Promoting and Protecting the Human Rights of LGBT Persons: A United States Government Priority

On May 17, the international community marks International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOt). This day, and every day, the United States is taking steps to promote respect for the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons both at home and around the world. Among the areas in which the U.S. Government has made significant progress are the following:

Making the Advancement of LGBT Rights A Foreign Policy Priority:

On December 6, 2011, President Obama released the Presidential Memorandum on International Initiatives to Advance the Human Rights of LGBT Persons, which directs departments and agencies to combat criminalization of LGBT status or conduct abroad; protect vulnerable LGBT refugees or asylum seekers; enhance assistance to protect human rights and advance nondiscrimination for LGBT persons; and help ensure swift and meaningful responses to human rights abuses of LGBT persons abroad. Rights, and human rights are LGBT rights.

On the same day, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave a landmark speech in Geneva, stating that “The Obama Administration defends the rights of LGBT people as part of our comprehensive human rights policy and as a foreign policy priority,” and underscoring that LGBT rights are human rights, and human rights are LGBT rights. More...
Everyone deserves to live free from fear. Grass-roots organizations create "safe spaces" for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth.

**EJUSA: LGBT Rights in America Today**

LGBT rights are a work in progress in the United States. New attitudes are ushering in change. States are legalizing gay marriage.

**Articles:**

- Advancing Effective Communication, Cultural Competence, and Patient- and Family-Centered Care for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Community
- If You're Not Straight, You're At Higher Risk for Domestic Violence
- Mapping LGBT Equality in America
- Op-ed: Protecting LGBT Workers Means Protecting All Workers
- Relationship between LGBT inclusion and Economic Development: an Analysis of Emerging economies

**Pamphlets & Publications:**

- **Freedom from Fear:** Creating Safe Spaces for LGBT Youth
- **If You're Not Straight, You're At Higher Risk for Domestic Violence**
- **Mapping LGBT Equality in America**
- **Op-ed: Protecting LGBT Workers Means Protecting All Workers**
- **Relationship between LGBT inclusion and Economic Development: an Analysis of Emerging economies**

**Books available at the American Libraries:**

- **Willa Cather**
- **Obama Proclamation on LGBT Pride Month 2015**
- **Obama Proclamation on LGBT Pride Month 2015**
Videos:

President Obama: It Gets Better
Freedom from Fear - Creating Safe Spaces for LGBT Youth
Vice President: It Gets Better
Hide/Seek Exhibition Videos
White House Staff: It Gets Better
It Gets Better Project

Interesting Websites:

American Civil Liberties Union
Bullying and LGBT Youth
Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus
Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture
HIV and AIDS: 30 Years Ago
International Day Against Homophobia
LGBT Rights, Human Rights Watch

LGBT Youth Resources
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Center, Cornell University
LGBT, Humanrights.gov
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National LGBT Museum
Straight for Equality

eBrary, eLibraryUSA: members can access with their userid and password

The American Library, U.S. Consulate General
Gemini Circle, Chennai 600 006
Phone: 044-2857-4223/4017/4324
Website: http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/resources.html
Email: chennairefdesk@state.gov

All Internet links were active as on May 31, 2015

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