areas:
 - a) *Advance Justice*: Support programs that document violations of the human rights of LGBT individuals, provide legal assistance, and enhance NGO capacity to advocate before host governments and in multilateral forums to ensure policy and practice conform to international human rights standards.
 - b) *Support Advocates*: Provide emergency assistance to NGOs and human rights defenders facing governmental or societal threats, and increase organizational capacity to respond to security concerns.
 - c) *Increase Public Dialogue*: Support programs that enhance public awareness and further positive dialogue, such as inclusive civic education and cultural activities, and build diverse human rights coalitions around public messaging.
- The Fund will complement DRL's existing programs, which include a project in Sierra Leone to increase the capacity of the LGBT community and a regional documentation project in Eastern and Southern Africa to monitor, document, and address human rights violations and abuses in their communities.
- The personal security of LGBT human rights defenders remains a top priority for the Department. The Fund will enhance the Department's efforts to provide human rights defenders with legal representation, security, and, when necessary, relocation support. Since 2010, the Department has provided emergency assistance to over 40 LGBT advocates in 11 countries throughout Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.



Championing Human Rights through Public Diplomacy

- U.S. Embassies worldwide are declaring support for the human rights of LGBT people through innovative public diplomacy.
- In Slovakia, where the 2010 Pride parade ended in violence, Embassy staff brought together more than 20 Ambassadors from other nations to sign a public statement of support for the march and hosted a debate. The U.S. Ambassador marched in the 2011 parade next to the mayor of Bratislava, Slovakia's capital.
- U.S. Embassy staff efforts helped convince pop artist and LGBT advocate Lady Gaga to perform at EuroPride Rome in June 2011. Secretary Clinton's quote, "Gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights," was included in the event's opening remarks and seen throughout the crowd on tee shirts and stickers.
- In Guinea, the U.S. Embassy hosted a public screening of the Guinean film *Dakan*, the first known film on LGBT themes made in Africa.
- In Serbia, the U.S. Ambassador published an op-ed in the high-circulation publication *Blic*, writing, "[I]f you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, know that the United States stands with you, and we are unwavering in our commitment."
- In India, the U.S. Embassy hosted a public discussion with Mayur Suresh, one of the lawyers who successfully challenged the section of the Indian Penal Code that made homosexuality a punishable offense.
- In Jamaica, El Salvador and Panama, local media widely published U.S. Ambassadors' op-eds on the rights of LGBT persons.

Strengthening The Department's Personnel and Consular Policies

- As one of her first acts in office, Secretary Clinton directed a review of whether the State Department could extend additional benefits to domestic partners. Following President Obama's 2009 memorandum on same-sex domestic partners' benefits, the State Department announced extension of the full range of legally available benefits and allowances to same-sex domestic partners of Foreign Service staff serving abroad.
- In June 2010, Secretary Clinton revised State Department equal employment opportunity policy. As the previous policy prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation, the new policy explicitly added protection



against discriminatory treatment of employees and job applicants based on gender identity.

- The State Department revised its Foreign Affairs Manual to allow same-sex couples to obtain passports under the names recognized by their state through their marriages or civil unions.
- In June 2010, the Bureau of Consular Affairs announced new procedures for changing the sex listed on a transgender American's passport, streamlining the process and simplifying requirements to ensure greater dignity and privacy for the applicant.

Source: <http://www.humanrights.gov/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Expanded-Factsheet-on-the-Human-Rights-of-LGBT-People.pdf> (03/13/2012)

Factsheet:

U.S. Department of State Engagement on the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People

BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR

Washington, D.C.

December 6, 2011

“Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights, once and for all.”

– Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, June 2010, Washington, D.C.

Human rights are inalienable and belong to every person, no matter who that person is or whom that person loves. Since January 2009, Secretary Clinton has championed a comprehensive human rights agenda that includes the protection of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Under Secretary Clinton's leadership, the Department is:

- *Engaging* bilaterally and regionally in conjunction with U.S. embassies, civil society, and multilateral agencies to encourage countries to repeal or reform laws that criminalize LGBT conduct or status.



- *Reinforcing* the human rights of LGBT people in multilateral fora, such as the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). In June 2011, the United States joined South Africa and a cross-regional group of co-sponsors in passing the first-ever UN HRC resolution on the human rights of LGBT persons.
- *Promoting* human rights worldwide. U.S. embassies are declaring the United States' support for the human rights of LGBT people through innovative public diplomacy. Ambassadors and embassies host public discussions and private roundtables, publish op-eds and support Pride events.
- *Supporting* LGBT human rights defenders and civil society groups, with programmatic and financial assistance, including efforts to document human rights violations; build advocacy skills; provide advocates with legal representation; and, when necessary, relocation support.
- *Reporting* on the conditions of human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in each of its annual, country-specific Human Rights Reports.
- *Strengthening* the Department's personnel and consular policies. The Secretary extended the full range of legally available benefits and allowances to same-sex domestic partners of foreign service staff serving abroad. The United States also incorporated gender identity into federal equal employment opportunity policies in 2010.
- *Protecting* LGBT refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants through a protection strategy developed with other U.S. Government agencies, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and NGOs.

Source: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/178565.pdf> (03/13/2012)



2011 Celebration of LGBT Pride Month: Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State

Co-Hosted by the Department of State and Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA)
Dean Acheson Auditorium
Washington, D.C.
June 27, 2011

(Applause.) Thank you all. Thank you. Thank you all very much. Thank you. Well, this is an especially momentous and extraordinary time for us to meet for the State Department's annual Pride celebration, the third event we've had here at State since I became Secretary, and the first following the historic vote in New York, which I think gives such visibility and credibility to everything that so many of you have done over so many years, because I look out at this audience and I see a lot of familiar faces of people who have been on the frontlines for many years and have worked so diligently and smartly for the progress that we are seeing.

I do want to recognize, in addition to John, Patrick, and Arturo, who have already been mentioned, Under Secretary Otero and Assistant Secretary Posner and USAID Deputy Director Steinberg and Deputy Assistant Secretary Baer and all who have led our efforts, including Counselor Mills, to protect the rights and well-being of LGBT people worldwide. And I thank Jon Tollefson and GLIFAA for being an invaluable partner in coordinating personnel and policy matters here at State. I'm very honored to receive this award. It really belongs to all of you and so many others in recognition of the work that we've had the opportunity to do together to advance equality around the world.

It is an inspiration, however, to keep working, because we have a long way to go toward a world that affords all people the respect, dignity, and equality that they are entitled to. So in that vein, I wanted to share just a few stories from the past year that I hope will keep us going because they are stories of perseverance and creativity by our Foreign Service officers and civil servants who are representing the United States.

In Honduras, as many of you know, anti-gay violence increased significantly in 2009 and 2010. More than 30 LGBT people were murdered and the



investigations into those crimes appeared to be going nowhere. Then our Embassy team got involved. They publicly called on the Honduran Government to solve the murders, bring the perpetrators to justice, do more to protect all Hondurans from harm. Soon after, the government announced it was creating a taskforce to investigate and prevent hate crimes. And with the help of a United States prosecutor and detective, which our Embassy arranged to be made available to assist in this effort, we are making progress. And I particularly want to thank and recognize Assistant Secretary Valenzuela, because it was his leadership on this issue that really made a difference.

In Slovakia, the country's first-ever Pride parade last year ended in violence. So this year, our Embassy staff worked overtime to help make the parade a success. They brought together more than 20 chiefs of mission from other nations to sign a public statement of support for the march. They hosted a respectful, productive debate on LGBT rights. And on the day of the parade, our ambassador marched in solidarity right next to the mayor of Bratislava.

And then there is the work that our Embassy team in Rome has been doing. Two weeks ago, they played an instrumental role in bringing Lady Gaga to Italy for a EuroPride concert. (*Laughter.*) Now, as many of you know, Lady Gaga is Italian American and a strong supporter of LGBT rights. And the organizers of the EuroPride event desperately wanted her to perform, and a letter to her from Ambassador Thorne was instrumental in sealing the deal. Over 1 million people attended the event, which included powerful words in support of equality and justice.

And then there is the tremendous work that our diplomats have been doing in regional and international institutions to strengthen a shared consensus about how governments should treat their citizens. And we've made the message very consistent and of a high priority. All people's rights and dignity must be protected whatever their sexual orientation or gender identity.

In March, President Obama and Brazilian President Rousseff announced their shared support for the creation of a special rapporteur for LGBT rights within the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights. And we have our Bureau for Western Hemisphere Affairs and our permanent mission to the OAS to thank for that.

Also in March, the United States led a major effort at the Human Rights Council in Geneva to get other countries to sign on in support of a statement on ending violence and criminalization based on sexual orientation and



gender identity. In the end, 85 countries signed the statement, 18 more than ever had signed onto any previous UN statement on LGBT rights.

And in the very next session of the Human Rights Council, just two weeks ago after another major push by American diplomats in Geneva as well as our teams from IO, DRL, EUR, WHA, and other bureaus, the Council passed the first ever UN resolution recognizing the human rights of LGBT people worldwide. And it was especially meaningful that we had South Africa cosponsoring that resolution with us. And with that we took a huge step forward in our work to refute the hateful suggestion that LGBT people are somehow exempt from human rights protections, and we made it absolutely clear that, so far as the United States is concerned and our foreign policy, and our values - that gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights.

Now, it is not just momentous achievements like the Human Rights Council resolution that contribute to progress; it is the day-to-day work of our embassies and AID missions around the world to increase engagement around the issues affecting LGBT rights, especially in those places where people are at risk of violence, discrimination, or criminalization. That's a concern that Johnnie Carson, our assistant secretary for African Affairs, who is currently on travel to Africa, raises regularly with his African leader counterparts; the op-ed that our ambassador to Barbados wrote in support of LGBT rights; the work that our Eric Schwartz, our assistant secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration is doing to lead the training of humanitarian workers to better protect and assist LGBT refugees and asylum seekers; the discussions that undersecretary Maria Otero led about the human rights of LGBT people in our first Global Issues Dialogue with Norway.

And so I want to applaud all of our diplomats and our development experts who continue to reach out to those advocating around the world in Uganda, Malawi, Russia, Turkey, China, and so many other places. Our colleagues are meeting with human rights activists, health authorities, youth activists, sex workers, the full range of people who are involved in and working to protect LGBT people's rights and lives. This is people-to-people diplomacy at its best.

Now, all this progress is worth celebrating, but we cannot forget how much work lies ahead. Because let's just face the facts: LGBT people in many places continue to endure threats, harassment, violence - including sexual violence - in public and private. They continue to flee their homes and nations and seek asylum because they are persecuted for being who they are. They continue



to be targeted for trying to build public support through pride activities such as parades. And what we have long thought is becoming the case, and that is if we can convince people to speak out about their own personal experiences, particularly within their own families, it does begin to change the dialogue.

If you followed closely, which I'm sure all of you did, the debate in New York, one of the key votes that was switched at the end was a Republican senator from the Buffalo area who became convinced that it was just not any longer fair for him to see one group of his constituents as different from another. Senators stood up and talked about nieces and nephews and grandchildren and others who are very dear to them, and they don't want them being objectified or discriminated against. And from their own personal connections and relationships, they began to make the larger connection with somebody else's niece or nephew of grandchild and what that family must feel like.

So we have to continue to stand up for the rights and the well-being of LGBT people, and sometimes it's hard when you're in the middle of a long campaign to see where you're getting. But I've always believed that we would make progress because we were on the right side of equality and justice. Life is getting better for people in many places, and it will continue to get better thanks to our work. So I ask all of you to look for ways to support those who are on the front lines of this movement, who are defending themselves and the people they care about with great courage and resilience. This is one of the most urgent and important human rights struggles of all times. It is not easy, but it is so rewarding.

Pride month is a time for gratitude, for joy, and of course, for pride – pride in ourselves, in our families and friends, in our colleagues, in our community. And at the State Department, there are so many reasons for pride, and the same is true for all of our foreign affairs agencies represented here, from AID to the Peace Corps and others, because we do have so many talented people, and we have so many who are LGBT serving our nation with honor, courage, and skill. And shortly, our military partners will be able to say the same.

So think of the amazing work that has been done in the last year or two, because it truly is a great tribute to those who have fought for these rights, for those who have sacrificed for them, and mostly for our country, because it is our country and our values that truly are being put at the forefront.



And so I say to all of you, thank you. You make our country proud and you make me proud as the Secretary of State to work with you and serve with you every day. But please don't forget that for every proud moment we can share together, there are so many around the world who live in fear, who live in shame, who live in such difficult circumstances. And our work must continue until they have the same opportunity that all of you and so many other Americans have, which is to be recognized for who you are and to be given the respect that you so richly deserve.

Thank you all very much. (*Applause.*)

Source: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/06/167144.htm> (03/13/2012)

Secretary Clinton speaks at the 2011 LGBT Pride Month Celebration event co-hosted by the State Department and GLIFAA





Remarks in Recognition of International Human Rights Day by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State

Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland
December 6, 2011

Good evening, and let me express my deep honor and pleasure at being here. I want to thank Director General Tokayev and Ms. Wyden along with other ministers, ambassadors, excellencies, and UN partners. This weekend, we will celebrate Human Rights Day, the anniversary of one of the great accomplishments of the last century.

Beginning in 1947, delegates from six continents devoted themselves to drafting a declaration that would enshrine the fundamental rights and freedoms of people everywhere. In the aftermath of World War II, many nations pressed for a statement of this kind to help ensure that we would prevent future atrocities and protect the inherent humanity and dignity of all people. And so the delegates went to work. They discussed, they wrote, they revisited, revised, rewrote, for thousands of hours. And they incorporated suggestions and revisions from governments, organizations, and individuals around the world.

At three o'clock in the morning on December 10th, 1948, after nearly two years of drafting and one last long night of debate, the president of the UN General Assembly called for a vote on the final text. Forty-eight nations voted in favor; eight abstained; none dissented. And the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted. It proclaims a simple, powerful idea: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. And with the declaration, it was made clear that rights are not conferred by government; they are the birthright of all people. It does not matter what country we live in, who our leaders are, or even who we are. Because we are human, we therefore have rights. And because we have rights, governments are bound to protect them.

In the 63 years since the declaration was adopted, many nations have made great progress in making human rights a human reality. Step by step, barriers that once prevented people from enjoying the full measure of liberty, the full experience of dignity, and the full benefits of humanity have fallen away.



In many places, racist laws have been repealed, legal and social practices that relegated women to second-class status have been abolished, the ability of religious minorities to practice their faith freely has been secured.

In most cases, this progress was not easily won. People fought and organized and campaigned in public squares and private spaces to change not only laws, but hearts and minds. And thanks to that work of generations, for millions of individuals whose lives were once narrowed by injustice, they are now able to live more freely and to participate more fully in the political, economic, and social lives of their communities.

Now, there is still, as you all know, much more to be done to secure that commitment, that reality, and progress for all people. Today, I want to talk about the work we have left to do to protect one group of people whose human rights are still denied in too many parts of the world today. In many ways, they are an invisible minority. They are arrested, beaten, terrorized, even executed. Many are treated with contempt and violence by their fellow citizens while authorities empowered to protect them look the other way or, too often, even join in the abuse. They are denied opportunities to work and learn, driven from their homes and countries, and forced to suppress or deny who they are to protect themselves from harm.

I am talking about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, human beings born free and given bestowed equality and dignity, who have a right to claim that, which is now one of the remaining human rights challenges of our time. I speak about this subject knowing that my own country's record on human rights for gay people is far from perfect. Until 2003, it was still a crime in parts of our country. Many LGBT Americans have endured violence and harassment in their own lives, and for some, including many young people, bullying and exclusion are daily experiences. So we, like all nations, have more work to do to protect human rights at home.



Now, raising this issue, I know, is sensitive for many people and that the obstacles standing in the way of protecting the human rights of LGBT people rest on deeply held personal, political, cultural, and religious beliefs. So I come here before you with respect, understanding, and humility. Even though progress on this front is not easy, we cannot delay acting. So in that spirit, I want to talk about the difficult and important issues we must address together to reach a global consensus that recognizes the human rights of LGBT citizens everywhere.

The first issue goes to the heart of the matter. Some have suggested that gay rights and human rights are separate and distinct; but, in fact, they are one and the same. Now, of course, 60 years ago, the governments that drafted and passed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were not thinking about how it applied to the LGBT community. They also weren't thinking about how it applied to indigenous people or children or people with disabilities or other marginalized groups. Yet in the past 60 years, we have come to recognize that members of these groups are entitled to the full measure of dignity and rights, because, like all people, they share a common humanity.

This recognition did not occur all at once. It evolved over time. And as it did, we understood that we were honoring rights that people always had, rather than creating new or special rights for them. Like being a woman, like being a racial, religious, tribal, or ethnic minority, being LGBT does not make you less human. And that is why gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights.

It is violation of human rights when people are beaten or killed because of their sexual orientation, or because they do not conform to cultural norms about how men and women should look or behave. It is a violation of human rights when governments declare it illegal to be gay, or allow those who harm gay people to go unpunished. It is a violation of human rights when lesbian or transgendered women are subjected to so-called corrective rape, or forcibly subjected to hormone treatments, or when people are murdered after public calls for violence toward gays, or when they are forced to flee their nations and seek asylum in other lands to save their lives. And it is a violation of human rights when life-saving care is withheld from people because they are gay, or equal access to justice is denied to people because they are gay, or public spaces are out of bounds to people because they are gay. No matter what we



look like, where we come from, or who we are, we are all equally entitled to our human rights and dignity.

The second issue is a question of whether homosexuality arises from a particular part of the world. Some seem to believe it is a Western phenomenon, and therefore people outside the West have grounds to reject it. Well, in reality, gay people are born into and belong to every society in the world. They are all ages, all races, all faiths; they are doctors and teachers, farmers and bankers, soldiers and athletes; and whether we know it, or whether we acknowledge it, they are our family, our friends, and our neighbors.

Being gay is not a Western invention; it is a human reality. And protecting the human rights of all people, gay or straight, is not something that only Western governments do. South Africa's constitution, written in the aftermath of Apartheid, protects the equality of all citizens, including gay people. In Colombia and Argentina, the rights of gays are also legally protected. In Nepal, the supreme court has ruled that equal rights apply to LGBT citizens. The Government of Mongolia has committed to pursue new legislation that will tackle anti-gay discrimination.

Now, some worry that protecting the human rights of the LGBT community is a luxury that only wealthy nations can afford. But in fact, in all countries, there are costs to not protecting these rights, in both gay and straight lives lost to disease and violence, and the silencing of voices and views that would strengthen communities, in ideas never pursued by entrepreneurs who happen to be gay. Costs are incurred whenever any group is treated as lesser or the other, whether they are women, racial, or religious minorities, or the LGBT. Former President Mogae of Botswana pointed out recently that for as long as LGBT people are kept in the shadows, there cannot be an effective public health program to tackle HIV and AIDS. Well, that holds true for other challenges as well.

The third, and perhaps most challenging, issue arises when people cite religious or cultural values as a reason to violate or not to protect the human rights of LGBT citizens. This is not unlike the justification offered for violent practices towards women like honor killings, widow burning, or female genital mutilation. Some people still defend those practices as part of a cultural tradition. But violence toward women isn't cultural; it's criminal. Likewise with slavery, what was once justified as sanctioned by God is now properly reviled as an unconscionable violation of human rights.



In each of these cases, we came to learn that no practice or tradition trumps the human rights that belong to all of us. And this holds true for inflicting violence on LGBT people, criminalizing their status or behavior, expelling them from their families and communities, or tacitly or explicitly accepting their killing.

Of course, it bears noting that rarely are cultural and religious traditions and teachings actually in conflict with the protection of human rights. Indeed, our religion and our culture are sources of compassion and inspiration toward our fellow human beings. It was not only those who've justified slavery who leaned on religion, it was also those who sought to abolish it. And let us keep in mind that our commitments to protect the freedom of religion and to defend the dignity of LGBT people emanate from a common source. For many of us, religious belief and practice is a vital source of meaning and identity, and fundamental to who we are as people. And likewise, for most of us, the bonds of love and family that we forge are also vital sources of meaning and identity. And caring for others is an expression of what it means to be fully human. It is because the human experience is universal that human rights are universal and cut across all religions and cultures.

The fourth issue is what history teaches us about how we make progress towards rights for all. Progress starts with honest discussion. Now, there are some who say and believe that all gay people are pedophiles, that homosexuality is a disease that can be caught or cured, or that gays recruit others to become gay. Well, these notions are simply not true. They are also unlikely to disappear if those who promote or accept them are dismissed out of hand rather than invited to share their fears and concerns. No one has ever abandoned a belief because he was forced to do so.

Universal human rights include freedom of expression and freedom of belief, even if our words or beliefs denigrate the humanity of others. Yet, while we are each free to believe whatever we choose, we cannot do whatever we choose, not in a world where we protect the human rights of all.

Reaching understanding of these issues takes more than speech. It does take a conversation. In fact, it takes a constellation of conversations in places big and small. And it takes a willingness to see stark differences in belief as a reason to begin the conversation, not to avoid it.

But progress comes from changes in laws. In many places, including my own country, legal protections have preceded, not followed, broader recog-



dition of rights. Laws have a teaching effect. Laws that discriminate validate other kinds of discrimination. Laws that require equal protections reinforce the moral imperative of equality. And practically speaking, it is often the case that laws must change before fears about change dissipate.

Many in my country thought that President Truman was making a grave error when he ordered the racial desegregation of our military. They argued that it would undermine unit cohesion. And it wasn't until he went ahead and did it that we saw how it strengthened our social fabric in ways even the supporters of the policy could not foresee. Likewise, some worried in my country that the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" would have a negative effect



Secretary Clinton Speaking at the United Nations Office at Geneva



on our armed forces. Now, the Marine Corps Commandant, who was one of the strongest voices against the repeal, says that his concerns were unfounded and that the Marines have embraced the change.

Finally, progress comes from being willing to walk a mile in someone else's shoes. We need to ask ourselves, "How would it feel if it were a crime to love the person I love? How would it feel to be discriminated against for something about myself that I cannot change?" This challenge applies to all of us as we reflect upon deeply held beliefs, as we work to embrace tolerance and respect for the dignity of all persons, and as we engage humbly with those with whom we disagree in the hope of creating greater understanding.

A fifth and final question is how we do our part to bring the world to embrace human rights for all people including LGBT people. Yes, LGBT people must help lead this effort, as so many of you are. Their knowledge and experiences are invaluable and their courage inspirational. We know the names of brave LGBT activists who have literally given their lives for this cause, and there are many more whose names we will never know. But often those who are denied rights are least empowered to bring about the changes they seek. Acting alone, minorities can never achieve the majorities necessary for political change.

So when any part of humanity is sidelined, the rest of us cannot sit on the sidelines. Every time a barrier to progress has fallen, it has taken a cooperative effort from those on both sides of the barrier. In the fight for women's rights, the support of men remains crucial. The fight for racial equality has relied on contributions from people of all races. Combating Islamophobia or anti-Semitism is a task for people of all faiths. And the same is true with this struggle for equality.

Conversely, when we see denials and abuses of human rights and fail to act, that sends the message to those deniers and abusers that they won't suffer any consequences for their actions, and so they carry on. But when we do act, we send a powerful moral message. Right here in Geneva, the international community acted this year to strengthen a global consensus around the human rights of LGBT people. At the Human Rights Council in March, 85 countries from all regions supported a statement calling for an end to criminalization and violence against people because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.



At the following session of the Council in June, South Africa took the lead on a resolution about violence against LGBT people. The delegation from South Africa spoke eloquently about their own experience and struggle for human equality and its indivisibility. When the measure passed, it became the first-ever UN resolution recognizing the human rights of gay people worldwide. In the Organization of American States this year, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights created a unit on the rights of LGBT people, a step toward what we hope will be the creation of a special rapporteur.

Now, we must go further and work here and in every region of the world to galvanize more support for the human rights of the LGBT community. To the leaders of those countries where people are jailed, beaten, or executed for being gay, I ask you to consider this: Leadership, by definition, means being out in front of your people when it is called for. It means standing up for the dignity of all your citizens and persuading your people to do the same. It also means ensuring that all citizens are treated as equals under your laws, because let me be clear – I am not saying that gay people can't or don't commit crimes. They can and they do, just like straight people. And when they do, they should be held accountable, but it should never be a crime to be gay.

And to people of all nations, I say supporting human rights is your responsibility too. The lives of gay people are shaped not only by laws, but by the treatment they receive every day from their families, from their neighbors. Eleanor Roosevelt, who did so much to advance human rights worldwide, said that these rights begin in the small places close to home – the streets where people live, the schools they attend, the factories, farms, and offices where they work. These places are your domain. The actions you take, the ideals that you advocate, can determine whether human rights flourish where you are.

And finally, to LGBT men and women worldwide, let me say this: Wherever you live and whatever the circumstances of your life, whether you are connected to a network of support or feel isolated and vulnerable, please know that you are not alone. People around the globe are working hard to support you and to bring an end to the injustices and dangers you face. That is certainly true for my country. And you have an ally in the United States of America and you have millions of friends among the American people.

The Obama Administration defends the human rights of LGBT people as part of our comprehensive human rights policy and as a priority of our foreign policy. In our embassies, our diplomats are raising concerns about specific



cases and laws, and working with a range of partners to strengthen human rights protections for all. In Washington, we have created a task force at the State Department to support and coordinate this work. And in the coming months, we will provide every embassy with a toolkit to help improve their efforts. And we have created a program that offers emergency support to defenders of human rights for LGBT people.

This morning, back in Washington, President Obama put into place the first U.S. Government strategy dedicated to combating human rights abuses against LGBT persons abroad. Building on efforts already underway at the State Department and across the government, the President has directed all U.S. Government agencies engaged overseas to combat the criminalization of LGBT status and conduct, to enhance efforts to protect vulnerable LGBT refugees and asylum seekers, to ensure that our foreign assistance promotes the protection of LGBT rights, to enlist international organizations in the fight against discrimination, and to respond swiftly to abuses against LGBT persons.

I am also pleased to announce that we are launching a new Global Equality Fund that will support the work of civil society organizations working on these issues around the world. This fund will help them record facts so they can target their advocacy, learn how to use the law as a tool, manage their budgets, train their staffs, and forge partnerships with women's organizations and other human rights groups. We have committed more than \$3 million to start this fund, and we have hope that others will join us in supporting it.

The women and men who advocate for human rights for the LGBT community in hostile places, some of whom are here today with us, are brave and dedicated, and deserve all the help we can give them. We know the road ahead will not be easy. A great deal of work lies before us. But many of us have seen firsthand how quickly change can come. In our lifetimes, attitudes toward gay people in many places have been transformed. Many people, including myself, have experienced a deepening of our own convictions on this topic over the years, as we have devoted more thought to it, engaged in dialogues and debates, and established personal and professional relationships with people who are gay.

This evolution is evident in many places. To highlight one example, the Delhi High Court decriminalized homosexuality in India two years ago, writing, and I quote, "If there is one tenet that can be said to be an underlying theme of the Indian constitution, it is inclusiveness." There is little doubt in



my mind that support for LGBT human rights will continue to climb. Because for many young people, this is simple: All people deserve to be treated with dignity and have their human rights respected, no matter who they are or whom they love.

There is a phrase that people in the United States invoke when urging others to support human rights: “Be on the right side of history.” The story of the United States is the story of a nation that has repeatedly grappled with intolerance and inequality. We fought a brutal civil war over slavery. People from coast to coast joined in campaigns to recognize the rights of women, indigenous peoples, racial minorities, children, people with disabilities, immigrants, workers, and on and on. And the march toward equality and justice has continued. Those who advocate for expanding the circle of human rights were and are on the right side of history, and history honors them. Those who tried to constrict human rights were wrong, and history reflects that as well.

I know that the thoughts I’ve shared today involve questions on which opinions are still evolving. As it has happened so many times before, opinion will converge once again with the truth, the immutable truth, that all persons are created free and equal in dignity and rights. We are called once more to make real the words of the Universal Declaration. Let us answer that call. Let us be on the right side of history, for our people, our nations, and future generations, whose lives will be shaped by the work we do today. I come before you with great hope and confidence that no matter how long the road ahead, we will travel it successfully together.

Thank you very much. (*Applause.*)

Source: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/12/178368.htm> (03/13/2012)



Live at State with DAS Daniel Baer: LGBT Issues and U.S. Policy

Daniel Baer, Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
Holly Jensen
Washington, D.C.
January 31, 2012

Ms. Jensen: Hi. Welcome to LiveAtState, the State Department's interactive webchat platform for engaging with international media. I'm your host, and today I am joined in the studio by Deputy Assistant Secretary Dan Baer, where he'll be talking about foreign policy issues and LGBT.

Before I turn it over to Dan, I would just like to make a few housekeeping notes. If at any time during the program you experience any problems and you can't submit your questions in the lower left-hand portion of your screen, I ask that you email us directly at LiveAtState.gov. And if you're having problems listening, you can also call us on our listen-only phone bridge, and the number is listed in the lower left-hand portion of your screen. Right now, you can start to ask your questions for Dan Baer in the window at the bottom titled, "Questions for DAS Baer." And with that, I will turn it over to you. Thanks for joining us today.

Mr. Baer: Great. Thanks so much. Thanks, everybody who's out there watching. Thanks very much to the watch parties that I know are going on in various embassies around the world – Paramaribo, I heard, and Kyiv and Warsaw. Thanks to the people watching in Geneva and other places around the world, all over Latin America, I've heard. So it's great to be with you this morning.

This is really an opportunity for me to get to follow up and to do some Q&A with you all in the wake of the Secretary's speech last month in Geneva on December 6th, which was her Human Rights Day speech where she talked about human rights applying to everyone, including LGBT people. That speech was really not a kickoff event but a continuation event, continuing the leadership that the Secretary and President Obama have demonstrated on this issue since the beginning of the Obama Administration and following up on a lot of work that we've got underway here at the State Department and at our embassies around the world. So today, I look forward to the interaction.



I look forward to hearing what's on your mind and doing my best to answer your questions. So let's just turn to questions.

Ms. Jensen: All right. Our first question comes from Pablo Simonetti: Will the United States encourage other states, as Chile for example, to develop laws that set rules, public policies, and affirmative actions to fight LGBT discrimination?

Mr. Baer: I think what the Secretary laid out was that we will support and work with partners, those who are interested in having technical conversations about how you develop laws so that they are inclusive and nondiscriminatory. Yes, absolutely, we'd be happy to engage with partners like Chile and others around the world on developing various kinds of law.

I mean, what we've found in the United States is that it has been an ongoing process in making our laws more inclusive on many fronts, but oftentimes it gets down to the nitty-gritty of various regulations about who gets access to certain public housing or how you handle various questions around health-care or things like that. And so there's actually an in-depth practical process that has to be undertaken.

Once a legislature or a government decides that they are going to make the law inclusive, there's an implementation process that has to be undertaken. And we would be happy to work with partners around the world on discussing how we've done that and how our Department of Justice enforces nondiscrimination provisions in our law, et cetera, to help make sure that, as much as possible, every person is treated equally under the law.

Ms. Jensen: Great. Just a quick reminder that you can follow us on Twitter using our official handle @statedept, and if you would like to continue this conversation today, you can do so by using the hashtag #Dignity4All. That's Dignity-the number 4-All.

Our next question comes from Visar Hoti from TV TEMA in Kosovo: Kosovo society is pretty conservative, and although there are no laws forbidding homosexuality, public display of affection between same-sex couples are not accepted as normal, hence the expression or promotion of rights of the LGBT persons are not seen as proper in Kosovo, according to many international human rights watchdogs. What is your experience with conservative societies in promoting the rights of LGBT persons, and what was your approach to help them overcome these cultural barriers or taboo problems in terms of legislation upgrade, institutional capacity building, and awareness raising?



Mr. Baer: Thanks very much for that multi-part question. I think that what we've found and what many others have found around the world who have been working within their own societies to advocate for tolerance, to advocate for treating everyone equally, is that in many, many places, it requires an ongoing and a long-term conversation. And I think one of the things that I most appreciated about Secretary Clinton's speech last month was that it really was overall an invitation to a conversation. It was not a lecture; it was an invitation to work through a set of questions that people have.

And the invitation was put out there understanding that, for many people, this is a difficult issue to think through and work through. But it was put out there at the same time with the very clear conviction that all people are people and that being gay doesn't make you less human and doesn't make you less entitled to human rights. And so working through these questions is an ongoing process.

I think in terms of what can be done, there's work to be done from the bottom up in the conversations that we each have with our friends and our associates at work or at our church or synagogue or mosque or wherever we may find ourselves. We can help build cultures of tolerance in everything that we do every day. And there is indeed work that can be done from the top down. Having public figures, whether they be political leaders or celebrities or anybody else who has access to a public platform, having them speak out and articulate a message of equality that is not about anybody being special or having special privileges but is about the fundamental commitment to treat everyone equally and that everybody is equally entitled to dignity, I think that can have a huge impact in every society on both helping others embrace that notion and also reinforcing that notion where it's already reflected in law and culture.

Ms. Jensen: Our next question comes from Katherine Zappone: Sending great appreciation to the President and Secretary of State for their groundbreaking initiative of the USA support of rights of LGBT people throughout the world. Does this represent or reflect any changes in U.S. domestic policy re rights of LGBT people, and will we be able to exchange models of good practice between countries and with the USA as part of this initiative?

Mr. Baer: I think that it has developed alongside on a parallel track with a series of changes that have happened domestically, most notably perhaps with the



repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell legislation, which happened a little over a year ago, which was the legislation that didn't permit LGBT soldiers from serving openly in our military. So there have been a series of changes. There have been other changes. Secretary Clinton made changes domestically to the State Department in terms of how LGBT employees are treated and how their partners are treated under our employment benefits and things like that. So there have been other changes that have happened for Americans, if you will, that have accompanied the parallel track of our engagement abroad.

And I think that in general, one of the things that we've tried to do in our human rights policy and recognizing that human rights is a fundamental plank of U.S. foreign policy is to embrace and acknowledge the fact that we want to lead by example and that what happens here at home reflects on our leadership in the world. And so I think there is a concerted effort across the board to be consistent in our practice and in what we advocate and the principles that we think will undergird a more stable, peaceful, and democratic world.

Ms. Jensen: Our next question comes from Shengjyl Osmani from BIRN Kosovo: What are the practices of the USA applicable to other societies towards establishing full rights and a culture of respect and acceptance for the LGBT community?

Mr. Baer: I think the practices aren't unique to – first of all, it's great that Kosovo is so well represented today. I think the practices that are most applicable to the question of securing equality for LGBT people are not themselves unique to the question of securing equality for LGBT people. I think what we see both in the American context and in many places around the world is that – and one of the things that Secretary Clinton has made a hallmark of her administration – is that having a free and vibrant civil society, a civil society that is allowed to organize citizens around issues, that is allowed to appeal to the government to do better, that is allowed to engage with government and make recommendations about how government can better serve citizens – that that's really crucial.

And I think if you look back at the progress that we've made as a country toward a more perfect union, toward a country that is more respectful of the equality of each and every citizen, I think that progress is largely attributable not – it certainly wouldn't have been possible without the leadership of those in civil society. Obviously, Dr. King is somebody who comes to mind,



and he was not a government figure, and yet he is somebody who many of us credit with having shifted the national conversation in ways that we are all still benefitting from today. And so I think if there's one principle that we would articulate around the world – and Secretary Clinton talked about this in Krakow in July of 2010 – it's the need to support civil society and to make sure that laws that attempt to clamp down on civil society or sham trials that try to lock up the leaders of NGOs, that those are rejected, and that people are allowed to express their views and debate them and contribute to a national conversation.

Ms. Jensen: Please note that at this time during the program, you will see our 10 in-language Twitter feeds scrolling across the bottom of your screen. If you'd like to join us, you can do so in-language or you can do it at our @StateDept, our official State Department Twitter feed.

Our next question comes from Gay Center Rome: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that gay rights are human rights. This was a brave statement which challenged the countries in the world where homosexuality is considered as a crime, as well as those, like Italy, where attempts to legislate on these matters is met by strong resistance. What is the U.S. planning to do to promote gay rights around the world?

Mr. Baer: We're – well, first of all, I would say that going back to what the Secretary said, if – your question, "What are we planning to do to promote gay rights around the world," the first answer is that when we take that on, we define that as promoting human rights for LGBT people, the same human rights that we promote and that Democratic and Republican administrations in the United States have seen as a hallmark of our foreign policy for many, many years. And so this is not a – this is not something new in that sense. This is making sure that our approach is inclusive and that we are really focusing, because fundamental to human rights is the idea that each and every person is entitled to them by virtue of being human, that we are indeed widening our focus and making sure that we are including each and every person in that focus, including LGBT people.

In more practical terms, what we're doing – we're doing a range of things. We engage diplomatically with partners around the world, in both places where this is a more difficult conversation and places where we're working with other governments who want to collaborate with us and help to secure



Daniel Baer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor



rights for everybody around the world. So we have a range of conversations ongoing with other governments at the government-to-government level. We have been very supportive of South Africa's leadership, particularly in the Human Rights Council, where a resolution was passed last June that the South Africans led on, and was co-sponsored by many others from all regions of the world that condemned violence against LGBT people. So we've been working in the UN fora to support that.

And then we've been working a lot on the ground, and I think one of the kind of theories of change that we ascribe to is the idea that progress on human rights generally is made from within, and the best thing that we can do often, as a government, is to really focus on supporting those who are making the case for change within their own societies. And sometimes that means shining a spotlight on their work because they can benefit from that, both in terms of getting their message out and also in keeping safe. Sometimes that means just having conversations with them or convening groups at our embassies or going out to meet with them and hear about the challenges that they're facing so that we can link them up to others who may be able to help. And in many places, we also provide grants that provide technical assistance, that help train people on advocacy, et cetera.

One of the things that I've found – and I try to meet with LGBT NGOs around the world when I travel – one of the things that I've found is many times, if there are LGBT NGOs that are working on these issues, they are isolated from other human rights NGOs, even in their country. And so one of the things that we've been focusing on is: How can we help these well-intentioned human rights defenders who are working on human rights for LGBT people?



What kind of training do they need? Do they need help learning how to run an organization? Do they need help learning how to put together a media campaign? Do they need help learning how to document abuses so that they can base their advocacy on factual records?

And so we're working very hard, and all of our embassies have been instructed to and are doing a great job of following up in local contexts to make sure that we're in touch with those who are working on advancing human rights for everyone within their own communities.

Ms. Jensen: Our next question comes from a watch party in Suriname: Why are LGBT rights a priority for the U.S. Government?

Mr. Baer: I think the answer to that is simply that human rights are a priority for the U.S. Government. When President Obama gave the Nobel lecture after he won the Nobel Prize, he talked about the fact that the only lasting peace would be a peace that was based on the inherent dignity of every person. And I think that one of the things that this Administration has recognized is that in many places around the world, as in our own past and present, LGBT people are often left out, pushed aside. They don't have access to social services. Sometimes they are thrown in jail, sometimes they are even killed for who they are. And that if we believe that human rights apply to everyone and that human – that a world that respects human rights is more likely to be safe, prosperous, and good for all of us, then it stands to reason that we should be committed to human rights for everyone.

And because in many places, LGBT people, like other minority groups, other vulnerable groups, are left out and pushed aside, it makes sense to focus concerted effort on making sure that our human rights policy and that human rights protections around the world include everyone.

Ms. Jensen: Our next question comes from Stefano Bolognini: Today, Mrs. Elsa Fornero, Italian minister of welfare and equal opportunities, declared her full commitment to the fight against any discrimination of homosexual and transgender people. In your opinion, and also considering the action of your government on this issue, which steps should be taken by a democratic nation against this kind of discrimination? And as regards to the American Administration, what are the initiatives that you will undertake within the United Nations in order to achieve a full decriminalization of homosexuality throughout the world?



Mr. Baer: I haven't yet seen the minister's comments, but I think one answer to your question about what can be done is obviously to have ministers make those kinds of public commitments. I think it has a great impact on all of those. Obviously, certainly, when Secretary Clinton says something, I'm listening, and I take that as a signal toward what I should do. So I believe that in other governments as well, when the minister talks the people below the minister listen and it changes the way they do their business. And so I think having the minister speak out is a great step. I think there are a range of tools, and oftentimes there are domestic institutions that allow for review, whether that's through the courts or through nation human rights commissions or through consultations with judicial experts, et cetera.

I think there are a range of ways to review the current domestic law and regulations and to identify areas that may need to be revised. And so I think once there is commitment and political will behind a particular change in policy, then the question becomes largely a practical one of how do you go about implementing it. And the u.s. experience has been one way, and there are many others to draw from.

So in respect to your question about the UN, as I said, we've really been very supportive of South Africa's leadership on this issue at the Human Rights Council and we intend to continue to support South Africa and their leadership. There will be a panel discussion at the Human Rights Council on March 7th during the March session, where human rights of LGBT people will be discussed. So that's the next upcoming event, and we're looking forward to that. We think that that will be another chance to have a conversation.

There was a report that was issued recently in December by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights which talked about various international legal instruments, parts of international human rights law, and how they apply to LGBT people. So that's another place where it hasn't been because we've been directly involved but it's another part of the UN that has been engaged on these issues. And as I said, we continue to be interested in working with our partners around the world. We're certainly not the only ones who are interested in this, and we continue to look to work with them not only bilaterally but also in the context of the UN as well.



Ms. Jensen: Our next question comes from Sergey Ilupin from Russia, a blogger and LGBT activist: Russian law does not recognize LGBT as a social group and does not contain the term homophobia. It is impossible to prove the homophobic reasons of dismissal, beating, or murder of LGBT people. Moreover, the law prohibiting propaganda of homosexuality has recently been passed in a few regions of Russia. In fact, this law aims to paralyze the activity of LGBT rights organizations. What steps are you planning to take to help us overcome this situation?

Mr. Baer: The situation in Russia is obviously very difficult, and we are well aware of that. To – I think the first step is there are many places where LGBT is not called out as a particular vulnerable group that needs protection, and in those cases – and indeed, in the U.S. hate crimes law has been a recent innovation and in the last few years. And so I think where there isn't specific protection in the law, you have to rely on the general protections that apply to everyone. Now, I understand that in various contexts even those protections are not firm enough supports and that they are unevenly applied and often discriminatorily applied. And that is a real challenge. I think as much as possible, appealing to general protections of freedom of expression or freedom of association is obviously the legal route that is available.

Now, you also raise the worrying trend, which we've seen not only in Russia but in other places around the world, of trying to limit speech as a way of trying to curtail various forms of citizen participation in government or citizen activism. And I think one of the things that really needs to be highlighted about these kinds of laws, the laws that say you can't talk about homosexuality, is that they're not just a limitation of speech for LGBT people, they're a limitation of speech for all Russians or all people, all citizens of whatever states in which they might be – or municipalities in which they might be considered. And so they are a violation of international standards of freedom of expression, and we should argue against them not because we're seeking to protect one particular community but because we're seeking to protect that standard of freedom of expression for everyone.

In terms of the specific instances that you raise, I think we've been very clear in our disagreement with that kind of legislation, and we will continue to urge that such legislation is not a way forward that is consistent with international human rights obligations and that it's unlikely to solve any problems that it may be identified as solving.



Ms. Jensen: Our next question comes from Julian Neaves : Will there be any penalties for countries that refuse to adopt anti-discriminatory policies?

Mr. Baer: The Secretary's speech really laid out what we see as an affirmative policy. Really, it was a commitment to engage in a conversation with partners and with those who have much more progress to make around the world on making sure that rights are secured for everyone. So it was not intended to be a message about penalties or demerits or detractions. It was intended to be an affirmative message about the value that we can all derive out of seeing that everyone is protected. So that's really the aim of our policy right now, and that's the aim of our assistance to the extent that we're investing in grants for NGOs, et cetera.

What we're trying to do is help make sure that when we invest in civil society abroad that we're making sure that we're investing in civil society across the board, including civil society that advocates on behalf of vulnerable groups like LGBT people. So this isn't – this wasn't meant to be a threatening message. It was an invitation to a conversation and to an opportunity to make progress in all societies, including our own.

Ms. Jensen: Our next question comes from Embassy Warsaw: We know that the U.S. Secretary of State monitors human rights situations across the globe. What is the mechanism of reacting for cases of violation of LGBT rights by other countries? In other words, how is the U.S. Government going to react in the case of violation of LGBT right across the world?

Mr. Baer: That's a good question about the – kind of how we operationalize the policy, and it's one of the things that we've been working on internally. But I would say that the Secretary, over a year ago, sent out a message to all of our ambassadors around the world asking them to engage on human rights for LGBT people as part of our comprehensive human rights policy. And obviously we rely on – in all aspects of our foreign policy, we rely on our embassies around the world to really give us a heads up when things are happening and to let us know what their assessment is of facts on the ground and how we might be – how, if at all, we might be most effective in reaching out to the government or making any kind of public comment or reaching out to help an activist who may in trouble, those kinds of things.

And I've been really thrilled in the last few years to see how embassies are, around the world, are taking seriously this work. We've always had a great



relationship with embassies in terms of their feeding back into Washington cases of concern about activists who get in trouble for speaking out or for advocating for women's rights or for taking on a corrupt judiciary or things like that. And so that has continued, and we've seen that embassies have, in many cases, raised cases of LGBT people who get in trouble or raise cases of laws that are being contemplated that we ought to be aware of and that we ought to be considering how we can make the case that those laws are not necessary and would be counterproductive. So we really rely on our embassies a lot for the hard work that they do every day. There's a human rights officer in every embassy around the world who makes it their primary responsibility to follow these issues, and we have a great partnership with them back here in Washington.

Ms. Jensen: Our next question comes from Embassy Kyiv in the Ukraine: LGBT individuals in Ukraine have no protection against being fired if their sexual orientation or gender identity is discovered. Has the U.S. considered working with American chambers of commerce, the Foreign Commercial Service, or economic sections in embassies to encourage U.S. firms working abroad or international firms in any country to adopt LGBT-friendly human relations policies?

Mr. Baer: You've hit on something that we are in conversations right now about how best to engage the private sector. It's something that a lot of people have raised that the private sector really has an opportunity to play a role here, and how should we talk to them about that. One of the reasons that people bring this up, of course, is that in the American context, it's a little-known fact, but in the u.s. there is no federal legislation protecting – right now protecting LGBT people against discriminatory firing and employment. However, the American private sector has really led the way. And so I believe – I don't know what the exact proportion is, but it's the vast, vast majority of Fortune 500 companies have as a matter of corporate policy nondiscrimination policies that include LGBT people.

And the private sector has led the way on this, because it makes sense for business that you don't want to lose out on any talent for a silly reason. And so they've made their own choices, and I think that there certainly is an opportunity. It's probably the case that that principle applies in other places around the world as well, and so there's certainly an opportunity for the private sector to lead in other places around the world as well. And that's a conversation that



I've started to have with a few friends in the private sector who have raised it with me, but we'll be continuing to talk to friends, including in the chambers of commerce, et cetera, about what the opportunities are.

Ms. Jensen: We have another question from Suriname: What would you say to the people who claim that LGBT rights is a Western product with its promotion of a form of imperialism?

Mr. Baer: I think I would refer back to what the Secretary said in her speech. There has long been a myth that being LGBT is a Western phenomenon and that therefore the commitment to protect LGBT people is a peculiarly Western thing. I think that demeans non-Western societies. Non-Western societies have commitments to human rights just like Western ones and have concepts of universalism just like Western ones, and I don't see their commitments as any less valuable or real when compared to Western societies.

And so the commitment to human rights is a commitment to human rights for everyone. And I think that as a matter of history it's interesting, because one of the things that I hear when I talk to folks often – I travel often in Africa, and one of the things I hear there is to say that protecting LGBT rights is – the human rights for LGBT people is a Western thing is actually a complete inversion, because, in most cases, the provisions and law that are discriminatory or that criminalize LGBT conduct or status are legacies of imperialism. They were left by Western governments and are still in place.

And so I don't think the right way to approach this is that it applies to one region of the world. It applies to all regions of the world. Neither – it's important to note – neither are the problems that LGBT people face solely non-Western phenomenon. There are problems that LGBT people face in my country and all over the countries in Europe. There are still hate crimes in the United States. There is still discrimination in the United States. This is something that we all can work on and that there're improvements to be made in every country around the world. So it's not a Western thing; it's a universal thing. And being gay isn't a Western thing; it's a human thing.

Ms. Jensen: The next question comes from Matthew Jenkin: When the U.S. is still very much divided on gay rights issues such as marriage; does that lessen the impact of America's pressure on other countries to establish LGBT equal rights?

Mr. Baer: As I said earlier, I think that we have a general commitment in our



approach to foreign policy to lead by example. And so obviously, domestic policy has implications in how we are understood internationally. And it's well understood that we have an ongoing conversation domestically about the question of marriage; however, I think that even for those who don't recognize a difference in kind in the question of marriage or the question of decriminalization, I think that you can recognize a difference in degree between the question of marriage and whether or not somebody should be killed or thrown in prison for who they are.

And so I think that we've found that the conversation about the fact that nobody should be killed or beaten or abused for who they are or who they love, that's conversation that we can have with many, many partners around the world, and including in places where some people are surprised that the reception is collaborative and productive. So I think that's something that everyone can agree on and that we'll continue to expect that other conversations will continue not only in the United States but also in other places around the world.

Ms. Jensen: Rob Salerno wants to know: It's been well known that the U.S.-based evangelical organizations have been supporting efforts at criminalizing homosexuality in many countries, notably Uganda. Does the U.S. bear any responsibility for these actions? And if so, how can the U.S. prevent American organizations from undermining LGBT rights abroad?

Mr. Baer: We wouldn't – we don't seek to limit the activities of civil society or religious groups domestically or internationally, and there are many, many American groups that do enormously good work around the world. I know that there are reports of a number of organizations that have been advocating for laws that have, as their ultimate effect, a limitation on the human rights not only of LGBT people but of other people. Because many times these laws cast a very wide net, and obviously it's very important to understand the context in which you're working in order to be able to know what kinds of effects your actions will take.

One of the things that – as I've talked with the religious community here, one of the things that I've been asked to do and that I've tried to do domestically is to engage in a conversation about how religious organizations that are doing work abroad can best understand the context in which they're working and what the implications or the effects of their work might be. I spoke at



conference at the Union Theological Seminary in New York in October and talked about the challenge of reconciling religious beliefs that hold that homosexuality is a sin with the commitment that each person is entitled to dignity and should be free from violence or being thrown in prison for who they are.

And I think that's a – it's a serious conversation, and we shouldn't shy away from it. And there are religious people who are willing to have that conversation, and we should engage in that conversation and really identify the way forward that allows us to do justice to both. And one of the things that Secretary Clinton said in her speech, which I deeply believe, is that for many of us religious beliefs are a great source of meaning, they help us understand the world around us, and they help us – they give meaning to our daily life. And at the same time, for many of us, the person who we choose to make a life with and who we love is also a great source of meaning and gives us a way to understand the world around us. So the ultimate effect of both of those things can be something that is enlarging, and we want to make sure that we are protecting the space for each individual to pursue not only his or her religious beliefs but also to be able to live a life of dignity.

Ms. Jensen: We have time for one more question, and it comes from Claudia Calleja from the Times of Malta: Two lesbian teenage girls were recently beaten up in Malta because of their sexual orientation. Various organizations called for better legal protection for LGBT people. What measures should governments take to protect LGBT people from such attacks?

Mr. Baer: Well, I think the focus on better legal protection is a good one. I think one of the things that we see around world is that when crimes or abuses go unpunished or uninvestigated they are more likely to be repeated. And so one of the things that any society can do to help combat violence or abuse against any vulnerable group is to get serious about investigating and redouble efforts to investigate and prosecute those who are responsible. And that's something that we've struggled with domestically throughout the decades but that we've gotten increasingly better at. And we have an entire division at our Department of Justice that prosecutes cases of discrimination. We now have a federal hate crimes law, and so we can prosecute federal hate crimes. And I think really focusing on that legal aspect is important.

But of course, there's also the broader commitment which those laws evidence, and so again, here, this is a time where it's an opportunity for



leaders to speak out and to condemn violence against anyone and to say that it shouldn't be part of a democratic and rights respecting society and that it won't be tolerated. And I think the opportunities for leadership – whenever somebody who is vulnerable is being pushed out, pushed down, cast aside, violated in some way, there's an opportunity for leadership to step up and to reject that and to say that that's not the kind of society in which we want to live. And so I think both the legal aspect and the political aspect are opportunities here.

Ms. Jensen: Well, that's all the time we have for today. I'd like – I know that there are a lot of questions still pending in the queue, and I'd like to apologize, but we got to as many of your questions as we could in the 30 minutes we had. I'd like to thank you all for the amazing questions and I'd like to thank you for joining us today. There will be a full audio and video clip of today's program available shortly after the conclusion of today's webchat. If you'd like to get the latest information from the State Department, you can do so by following us on any of our ten in-language Twitter feeds, or you can continue this conversation now on Twitter using the Twitter handle @StateDept and the hashtag #dignity4all. That's dignity, the number 4, all. We look forward to doing this again with you in the near future. Have a great day.

Source: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ime/182834.htm> (03/13/2012)

Ambassador Philip D. Murphy on LGBT and Human Rights

Berlin, January 27, 2012

Happy New Year! *Ein glückliches neues Jahr!*

A new year is a time for new beginnings, fresh ideas, and moving forward.

Just before the new year, in early December – on Human Rights Day – the u.s. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke at UN headquarters in Geneva. Our government must stand up, she said, everywhere around the world, for a long-oppressed, often abused, and often forgotten minority. With this speech, she announced that the United States had instructed all its agencies around the world to oppose efforts by other countries to criminalize homosexuality,



discriminate against gays or lesbians, or permit abuse of people in the lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender communities. This new policy, she noted, was sure to run against some people's deeply-held personal, political, cultural or religious beliefs. Progress would be neither easy nor swift.



Ambassador Murphy (middle) with U.S. swimming medalists at the Gay Games in Cologne 2010

Nevertheless, in this new year, we will be working to make progress in ensuring human rights for all people. A few months ago, in another editorial, I made a plea for people to overcome racial discrimination and to put aside the false beliefs that allow it to continue. Sexual orientation, like skin color or any other inherent human trait, can take a variety of forms. But these differences among us as individuals cannot be grounds for discrimination, oppression, threat, harassment, bullying, social stigma, or isolation. "Deeply-held beliefs" do not negate the human rights of others, and minorities must be able to live with the same freedom and dignity as the majority. "Like being a woman," Secretary Clinton noted, "like being a racial, religious, tribal or ethnic minority, being LGBT does not make you less human."

As with racial discrimination, the U.S. certainly does not have a perfect record on this count, and neither the Secretary nor I intend our comments as moral lectures to other nations. But we are trying to get this right, and we know that one way forward on difficult or sensitive matters is to talk to each other about things we consider important.



Das ist wichtig: Es geht darum, sich für Menschen einzusetzen. Es geht darum anzuerkennen, dass es einfach nicht richtig ist, andere Menschen anzugreifen, nur weil sie so sind, wie sie sind. Keine Religion, kein Glaube kann Gewalt, Unterdrückung oder vorsätzliche Grausamkeit rechtfertigen.

On the u.s. Embassy website (<http://germany.usembassy.gov>) there is a link to Secretary Clinton's remarkable speech in Geneva and I urge you to read it for yourself.

Among the people listening to this video podcast, there will be someone, a young man or woman, for whom this entire discussion is not just theoretical, someone who has experienced firsthand the harassment, pain and humiliation this policy tries to address and to correct. Even in Germany. Even in the United States. Sadly, ignorance, intolerance and cruelty can exist anywhere.

Ich möchte jedem, der diese Form des Hasses einmal spüren musste, sagen: Egal welche schrecklichen Situationen Sie auch durchlebt haben oder durchleben – lassen Sie sich davon nicht unterkriegen. Die Wunden werden irgendwann heilen. Sie sind nicht alleine und Sie werden Menschen finden, die Sie unterstützen, akzeptieren und so lieben, wie Sie sind.

Our world remains very much in need of the unique talents and gifts of every person. To give those talents voice, we must learn to protect, value, and respect every human being, regardless of what they look like, where they come from, or whom they love.

Source: <http://blogs.usembassy.gov/hamburg/2012/01/27/botschafter-murphy-uber-menschenrechte-und-LGBT> (03/13/2012)



Consul General Inmi Patterson on U.S. LGBT and HIV/AIDS policy in an interview with northern Germany's LGBT magazine "Hinnerk"

Welt-AIDS-Tag

Es ist der 1. Dezember. Jeder kann das erste Türchen am Adventskalender öffnen, sich beim heute gestarteten neuen Gay-Network nearox tummeln, für einen guten Zweck auf dem Weihnachtsmarkt Santa Pauli trinken oder aber sich einfach ein paar Gedanken machen. Heute „feiert“ – so komisch es auch klingt – HIV 30. Geburtstag.

Weltweit gibt es 34 Millionen Infizierte und täglichen kommen 7400 Menschen dazu. Das sind die Zahlen, die das AIDSprogramm der Vereinten Nationen heute vorstellt. In Deutschland sind in den letzten Jahrzehnten rund 29000 Menschen an der Immunschwäche gestorben. Momentan sind es im Schnitt zehn pro Woche.

Kommenden Sonntag, am 4. Dezember, feiert Hamburg zum ersten Mal die „Red Night“. Die Benefizgala findet in den Fliegenden Bauten statt. Der Erlös geht an die Hamburger AIDS-Hilfe. Geboten wird an dem Abend eine bunte Mischung aus Musik, Comedy und Artistik. Aber es soll auch ernste Worte geben! Ehrengast der AIDS-Gala ist US-Generalkonsulin Inmi K. Patterson. *Hinnerk* hat vorab mit ihr gesprochen.

Hinnerk: Mrs. Patterson, Sie sprechen bei der Hamburger AIDS-Gala am 4. Dezember ein Grußwort. Was ist dabei Ihr Anliegen?

Mrs. Patterson: In meiner Zeit in Kenia habe ich viele Erfahrungen mit dem Thema AIDS gemacht und viel darüber gelernt, wie schrecklich diese Krankheit sein kann. Sie betrifft ja nicht nur schwule Männer, sondern auch Frauen und Kinder. Für die Regierung von Präsident Obama ist es wichtig, alle Menschen, die mit HIV und AIDS leben, in die Gesellschaft einzubinden. Ich teile dieses Anliegen.

Hinnerk: Nach 30 Jahren ist AIDS kaum noch in den Schlagzeilen. Wie wird das Thema in den USA wahrgenommen?

Mrs. Patterson: Bei uns hat sich das Verständnis für das Thema AIDS sehr



langsam entwickelt. Nehmen sie nur ein Beispiel: Erst dieses Jahr im August hat Präsident Obama das Einreiseverbot für HIV-Positive aufgehoben. Da ist die Frage: Warum hat das so lange gedauert?

Hinnerk: Haben Sie eine Antwort?

Mrs. Patterson: Es hatte etwas mit der Angst vor der damals neuen, unbekannteren Krankheit zu tun, die AIDS einmal war. Ich glaube, das war sehr menschlich, weil man zu Beginn nicht viel darüber wusste.

Hinnerk: Wie wird das Thema heute in der amerikanischen Gesellschaft gesehen?

Mrs. Patterson: Das ist heute kein Thema mehr. Das gesellschaftliche Bewusstsein hat sich sehr stark weiterentwickelt. AIDS gehört zum Alltag.

Hinnerk: Aus Sicht von uns Europäern wirkt die amerikanische Gesellschaft in Fragen der Sexualität sehr konservativ. Haben es homosexuelle Männer, die ja die Hauptbetroffenen sind, haben es HIV-Positive und AIDS-Kranke in den USA schwerer als hierzulande?

Mrs. Patterson: Meiner Meinung nach nicht. Für uns gilt, was Hillary Clinton einmal gesagt hat: „Gay rights are human rights“. Diskriminierung ist keine Lösung: Heute bin ich vielleicht das Opfer von Diskriminierung, und morgen dann ein anderer. Wenn man immer nur diskriminiert, weil jemand eine Frau ist, ein Homosexueller oder ein Türke – wer bleibt dann am Ende übrig?

Hinnerk: Viele Schwule und Lesben haben große Hoffnungen in Barack Obama gesetzt. Was hat er bislang bewirkt?

Mrs. Patterson: Der Präsident hat diverse Maßnahmen zur Gleichstellung von Homosexuellen, Bisexuellen und Transgender auf nationaler Ebene durchgesetzt. Er hat zum Beispiel dafür gesorgt, dass Schwule, Lesben und Bisexuelle in den US-Streitkräften ihre sexuelle Orientierung offen leben können, ohne disziplinarische Maßnahmen fürchten zu müssen. Es mussten viele Schwierigkeiten überwunden werden, bis das Gesetz am 20. September dieses Jahres in Kraft treten konnte. Schon Präsident Clinton hat sich daran versucht, damals wurde die problematische Regel „Don't ask, don't tell“ geboren.

Auch Hillary Clinton hat sich schon zu ihrer Zeit als First Lady für die Stärkung der LGBT-Rechte eingesetzt und setzt dieses Engagement als Außenministerin heute konsequent erfolgreich fort. Im März dieses Jahres beispielsweise



haben die Vereinigten Staaten eine Initiative des UN-Menschenrechtsrates federführend unterstützt, was dazu führte, dass 85 Länder eine Resolution zur Beendigung von Gewalt und Menschenrechtsverletzungen im Zusammenhang mit sexueller Orientierung und geschlechtlicher Identität unterstützt haben. Für die USA hat diese Frage eine hohe Priorität. Die Rechte und Würde aller Menschen müssen geschützt werden, egal welche sexuelle Orientierung oder geschlechtliche Identität sie haben.

Hinnerk: Welche Botschaft können Sie mit nach Amerika nehmen, wenn Sie sich mit dem Thema AIDS, aber auch mit der Situation von Homosexuellen in Deutschland beschäftigen?

Mrs. Patterson: Bei der Gala zum Christopher Street Day hat mir jemand erzählt, dass sie es in Deutschland manchmal leichter haben, weil führende Politiker offen homosexuell leben. In den USA können Homosexuelle nur in wenigen Staaten heiraten, in Europa ist die Situation in vielen Ländern besser. Vielleicht kann das eine Anregung sein, auch zu stärkerer Zusammenarbeit.

Von: Christian Ewert und Stefan Mielchen

Source: http://www.hinnerk.de/no_cache/news/news/article/welt-AIDS-tag//2336453cbb3co43323abbd2e43ab7a5a (03/13/2012)

A shortened version of the interview was also published in the print edition of Hinnerk, no. 12/2011.



Consul General Inmi Patterson and Lars Peters, chairman of Hamburg Pride, at the Hamburg Pride Night on July 30, 2011



U.S. Policy on HIV / AIDS

– Selected Documents and Speeches –

Background Information on the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

PEPFAR

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the U.S. Government initiative to help save the lives of those suffering from HIV/AIDS around the world. This historic commitment is the largest by any nation to combat a single disease internationally, and PEPFAR investments also help alleviate suffering from other diseases across the global health spectrum. PEPFAR is driven by a shared responsibility among donor and partner nations and others to make smart investments to save lives.

The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator manages PEPFAR. The Coordinator is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate to coordinate and oversee the U.S. global response to HIV/AIDS. The Coordinator reports directly to the Secretary of State. Ambassador Eric Goosby currently serves as the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator.

Global Health Initiative

PEPFAR is the cornerstone and largest component of the U.S. President's Global Health Initiative. With a special focus on improving the health of women, newborns and children, the Global Health Initiative's goal is to save the greatest number of lives by increasing and building upon what works and, then, supporting countries as they work to improve the health of their own people.

PEPFAR's Targets for Fiscal Years 2010-2014

Prevention

- support the prevention of more than 12 million new HIV infections;
- ensure that every partner country with a generalized epidemic has both 80% coverage of testing for pregnant women at the national level, and 85% coverage of antiretroviral drug (ARV) prophylaxis and treatment, as indicated, of women found to be HIV-infected;
- double the number of at-risk babies born HIV-free, from the 240,000 babies of HIV-positive mothers who were born HIV-negative during the first five years of PEPFAR;



- in every partner country with a generalized epidemic, provide 100% of youth in PEPFAR prevention programs with comprehensive and correct knowledge of the ways HIV/AIDS is transmitted and ways to protect themselves, consistent with Millennium Development Goal indicators in this area.

Care, Support and Treatment

- provide direct support for more than 4 million people on treatment, more than doubling the number of people directly supported on treatment during the first five years of PEPFAR;
- support care for more than 12 million people, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children; and
- ensure that every partner country with a generalized epidemic reaches a threshold of 65% coverage for early infant diagnosis at the national level, and testing of 80% of older children of HIV-positive mothers, with increased referrals and linkages to care and treatment.

Sustainability

- support training and retention of more than 140,000 new health care workers to strengthen health systems;
- in order to support country ownership, ensure that in each country with a major PEPFAR investment (greater than \$5 million), the partner government leads efforts to evaluate and define needs and roles in the national response; and
- ensure that in every partner country with a Partnership Framework, each country will change policies to address the larger structural conditions, such as gender-based violence, stigma, or low male partner involvement, which contribute to the spread of the epidemic.

PEPFAR's Program Results

Annually, PEPFAR reports on results achieved by its programs across the range of prevention, treatment and care programs. Reflecting America's commitment to saving lives affected by HIV/AIDS, PEPFAR is supporting countries in providing HIV prevention, treatment and care to their people.

- The U.S. directly supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for more than 3.9 million men, women and children worldwide as of September 30, 2011.

- PEPFAR directly supported HIV testing and counseling for *more than 9.8 million pregnant women* in fiscal year 2011. PEPFAR supported *antiretroviral drug prophylaxis to prevent mother-to-child transmission* for more than 660,000 of these women who tested positive for HIV, allowing approximately 200,000 infants to be born HIV-free.
- PEPFAR directly supported nearly *13 million people with care and support*, including *more than 4.1 million orphans and vulnerable children*, in fiscal year 2011.
- PEPFAR directly supported HIV counseling and testing for more than *40 million people* in fiscal year 2011, providing a critical entry point to prevention, treatment, and care.
- The U.S. is the first and largest donor to the *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*. To date, the U.S. has provided more than \$5.8 billion to the Fund. Of the estimated 6.6 million individuals in low- and middle-income countries who currently receive treatment, nearly *5.6 million* receive support through PEPFAR bilateral programs, the Global Fund, or both.

Last revised: 12/5/2011

Source: <http://AIDS.gov/federal-resources/around-the-world/PEPFAR> (03/13/2012)



A red ribbon is displayed on the North Portico of the White House, November 30, 2010, in advance of World AIDS Day



U.S. Government Global AIDS Activities

A number of United States government agencies have come together in the common cause of turning the tide against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. They support a range of activities – from research to technical assistance and financial support to other nations – to combat the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. These global activities are coordinated with PEPFAR.

Department of State

The U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator reports directly to the Secretary of State. At the direction of the Secretary, the Department of State's support for the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) includes:

- Providing human resources services;
- Tracking budgets within its accounting system;
- Transferring funds to other implementing agencies; and
- Providing office space, communication, and information technology services.

Chiefs of Mission provide essential leadership to interagency HIV/AIDS teams and, along with other U.S. officials, engage in policy discussions with host-country leaders to generate additional attention and resources for the pandemic and ensure strong partner coordination.

Department of Health and Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a long history of HIV/AIDS work within the United States and internationally. HHS is a partner in the unified U.S. Government effort to implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). HHS implements prevention, treatment, and care programs in developing countries and conducts HIV/AIDS research through:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Global AIDS Program

CDC works with Ministries of Health and other public health partners, through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, to combat HIV/AIDS by strengthening health systems and building sustainable, evidence-based HIV/AIDS programs in more than 75 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and



South America, and the Caribbean. CDC's Global AIDS Program (GAP) has highly trained physicians, epidemiologists, public health advisors, behavioral scientists, and laboratory scientists working in countries around the world as part of U.S. government teams implementing the Emergency Plan. GAP is uniquely positioned to coordinate with CDC's other global health programs, such as global disease detection, public health training, and prevention and control of other infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, as well as with CDC's domestic HIV/AIDS prevention programs in the United States.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

FDA manages an expedited review process to ensure implementers can buy safe and effective antiretroviral drugs for the Emergency Plan at the lowest possible prices. This process has significantly reduced the cost of treatment by making the quality generic products available for registration and marketing in the 15 Emergency Plan focus countries. The result is that more patients receive treatment at a lower cost with high-quality antiretroviral drugs.

Health Resources and Services Administration Global HIV/AIDS Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) operates its Global HIV/AIDS Program through HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau. HRSA builds human capacity for scaling up care and treatment based on its more than 20 years of experience in providing quality, comprehensive HIV/AIDS care to underserved communities. HRSA's Global HIV/AIDS strategy focuses on health system strengthening and human resources for health. HRSA implements strategies through activities such as twinning, training and technical assistance, rapid roll-out of antiretroviral drugs, mentoring for nursing leadership, and enhancement of the continuum of palliative care.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIH supports a comprehensive program of basic, clinical, and behavioral research on HIV infection and its associated opportunistic infections, co-infections, and malignancies. This research will lead to a better understanding of the basic biology of HIV/AIDS, the development of effective therapies to treat it, and the design of better interventions to prevent new infections, including vaccines and microbicides. NIH, through its 27 Institutes and Centers, including coordination and support from the Fogarty International Center,



supports an international research and training portfolio that encompasses more than 90 countries, and it is the lead Federal agency for biomedical research on HIV/AIDS.

In addition, the National Library of Medicine, a component of the National Institutes of Health, is the world's largest medical library. The Library collects materials and provides information and research services in all areas of biomedicine and health care. Two resources related global HIV/AIDS are:

- International Resources – A collection on non-Federal international HIV/AIDS resources compiled by the National Library of Medicine's Specialized Information Services.
- Organizations for Health Professionals – A collection on non-Federal organizations involved in international efforts to combat HIV/AIDS compiled by the National Library of Medicine's Specialized Information Services.

Office of Global Health Affairs

Located in the Office of the Secretary, the mission of the Office of Global Health Affairs is to promote the health of the world's population by advancing the Secretary's and the Department of Health and Human Services' global strategies and partnerships, thus serving the health of the people of the United States. OGHHA coordinates all of the HHS agencies to be sure the Department's resources are working effectively and efficiently under the leadership of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

SAMHSA works domestically through U.S. State and community programs to treat addiction and dependence, to prevent substance abuse, and to provide mental health services, including support of an educational and training center network that disseminates state-of-the-art information and best practices. HHS and PEPFAR country teams are applying this technical expertise and program experience to the program areas of drug and alcohol abuse in the Emergency Plan.

Department of Commerce

The DoC has provided and continues to provide in-kind support to PEPFAR, aimed at furthering private sector engagement by fostering public-private partnerships.

Department of Defense

The Department of Defense (DoD) implements PEPFAR programs by supporting HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care, strategic information, human capacity development, and program and policy development in host militaries and civilian communities of 73 countries around the world. These activities are accomplished through direct military-to-military assistance, support to nongovernmental organizations and universities, and collaboration with other U.S. Government agencies in country. Members of the defense forces in 13 PEPFAR focus countries have been the recipients of DoD military-specific HIV/AIDS prevention programs designed to address their unique risk factors, in addition to treatment and care programs for their personnel.

Department of Labor

The DoL implements Emergency Plan workplace-targeted projects that focus on prevention and reduction of HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. DoL has programs in over 23 countries and has received PEPFAR funding for projects in Guyana, Haiti, India, Nigeria, and Vietnam. As of March 2006, DoL programs that work with the International Labor Organization and the Academy for Educational Development have helped 415 enterprises adopt policies that promote worker retention and access to treatment. These programs have reached more than 2,500,000 workers now covered under protective HIV/AIDS workplace policies. DoL brings to all these endeavors its unique experience in building strategic alliances with employers, unions, and Ministries of Labor, which are often overlooked and difficult to target.

Peace Corps

The Peace Corps is heavily involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS, with programs in approximately 90 percent of its 67 posts, serving 73 countries throughout the world. In its global, biennial Peace Corps volunteer survey (fiscal year 2006), 55 percent of all volunteers report being involved in at least one HIV/AIDS activity (e.g., awareness, prevention, orphans, care, etc.) during their service - a significant increase over the 25 percent reported in fiscal year 2004. The Peace Corps implements Emergency Plan programs in nine of the 15 Emergency Plan focus countries - Botswana, Guyana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Peace Corps posts in these countries are using Emergency Plan resources to enhance their HIV/



AIDS programming and in-country training; field additional Crisis Corps and Peace Corps volunteers specifically in support of Emergency Plan goals; and provide targeted support for community-initiated projects.

USAID

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent Federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. USAID implementation of PEPFAR programs extends to nearly 100 countries. USAID takes a comprehensive and balanced approach to combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic and tailors programs, activities, and interventions appropriately for the country context. Since the inception of its HIV/AIDS program in 1986, USAID has been on the forefront of the global AIDS crisis.

- **Technical Areas** – USAID supports and implements a variety of programs in technical areas critical to fighting HIV/AIDS in the countries USAID operates. These technical areas include Treatment, Prevention, Care and Support, Research, and Sustainability and Health Systems Strengthening.
- **Supply Chain Management System (SCMS)** – Funded by PEPFAR, and managed by USAID, the SCMS project has been helping host nations increase their capacity for delivering essential lifesaving HIV/AIDS medicines and supplies to people in need of treatment and care since 2005.
- **HIV/AIDS and Gender** – Integrating gender across HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care programs with an emphasis on transformative interventions is a key guiding principle in the HIV/AIDS work of USAID in partnership with PEPFAR.

Last revised: 12/5/2011

Source: <http://AIDS.gov/federal-resources/around-the-world/us-government-global-AIDS-activities/index.html> (03/13/2012)



Remarks by the President on World AIDS Day 2011

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
December 1, 2011
George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you, Sanjay. It is an honor to be with you today and to follow President Kikwete and President Bush. To Bono and Alicia, to the ONE campaign, thank you for bringing us together. Because of your work, all across Africa there are children who are no longer starving, mothers who are no longer dying of treatable diseases, fathers who are again providing for their families. And because of all of you, so many people are now blessed with hope.

We've got members of Congress who have done so much for this cause who are here today, and we want to thank them. Let me also thank President Bush for joining us from Tanzania and for his bold leadership on this issue. I believe that history will record the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief as one of his greatest legacies. And that program – more ambitious than even the leading advocates thought was possible at the time – has saved thousands and thousands and thousands of lives, and spurred international action, and laid the foundation for a comprehensive global plan that will impact the lives of millions. And we are proud that we have the opportunity to carry that work forward.

Today is a remarkable day. Today, we come together as a global community, across continents, across faiths and cultures, to renew our commitment to ending the AIDS pandemic once and for all.

Now, if you go back and you look at the themes of past World AIDS Days, if you read them one after another, you'll see the story of how the human race has confronted one of the most devastating pandemics in our history. You'll see that in those early years – when we started losing good men and women to a disease that no one truly understood – it was about ringing the alarm,



President Barack Obama delivers remarks on World AIDS Day event at George Washington University in Washington, December 1, 2011



calling for global action, proving that this deadly disease was not isolated to one area or one group of people.

And that's part of what makes today so remarkable, because back in those early years, few could have imagined this day – that we would be looking ahead to “The Beginning of the End,” marking a World AIDS Day that has gone from that early beginning when people were still uncertain to now a theme, “Getting to Zero.” Few could have imagined that we'd be talking about the real possibility of an AIDS-free generation. But that's what we're talking about. That's why we're here. And we arrived here because of all of you and your unwavering belief that we can – and we will – beat this disease.

Because we invested in anti-retroviral treatment, people who would have died, some of whom are here today, are living full and vibrant lives. Because we developed new tools, more and more mothers are giving birth to children free from this disease. And because of a persistent focus on awareness, the global rate of new infections and deaths is declining.

So make no mistake, we are going to win this fight. But the fight is not over – not by a long shot. The rate of new infections may be going down elsewhere, but it's not going down here in America. The infection rate here has been holding steady for over a decade. There are communities in this country being devastated, still, by this disease.

When new infections among young black gay men increase by nearly 50 percent in 3 years, we need to do more to show them that their lives matter. When Latinos are dying sooner than other groups, and when black women feel forgotten, even though they account for most of the new cases among women, then we've got to do more.



So this fight is not over. Not for the 1.2 million Americans who are living with HIV right now. Not for the Americans who are infected every day. This fight is not over for them, it's not over for their families, and as a consequence, it can't be over for anybody in this room – and it certainly isn't over for your President.

Since I took office, we've had a robust national dialogue on HIV/AIDS. Members of my administration have fanned out across the country to meet people living with HIV; to meet researchers, faith leaders, medical providers and private sector partners. We've spoken to over 4,000 people. And out of all those conversations, we drafted a new plan to combat this disease. Last year, we released that plan – a first-ever national HIV/AIDS strategy.

We went back to basics: prevention, treatment and focusing our efforts where the need is greatest. And we laid out a vision where every American, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socioeconomic status, can get access to life-extending care.

And I want to be clear about something else: Since taking office, we've increased overall funding to combat HIV/AIDS to record levels. With bipartisan support, we reauthorized the Ryan White Care Act. And as I signed that bill, I was so proud to also announce that my administration was ending the ban that prohibited people with HIV from entering America. (*Applause.*) Because of that step, next year, for the first time in two decades, we will host the international AIDS conference. (*Applause.*)

So we've done a lot over the past three years, but we can do so much more. Today, I'm announcing some new commitments. We're committing an additional \$15 million for the Ryan White Program that supports care provided by HIV medical clinics across the country. We want to keep those doors open so they can keep saving lives. We're committing an additional \$35 million for state AIDS-drug assistance programs.

The federal government can't do this alone, so I'm also calling on state governments, and pharmaceutical companies, and private foundations to do their part to help Americans get access to all the life-saving treatments.

This is a global fight, and it's one that America must continue to lead. Looking back at the history of HIV/AIDS, you'll see that no other country has done more than this country, and that's testament to our leadership as a country. But we can't be complacent.



I think this is an area where we can also look back and take pride that both Republicans and Democrats in Congress have consistently come together to fund this fight – not just here, but around the world. And that’s a testament to the values that we share as Americans; a commitment that extends across party lines, that’s demonstrated by the fact that President Bush, President Clinton and I are joining you all today.

Since I took office, we’ve increased support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. We’ve launched a Global Health Initiative that has improved access to health care, helping bring down the cost of vaccines, and over the next five years, will help save the lives of 4 million more children. And all along, we kept focusing on expanding our impact.

Today, I’m proud to announce that as of September, the United States now supports anti-retroviral treatment for nearly 4 million people worldwide. (*Applause.*) Four million people. And in just the past year, we’ve provided 600,000 HIV-positive mothers with access to drugs so that 200,000 babies could be born HIV-free. (*Applause.*) And nearly 13 million people have received care and treatment, including more than 4 million children. So we’ve got some stuff to be proud of.

But we’ve got to do more. We’re achieving these results not by acting alone, but by partnering with developing countries like Tanzania, and with leaders like President Kikwete.

Now, as we go forward, we’ve got to keep refining our strategy so that we’re saving as many lives as possible. We need to listen when the scientific community focuses on prevention. That’s why, as a matter of policy, we’re now investing in what works – from medical procedures to promoting healthy behavior.

And that’s why we’re setting a goal of providing anti-retroviral drugs to more than 1.5 million HIV-positive pregnant women over the next two years so that they have the chance to give birth to HIV-free babies.

We’re not going to stop there. We know that treatment is also prevention. And today, we’re setting a new target of helping 6 million people get treatment by the end of 2013. (*Applause.*) That’s 2 million more people than our original goal.

And on this World AIDS Day, here’s my message to everybody who is out there: To the global community – we ask you to join us. Countries that have committed



to the Global Fund need to give the money that they promised. (*Applause.*) Countries that haven't made a pledge, they need to do so. (*Applause.*) That includes countries that in the past might have been recipients, but now are in a position to step up as major donors. China and other major economies are in a position now to transition in a way that can help more people.

To Congress – keep working together and keep the commitments you've made intact. At a time when so much in Washington divides us, the fight against this disease has united us across parties and across presidents. And it shows that we can do big things when Republicans and Democrats put their common humanity before politics. So we need to carry that spirit forward.

And to all Americans – we've got to keep fighting. Fight for every person who needs our help today, but also fight for every person who didn't live to see this moment; for the Rock Hudsons and the Arthur Ashes, and every person who woke us up to the reality of HIV/AIDS. We've got to fight for Ryan White and his mother Jeanne, and the Ray brothers, and every person who forced us to confront our destructive prejudices and our misguided fears. Fight for Magic Johnson and Mary Fisher, and every man, woman and child, who, when told they were going to die from this disease, they said, "No, we're not. We're going to live."

Keep fighting for all of them because we can end this pandemic. We can beat this disease. We can win this fight. We just have to keep at it, steady, persistent – today, tomorrow, every day until we get to zero. And as long as I have the honor of being your President, that's what this administration is going to keep doing. That's my pledge. That's my commitment to all of you. And that's got to be our promise to each other – because we've come so far and we've saved so many lives, we might as well finish the fight.

Thank you for all you've done. God bless you. God bless America.
Thank you. (*Applause.*)

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/12/01/remarks-president-world-AIDS-day>
(03/13/2012)



Remarks on “Creating an AIDS-Free Generation” by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State

National Institutes of Health’s Masur Auditorium, Bethesda
November 8, 2011

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. And it is, for me, a distinct personal pleasure to be back here at NIH, a set of institutions that I admire so much and which are so critically important not only to our own country and to the future of science here but indeed around the world.

I want to begin by thanking Francis Collins for his leadership and for the work that he has done. I well remember those times talking about your research and the extraordinary excitement around it, Francis.

And I want to thank Tony for his kind words but also his leadership. It’s not easy to follow one of the top 20 federal employees of all time. (*Laughter.*) But I think *Government Executive Magazine* got it just right – a richly deserved recognition.

As I came in, I saw some other friends: Dr. Harold Varmus, with whom I’ve had the privilege to work both when he was here at NIH and then in New York; Dr. Nora Volkow and her work which is so important; and Dr. John Gallin as well.

But for me, this is a special treat because here in this room are some of America’s best scientists and most passionate advocates, true global health heroes and heroines, in an institution that is on the front lines of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

I want to recognize some special people who are here today: Ambassador Eric Goosby, our Global AIDS Coordinator, and his predecessor, Mark Dybul; Lois Quam, the executive director of our Global Health Initiative; Dr. Tom Frieden from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe; and others who are part of this Administration’s global health efforts and the multilateral organizations with which we work.

I also want to acknowledge two people who could not be with us: first, USAID Administrator Dr. Raj Shah, who has had such a positive impact on our health and development work; and, second, I am delighted to announce our new special envoy. We love special envoys at the State Department. (*Laughter.*)



Our new Special Envoy for Global AIDS Awareness: Ellen DeGeneres. (*Applause.*) And Ellen is going to bring not only her sharp wit and her big heart, but her impressive TV audience and more than 8 million followers on Twitter, to raise awareness and support for this effort. I know we can look forward to many contributions from Ellen and her loyal fans across the globe.

Now, many of you know because you were there: The fight against AIDS began three decades ago in June 1981. American scientists reported the first evidence of a mysterious new disease. It was killing young men by leaving them vulnerable to rare forms of pneumonia, cancer, and other health problems. Now, at first, doctors knew virtually nothing about this disease. Today, all those years later, we know a great deal.

We know, of course, about its horrific impact. AIDS has killed 30 million people around the world, and 34 million are living with HIV today. In Sub-Saharan Africa – where 60 percent of the people with HIV are women and girls – it left a generation of children to grow up without mothers and fathers or teachers. In some communities, the only growth industry was the funeral business.

Thirty years later, we also know a great deal about the virus itself. We understand how it is spread, how it constantly mutates in the body, how it hides from the immune system. And we have turned this knowledge to our advantage – developing ingenious ways to prevent its transmission and dozens of drugs that keep millions of people alive. Now, AIDS is still an incurable disease, but it no longer has to be a death sentence.

Finally, after 30 years, we know a great deal about ourselves. The worst plague of our lifetime brought out the best in humanity. Around the world, governments, businesses, faith communities, activists, individuals from every walk of life have come together, giving their time, their money – along with their heads and hearts – to fight AIDS.

Although the past 30 years have been a remarkable journey, we still have a long, hard road ahead of us. But today, thanks both to new knowledge and to new ways of applying it, we have the chance to give countless lives and futures to millions of people who are alive today, but equally, if not profoundly more importantly, to an entire generation yet to be born.

Today, I would like to talk with you about how we arrived at this historic moment and what the world now can and must do to defeat AIDS.

From its earliest days, the fight against HIV/AIDS has been a global effort.



But in the story of this fight, America's name comes up time and again. In the past few weeks, I've spoken about various aspects of American leadership, from creating economic opportunity to preserving peace and standing up for democracy and freedom. Well, our efforts in global health are another strong pillar in our leadership. Our efforts advance our national interests. They help make other countries more stable and the United States more secure. And they are an expression of our values – of who we are as a people. And they generate enormous goodwill.

At a time when people are raising questions about America's role in the world, our leadership in global health reminds them who we are and what we do, that we are the nation that has done more than any other country in history to save the lives of millions of people beyond our borders.

Our efforts must begin with the American public: from people living with the disease, to researchers in academic medical centers; to individual donors, businesses, and foundations; and philanthropies – two of my favorite ones, the Clinton Foundation – (*laughter*) – which helped make treatment more affordable by supporting innovative ways to manufacture and purchase drugs; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which has underwritten breakthrough research.

But let's remind ourselves no institution in the world has done more than the United States Government. (*Applause.*) We have produced a track record of excellence in science. Researchers right here at the NIH conducted pivotal research that identified HIV and proved that it did cause AIDS. The first drug to treat AIDS was supported by the United States. Today we are making major investments in the search for a vaccine; for tools like microbicides, which give women the power to protect themselves; and other lifesaving innovations.

Alongside our research and development work, the United States has led a global effort to bring these advances to bear in saving lives. When my husband was president, he appointed America's first AIDS czar and more than tripled U.S. investments in preventing and treating AIDS worldwide. And in 2003, President Bush, with strong bipartisan support from Congress, made the momentous decision to launch the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR.

At that time, only 50,000 people in Sub-Saharan Africa were receiving the antiretroviral drugs that would keep them alive. Now, more than 5 million do, along with more than a million people in other regions of the world, and the



vast majority receive drugs financed by either PEPFAR or the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which the United States helped create.

And PEPFAR is having an impact far beyond AIDS. It has expanded on the World Health Organization's efforts to treat and prevent tuberculosis, which is the leading cause of death among people with AIDS. PEPFAR has also helped build new facilities throughout our partner countries that see patients not just for HIV/AIDS, but for malaria, for immunizations, and much more. To staff these clinics, we have helped train a new cadre of professional health workers who are making their countries more self-sufficient. In some countries, the same trucks that deliver AIDS medicine now also deliver bed nets to prevent malaria.

For all these reasons, PEPFAR is one of the strong platforms upon which the Obama Administration is building our Global Health Initiative, which supports one-stop clinics offering an array of health services while driving down costs, driving up impact, and saving more lives. I say all of this because I want the American people to understand the irreplaceable role the United States has played in the fight against HIV/AIDS. It is their tax dollars, our tax dollars, that have made this possible, and we need to keep going.

To be sure, we have done it in an ever-expanding partnership with other governments, multilateral institutions, implementing organizations, the private sector, civil society groups, especially those led by people living with the virus. But the world could not have come this far without us, and it will not defeat AIDS without us.

What's more, our efforts have helped set the stage for a historic opportunity, one that the world has today: to change the course of this pandemic and usher in an AIDS-free generation.

Now, by an AIDS-free generation, I mean one where, first, virtually no children are born with the virus; second, as these children become teenagers and adults, they are at far lower risk of becoming infected than they would be today thanks to a wide range of prevention tools; and third, if they do acquire HIV, they have access to treatment that helps prevent them from developing AIDS and passing the virus on to others.

Now, HIV may be with us well into the future. But the disease that it causes need not be. This is, I admit, an ambitious goal, and I recognize I am not the first person to envision it. But creating an AIDS-free generation has never been a policy priority for the United States Government until today, because



this goal would have been unimaginable just a few years ago. Yet today, it is possible because of scientific advances largely funded by the United States and new practices put in place by this Administration and our many partners. Now while the finish line is not yet in sight, we know we can get there, because now we know the route we need to take. It requires all of us to put a variety of scientifically proven prevention tools to work in concert with each other. Just as doctors talk about combination treatment – prescribing more than one drug at a time – we all must step up our use of combination prevention.



Secretary Clinton delivers remarks on “Creating an AIDS-Free Generation” at the National Institutes of Health’s Masur Auditorium

America’s combination prevention strategy focuses on a set of interventions that have been proven most effective – ending mother-to-child transmission, expanding voluntary medical male circumcision, and scaling up treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. Now of course, interventions like these can’t be successful in isolation. They work best when combined with condoms, counseling and testing, and other effective prevention interventions. And they rely on strong systems and personnel, including trained community health workers. They depend on institutional and social changes like ending stigma; reducing discrimination against women and girls; stopping gender-based violence and exploitation, which continue to put women and girls at higher risk of HIV infection; and repealing laws that make people criminals simply because of their sexual orientation.



Even as we recognize all these crucial elements, today I want to focus on the three key interventions that can make it possible to achieve an AIDS-free generation. First, preventing mother-to-child transmission. Today, one in seven new infections occurs when a mother passes the virus to her child. We can get that number to zero. I keep saying zero; my speechwriter keeps saying “Virtually zero.” (*Laughter, applause.*) And we can save mother’s lives too.

In June, I visited the Buguruni Health Center in Tanzania, and there I met a woman living with HIV who had recently given birth to a baby boy. She had been coming to the clinic throughout her pregnancy for medication and information because she desperately wanted her boy to get a healthy start in life, and most especially, she wanted him to be born HIV-free. When we met, she had just received the best news she could have hoped for. Her son did not have the virus. And thanks to the treatment she was getting there, she would live to see him grow up.

This is what American leadership and shared responsibility can accomplish for all mothers and children. The world already has the necessary tools and knowledge. Last year alone, PEPFAR helped prevent 114,000 babies from being born with HIV. Now, we have a way forward too. PEPFAR and UNAIDS have brought together key partners to launch a global plan for eliminating new infections among children by 2015. And we continue to integrate prevention and treatment efforts with broader health programs, which not only prevents HIV infections, but also keeps children healthy and helps mothers give birth safely.

In addition to preventing mother-to-child transmission, an effective combination prevention strategy has to include voluntary medical male circumcision. In the past few years, research has proven that this low-cost procedure reduces the risk of female-to-male transmission by more than 60 percent, and that the benefit is life-long.

Since 2007, some 1,000,000 men around the world have been circumcised for HIV prevention. Three fourths of these procedures have been funded by PEPFAR. In Kenya and Tanzania alone, during special campaigns, clinicians perform more than 35,000 circumcisions a month.

In the fight against AIDS, the ideal intervention is one that prevents people from being infected in the first place, and the two methods I’ve described – mother-to-child transmission, voluntary medical male circumcision – are the most cost-effective interventions we have, and we are scaling them up.



But even once people do become HIV-positive, we can still make it far less likely that they will transmit the virus to others by treating them with the antiretroviral drugs. So this is the third element of combination prevention that I want to mention.

Thanks to U.S. Government-funded research published just a few months ago, we now know that if you treat a person living with HIV effectively, you reduce the risk of transmission to a partner by 96 percent.

Of course, not everyone takes the medication exactly as directed, and so some people may not get the maximum level of protection. But even so, this new finding will have a profound impact on the fight against AIDS.

For years, some have feared that scaling up treatment would detract from prevention efforts. Now we know beyond a doubt if we take a comprehensive view of our approach to the pandemic, treatment doesn't take away from prevention. It adds to prevention. So let's end the old debate over treatment versus prevention and embrace treatment as prevention.

There's no question that scaling up treatment is expensive. But thanks to lower costs of drugs, bulk purchasing, and simple changes like shipping medication by ground instead of air, we and our partners are reducing the cost of treatment. In 2004, the cost to PEPFAR for providing ARVs and services to one patient averaged nearly \$1,100 a year. Today, it's \$335 and falling. Continuing to drive down these costs is a challenge for all of us, from donors and developing countries to institutions like the Global Fund.

Treating HIV-positive people before they become ill also has indirect economic benefits. It allows them to work, to support their families, contribute to their communities. It averts social costs, such as caring for orphans whose parents die of AIDS-related illnesses. A study published just last month weighed the costs and benefits and found that – I quote – “the economic benefits of treatment will substantially offset, and likely exceed, program costs within 10 years of investment.” In other words, treating people will not only save lives, it will generate considerable economic returns as well.

Now, some people have concerns about treatment as prevention. They argue that many people transmit the virus to others shortly after they have acquired it themselves, but before they have begun treatment. That is a legitimate concern, and we are studying ways to identify people sooner after transmission and help them avoid spreading the virus further. But to make a big dent in this pandemic, we don't need to be able to identify and treat everyone



as soon as they are HIV-positive. In places where the pandemic is well established, as it is in most of Sub-Saharan African countries, most transmissions come not from people who are newly infected, but from people with long-standing HIV infections who need treatment now or soon will. We already have the tests we need to identify these people. If they receive and maintain their treatment, their health will improve dramatically, and they will be far less likely to transmit the virus to their partners.

Now let me be clear: None of the interventions I've described can create an AIDS-free generation by itself. But used in combination with each other and with other powerful prevention methods, they do present an extraordinary opportunity. Right now, more people are becoming infected every year than are starting treatment. We can reverse this trend. Mathematical models show that scaling up combination prevention to realistic levels in high-prevalence countries would drive down the worldwide rate of new infections by at least 40 to 60 percent. That's on top of the 25 percent drop we've already seen in the past decade.

As the world scales up the most effective prevention methods, the number of new infections will go down, and it will be possible to treat more people than are becoming infected each year. And so, instead of falling behind year after year, we will, for the first time, get ahead of the pandemic. We will be on the path to an AIDS-free generation. That is the real power of combination prevention.

But success is not inevitable, nor will it be easy. Coverage levels for many of these interventions are unacceptably low. And we know from experience that to scale them up, we have to be able to deliver them not just in hospitals, but in clinics located in communities of every size and shape. If we're going to make the most of this moment, there are steps we must take together.

First, we need to let science guide our efforts. Success depends on deploying our tools based on the best available evidence. Now, I know that occasionally it feels in and around Washington that there are some who wish us to live in an evidence-free zone. (*Laughter.*) But it's imperative – (*applause*) – that we stand up for evidence and for science. Facts are stubborn things, and we need to keep putting them out there, even though they might, in the short term, be dismissed. Eventually, we will prevail.

Through PEPFAR and across the government, the United States is using scientifically proven results to inform our policy, which leads to real change



for programs on the ground and maximizes the impact of our investments. For example, we need more research to identify the most effective ways to combine these interventions in different contexts. We know HIV is a complex pandemic that varies from country to country, district to district, from urban areas to rural. It's the same in our own country. Combination prevention needs to reflect this complexity. Which combinations are most effective in areas where the virus is concentrated in especially vulnerable populations? What about places where it is more widespread in the general population?

We're already working to answer these questions. We recently granted more than \$50 million to three of the world's leading academic institutions to develop rigorous studies that test what works in various settings. Today, I'm pleased to announce that we're stepping up our efforts. The United States, through PEPFAR, will commit an additional \$60 million to rapidly scale up combination prevention in parts of four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and to rigorously measure the impact.

The results will have implications for every country where we work and for our partners as well. They will help ensure that we are translating the science into services that deliver the most impact and will allow us to take bigger steps together in our march toward an AIDS-free generation. I want to challenge other donors to join us in this effort. Go out and find partner countries that will work with you to test the most effective combinations of tools. Scale up support for treating as many people as possible. Measure the impact and share the results, so we can all learn from each other.

The second step is to put more emphasis on country ownership of HIV/AIDS programs. This is a priority for the United States. We know we can't create an AIDS-free generation by dictating solutions from Washington. Our in-country partners – including governments, NGOs, and faith-based organizations – need to own and lead their nation's response. So we are working with ministries of health and local organizations to strengthen their health systems so they can take on an even broader range of health problems.

Country ownership also means that more partner countries need to share more responsibility for funding the fight against HIV/AIDS within their borders. Some countries have allowed money from outside donors to displace their own investments in health programs; well, if PEPFAR or the Global Fund or another donor is going to be giving us money for health, we can just take that money out of health and build some more roads. That has to change and



we have to demand that it change. More countries need to follow the lead of South Africa, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, Zambia, and others that are committing larger shares of their own budgets to HIV/AIDS.

Finally, we're calling on other donor nations to do their part, including by supporting and strengthening the Global Fund. Consider just one example of what the Global Fund has already done. In 2004, virtually none of the people in Malawi who were eligible to receive treatment actually received it. As of last year, with significant help from the Global Fund, nearly half did.

This kind of progress deserves our support. The United States is the largest individual contributor to the Fund, and the Obama Administration has made our country's first multiyear pledge to it. Some donors are, unfortunately, considering reducing their contributions. Some emerging powers and nations that are rich in natural resources can afford to give, but choose not to. To sit on the sidelines now would be devastating. It would cost lives, and we would miss out on this unprecedented opportunity. When so many people are suffering, and we have the means to help them, we have an obligation to do what we can.

And for its part, the Global Fund has its own responsibilities to meet. The United States has supported reforms at the Fund to ensure that its resources are reaching those in need and that they are focused on cost-effective, evidence-based solutions. The Fund is conducting a number of audits and investigations that have surfaced reports of fraud and corruption. It is the Fund's responsibility to root out these abuses and end them as quickly as possible.

But let's remember, uncovering problems is exactly what transparency is supposed to do. It means the process is working. So let's not put the Global Fund into some kind of catch-22. Go be transparent, go be accountable, and when you find problems, we're going to take money away from you. Now, from day one, the United States Congress has insisted that our contributions to the Global Fund support accountable programs that produce measurable outcomes. And it's been my experience that the American people are happy to support lifesaving programs if they know they really work. And this is how we show them.

The goal of an AIDS-free generation may be ambitious, but it is possible with the knowledge and interventions we have right now. And that is something we've never been able to say without qualification before. Imagine what the world will look like when we succeed. Imagine AIDS wards that once were



stretched far beyond their capacity becoming outpatient clinics caring for people with a manageable condition, children who might have been orphaned and then trafficked or recruited as child soldiers instead growing up with the hope of a better future, communities where despair once reigned filled instead with optimism, countries that can make the most of every single person's God-given potential. That is the world that has always been at the core of American belief, and we have worked toward it in our own history. It's the world I think we all would like to live in. An AIDS-free generation would be one of the greatest gifts the United States could give to our collective future.

Much of what we do will depend upon the people in this room and the hundreds and thousands like you – the researchers and scientists, the public health docs and nurses and other personnel, the community health workers, the funders and donors, the government officials, the business leaders, philanthropies, and faith communities that have all joined together in this quite remarkable way to combat this disease.

So I end where I started. We've made a lot of progress together in the last 30 years. It hasn't been easy. It hasn't been without controversy. But it has been steady, and we have stayed the course as a nation. In these difficult budget times, we have to remember that investing in our future is the smartest investment we can make. And generations of American policymakers and taxpayers have supported the NIH, medical research, scientific work, not because we thought everything was going to produce an immediate result but because we believe that through these investments, human progress would steadily, steadily continue.

Let's not stop now. Let's keep focused on the future. And one of those futures that I hope we can be part of achieving is an AIDS-free generation.

Thank you all very much. (*Applause.*)

Source: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/11/176810.htm> (03/13/2012)



Ambassador Philip D. Murphy's Speech on World AIDS Day 2011: Leading With Science, Uniting for Action

Berlin, December 1, 2011 (via Podcast)

Mehr als 30 Millionen Menschen sind bereits an HIV/AIDS gestorben und beinahe 35 Millionen Menschen leben mit dieser Erkrankung. Dies sind traurige Zahlen. Am Welt-AIDS-Tag erinnern wir uns an die Menschen hinter diesen Zahlen. Es gibt aber dennoch ermutigende Nachrichten. Neue wissenschaftliche Entwicklungen verändern die Zukunftserwartungen der Betroffenen schnell. Eine Studie

hat gezeigt, dass eine anti-retrovirale Behandlung die Wahrscheinlichkeit einer Übertragung von HIV auf einen nicht infizierten Partner um 96 Prozent senkt. Das ist erstaunlich. Das ist nur ein Beispiel für die außerordentlichen Fortschritte, die in den vergangenen 30 Jahren gemacht wurden.

[Over 30 million people have died from HIV/AIDS and close to 35 million people are living with the disease. These are sad statistics and on World AIDS Day, we remember the people behind those numbers. There is some good news, however. New scientific developments are rapidly changing the expectations for the future of those who are infected. One study has shown that antiretroviral treatment reduces the likelihood of transmission of HIV to an uninfected partner by 96 percent. That is remarkable. And it is just one example of the extraordinary progress that has been made over the last three decades.]

Science has given us the tools we need to make an AIDS-free generation possible. Working together, we can turn the tide of HIV. That's the message we need to remember not only today on World AIDS Day, but every day. But in order to accomplish this goal, we need to focus on using our resources as effectively and efficiently as possible. That is the best way to save more lives.

Here's another example of how that is happening right now. The United States has joined with UNAIDS and other partners to eliminate transmission of HIV from mothers to children by 2015. This goal is achievable: As a result of programs supported through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (or PEPFAR for short), 114,000 babies were born free of HIV in



2010 alone. But we also want to keep the mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters of those babies alive.

More than six million people living with HIV in low-and-middle-income countries are on antiretroviral treatment. Over three million of these individuals are supported through the U.S. PEPFAR program. Many more are supported through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to which the United States and Germany are two of the largest contributors.

Contributions to the Global Fund address public health challenges in an integrated and comprehensive way. They are what Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton would describe as smart investments because they multiply the impact of national HIV/AIDS initiatives. By expanding the reach of health investments and attracting investments from a range of donors, responses to HIV/AIDS and other diseases are being developed and implemented in the countries where they most count.

The United States is committed to making the Global Fund as effective as possible to sustain these achievements. One thing is clear, to change the face of AIDS, all nations must participate. This disease cannot be overcome by one or two or three nations alone. The Global Fund is, as its name, says a global vehicle for all nations – as well as the private sectors of various countries – to put their investments to work wisely.

Ich glaube, der Welt-AIDS-Tag 2011 fällt in eine Zeit der Hoffnung im Kampf gegen diese Krankheit. Wir haben bereits gute Fortschritte gemacht, aber es bleibt noch viel zu tun. Mithilfe der Wissenschaft und im Geiste gemeinsamer Verantwortung können und werden wir das Ziel einer AIDS-freien Generation erreichen oder wie UN-Generalsekretär Ban Ki Moon sagte, das Ziel von Null Neuinfektionen, Null AIDS-bedingten Todesfällen und auch Null Diskriminierung bis 2020 – und keinesfalls später.

[I believe World AIDS Day 2011 comes at a hopeful moment in the fight against this disease. We have come a long way but we still have a long way to go. But guided by science and in a spirit of shared responsibility, we can – and we will – achieve the goal of an AIDS-free generation, or as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon says, by 2020 – and no later – the goal is zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths, and also zero discrimination.]

Source: <http://germany.usembassy.gov/about/ambassador/speeches/2011/12/01/world-AIDS-day-2011> (03/13/2012)



Consul General Inmi Patterson's Speech at the 2011 Hamburg AIDS Gala

Hamburg, December 4, 2011

Sehr geehrte Frau Senatorin Prüfer-Storcks,
sehr geehrter Herr Korell,
sehr geehrter Herr Rotermund,
meine verehrten Damen und Herren,
liebe Gäste,

ich freue mich sehr, heute Abend bei Ihnen zu Gast zu sein. Ihrer Einladung zur Hamburger AIDS-Gala bin ich sehr gerne gefolgt. Die Eindämmung von HIV/AIDS und die verbesserte Versorgung der HIV-Infizierten und AIDS-Kranken liegen der US-Regierung und auch mir ganz persönlich sehr am Herzen. Ich bin auch ein großer Fan von Herrn Beckmann. Ich bin mir sicher, dass wir mit ihm heute Abend eine hervorragende Veranstaltung erleben werden.

Im Juni dieses Jahres jährte sich die Entdeckung von HIV/AIDS zum dreißigsten Mal. Es ist eine bemerkenswerte Geschichte, wie die Menschheit dieser Pandemie, die zu den schlimmsten in unserer Geschichte zählt, begegnet ist. In jenen frühen Jahren, als wir mit großer Unsicherheit den Welt-AIDS-Tag begingen, hätte sich niemand vorstellen können, dass wir schon heute selbstbewusst bei einem Motto wie diesem angelangen könnten: „Getting to Zero“. Ja, wir sprechen heute über die reale Möglichkeit einer AIDS-freien Generation. Wir alle glauben fest daran, dass wir diese Krankheit besiegen können und werden, sonst wären wir heute nicht hier. So hat es auch Präsident Obama hat in seiner Rede zum Welt-AIDS-Tag gesagt: „Täuschen Sie sich nicht: Wir werden diesen Kampf gewinnen. Er ist aber noch nicht vorbei – noch lange nicht.“ Wir haben noch viel Arbeit zu leisten.

Ich habe in meiner diplomatischen Laufbahn in vielen Ländern gearbeitet. Meine letzte Dienststelle war Nairobi, Kenia. Dort habe ich die dramatischen Folgen von HIV/AIDS besonders intensiv und hautnah erfahren. Es war offensichtlich, dass AIDS nicht nur eine bestimmte gesellschaftliche Gruppe betrifft, sondern alle Menschen – Männer, Frauen und Kinder. Viele haben



Consul General Inmi Patterson
delivers a speech
at the 2011 Hamburg AIDS Gala



es schlichtweg abgelehnt, sich testen zu lassen. Für mich war völlig klar, dass es immer der erste Schritt sein muss, bei den jungen Menschen ein Bewusstsein für diese Krankheit zu schaffen. In Kibera, dem größten Slum Nairobis, habe ich einen jungen Mann getroffen, der beide Eltern durch AIDS verloren hatte und jetzt Enthaltbarkeit praktiziert. Dort bin ich auch vielen HIV-positiven Frauen und ihren HIV-positiven Kindern begegnet.

Die US-Regierung hat viel zur Eindämmung von HIV/AIDS und der verbesserten Versorgung der HIV-Infizierten und AIDS-Kranken geleistet. Das ist eines der Felder, für das es überparteiliche Unterstützung gibt. Republikaner und Demokraten haben im Kongress kontinuierlich zueinandergefunden, um die notwendigen Maßnahmen zu finanzieren – in den USA und überall auf der Welt. Dies galt zur Amtszeit von Präsident Clinton und Präsident Bush wie es jetzt gleichermaßen gilt in der Amtszeit von Präsident Obama. Denken Sie nur an den President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief beziehungsweise PEPFAR, den Präsident Bush 2003 begründet hat, und die Global Health Initiative von Präsident Obama.

Die Vereinigten Staaten unterstützen derzeit die anti-retrovirale Therapie von annähernd vier Millionen Menschen weltweit. Vier Millionen Menschen. Und allein im letzten Jahr haben wir 600 000 HIV-infizierte mit Medikamenten versorgt, so dass 200 000 Babys HIV-frei geboren werden konnten. Und annähernd dreizehn Millionen Menschen haben Pflege und Behandlung erhalten, darunter vier Millionen Kinder. Mit ein wenig Stolz kann ich sagen, dass kein anderes Land mehr für die Bekämpfung von HIV/AIDS geleistet hat, als die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika.



Aber wir werden es nicht dabei belassen. Während die AIDS-Rate anderswo sinken mag, beispielsweise in Deutschland, so tut sie das nicht in den Vereinigten Staaten. Die Infektionsrate ist dort seit Jahren fast unverändert. Etwa 1,2 Millionen Menschen in den USA sind HIV-positiv. Um das zu ändern, hat Präsident Obama im letzten Jahr erstmals eine nationale HIV/AIDS-Strategie erlassen. Das übergeordnete Ziel dieser Strategie ist es, auf nationaler Ebene das Vorgehen gegen HIV stärker zu koordinieren. Im Mittelpunkt der Strategie stehen die Reduzierung der Anzahl neuer HIV-Infektionen, die Verbesserung des Zugangs zu Medikamenten und Versorgung für HIV-Positive sowie ein Abbau von auf HIV basierenden gesundheitlichen Ungleichheiten. Präsident Obama hat zudem das Einreiseverbot für HIV-Infizierte in die USA aufgehoben. Infolgedessen wird im nächsten Jahr die internationale AIDS-Konferenz wieder in den Vereinigten Staaten stattfinden – zum ersten Mal seit über zwei Jahrzehnten.

Wie ernst dem Präsidenten diese Initiative ist, hat er nicht zuletzt dadurch unterstrichen, dass er trotz der angespannten Haushaltslage die finanziellen Mittel für den Bereich HIV/AIDS im Inland in seinem Haushaltsplan für 2012 nicht nur beibehalten, sondern sogar erhöht hat. Das Signal ist eindeutig, und das Signal ist richtig: bei der HIV-Prävention und der Betreuung von HIV-Infizierten und AIDS-Kranken darf nicht gespart werden, nicht in den USA, auch nicht in Deutschland, nicht in Afrika – nirgendwo auf der Welt. Aber: der Staat allein kann nicht Alles leisten. Mindestens genauso wichtig sind private Initiativen und NGOs – und nicht zuletzt Benefiz-Veranstaltungen wie die heutige AIDS-Gala in Hamburg.

Ich hoffe, dass der heutige Abend einen wichtigen Beitrag zur Finanzierung der AIDS-Hilfe Hamburg erbringt, damit sie ihre erfolgreiche Arbeit auch in Zukunft fortsetzen kann. Setzen Sie sich weiter ein für alle von HIV/AIDS Betroffenen, denn, wie Präsident Obama vor wenigen Tagen sagte: „Wir können diese Krankheit besiegen. Wir können diesen Kampf gewinnen. Wir müssen nur weitermachen und hartnäckig bleiben – heute, morgen und an jedem anderen Tag, bis die Zahl der AIDS-Patienten bei Null liegt.“ Das müssen wir einander auch versprechen – denn wir haben bereits viel erreicht und so viele Leben gerettet, dass wir diesen Kampf nun auch beenden können.

Vielen Dank.

Video: <http://blogs.usembassy.gov/hamburg/2011/12/09/den-weg-bis-zum-ende-gehen> (03/13/2012)



Information on Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA)



GLIFAA Mission Statement

Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA) was formed in 1992 in order to challenge a security clearance process that at the time discriminated against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) employees. We have since grown to include hundreds of members and associates and become the officially recognized voice of LGBT personnel in U.S. foreign affairs agencies. Our Open Letter to Secretary Clinton at the beginning of her tenure included over 2,200 signatures from GLIFAA members and our allies.

We are non-profit and rely entirely on the efforts and contributions of our members and associates in Washington, D.C., and around the world. Our membership is primarily comprised of personnel and their family members from the Department of State, USAID, the Foreign Commercial Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and other U.S. offices and agencies with foreign affairs components.

GLIFAA works to secure full parity for LGBT personnel and their families in U.S. foreign affairs agencies serving in the United States and overseas. We seek to break down the continued barriers that LGBT foreign service, civil service, and contract employees – and their partners and children – encounter as a result of prejudice, misunderstanding, and apathy within our institutions. We serve as a support network and resource of information for LGBT employees and their families.

Members of the GLIFAA Board meet regularly with the management of the State Department, USAID, and other agencies to discuss ideas and solutions to address the continued concerns of LGBT personnel and their families. GLIFAA also works closely with AFSA (the American Foreign Service Association) and the Offices of Equal Employment Opportunity to provide information about employee concerns. We also support broader efforts in the U.S. and around the world to bring about greater respect for the rights of sexual minorities.

We sponsor educational and outreach activities, with a variety of events for LGBT Pride in June and numerous other occasions. We organize educational panels and presentations on issues of concern to employees; manage a website; and provide information to employees, prospective employees, and management to help promote a workplace grounded on the fundamental principles of equality and non-discrimination.



We have a network of post representatives that help to address the needs of our members and allies abroad. This network of representatives plans outreach activities, serves as a resource to fellow employees, and keeps the membership in Washington apprised of what is happening around the world.

GLIFAA is non-partisan and does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, race, gender, disability, ethnic background, religion, gender identity, or HIV-status. We have a diverse membership, including both LGBT and straight members, and welcome the participation of all who seek to end continued inequality based on sexual orientation.

We seek to help employees stay abreast of current developments, keep in touch, and share information with one another. GLIFAA's website, social events (regular monthly meeting and happy hour), and support for members overseas are just a few ways that members and their families stay connected. See our Calendar to find out about upcoming events.

Successes

We are proud of the many accomplishments of our organization since our founding in 1992. The issuance of a non-discriminatory policy by then Secretary of State Warren Christopher in 1993 was one of our early successes. We also worked with the U.S. Administration, the management of our agencies, and other employee associations to eliminate barriers for obtaining security clearances and create and implement non-discrimination policies with regard to entry and employment.

GLIFAA played an instrumental role working with the administration of the Department of State in developing and implementing rights and privileges for same-sex partners of Department employees overseas. In the summer of 2009, the Department of State granted Eligible Family Member (EFM) status to domestic partners of Department employees and to their children. This change was followed by a number of other agencies which send employees overseas. Details can be found on our Domestic Partner Benefits Page.

Previously, we worked to implement the "Member of Household" (MOH) guidance, which explains the no-cost accommodations available to members of an employee's household, including partners, while serving overseas, and instructs U.S. missions overseas to take steps to assist members of household. These accommodations, still available to household members who are not recognized as domestic partners, were the primary benefits available to



the partners of LGBT employees overseas before the 2009 EFM guidance. In December 2000, State 242724 was transmitted, explaining to Posts these accommodations. In December 2003, MOH provisions were included in the Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM), the Department of State's "Bible" containing the regulations, policies, and procedures for the Department's operations. New guidance providing for EFM status for domestic partners was added to the FAM in the summer of 2009.

Thanks in part to the work of GLIFAA, the ability of LGBT personnel to serve openly and successfully in U.S. foreign affairs agencies is now greater than ever.

Objectives

Many challenges remain. Our current priorities include:

- Ensuring full and fair adherence in our agencies to current policies concerning LGBT employees and their families, including the Executive Order (E.O. 13087) uniformly prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Federal Government;
- Promoting a professional atmosphere in our agencies whereby LGBT personnel at all levels can be open about their sexual orientation and gender identity without concern or fear of repercussions;
- Increasing opportunities for same-sex partners accompanying personnel on assignment overseas and ensuring their full inclusion in community life at U.S. missions;
- Securing access for the partners and children of LGBT employees to affordable and adequate health insurance as well as to other basic accommodations and benefits;
- Obtaining the right for LGBT employees to bring foreign-national partners back to the United States during domestic assignments or after employment;
- Raising awareness within our agencies and the public at large of the important contributions LGBT personnel have made and continue to make to our country in the Foreign Service, Civil Service, and as Contractors;
- Ending discrimination based on HIV-status, including with regard to the hiring practices of our agencies;
- Contributing to the broader cause of tolerance, equality, and full civil rights for sexual minorities in the U.S. and elsewhere;



- Strengthening our organization through effective outreach efforts, including to incoming personnel, other employee and foreign affairs associations, the management of our agencies, LGBT groups in other federal agencies, and relevant non-governmental organizations.

For further information on GLIFAA please see: <http://www.glifaa.org>

Source: <http://www.GLIFAA.org/content/mission> (03/13/2012)



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Imprint

Publisher

U.S. Consulate General Hamburg
Public Affairs
Alsterufer 27/28
20354 Hamburg, Germany

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U.S. Consulate General Hamburg

First edition, March 2012

Photo credits

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The White House (11, 15, 21, 68, 75)
Fotolia LLC (PS Productions) (Rainbow Flag Header)
PhotoSpin Inc. (Wolfe Larry) (Cover)

Graphics, Production and Printing

Media Support Office, U.S. Embassy Berlin, Germany



<http://blogs.usembassy.gov/hamburg/LGBT>

