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LGBTI

June is Pride Month
“The human rights of LGBTI persons are fundamental.”
— Secretary Kerry

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LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH, 2015

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION
29 May 2015

From the moment our Nation first came together to declare the fundamental truth that all men are created equal, courageous and dedicated patriots have fought to refine our founding promise and broaden democracy's reach. Over the course of more than two centuries of striving and sacrifice, our country has expanded civil rights and enshrined equal protections into our Constitution. Through struggle and setback, we see a common trajectory toward a more free and just society. But we are also reminded that we are not truly equal until every person is afforded the same rights and opportunities -- that when one of us experiences discrimination, it affects all of us -- and that our journey is not complete until our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law.

Across our Nation, tremendous progress has been won by determined individuals who stood up, spoke out, and shared their stories. Earlier this year, because of my landmark Executive Order on LGBT workplace discrimination, protections for Federal contractors went into effect, guarding against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Federal Government is now leading by example, ensuring that our employees and contractors are judged by the quality of their work, not by who they love. And I will keep calling on the Congress to pass legislation so that all Americans are covered by these protections, no matter where they work.

In communities throughout the country, barriers that limit the potential of LGBT Americans have been torn down, but too many individuals continue to encounter discrimination and unfair treatment. My Administration supports efforts to ban the use of conversion therapy for minors because the overwhelming scientific evidence demonstrates that it can cause substantial harm. We understand the unique challenges faced by sexual and gender minorities -- especially transgender and gender non-conforming individuals -- and are taking steps to address them. And we recognize that families come in many shapes and sizes. Whether biological, foster, or adoptive, family acceptance is an important protective factor against suicide and harm for LGBTQ youth, and mental health experts have created resources to support family communication and involvement.
For countless young people, it is not enough to simply say it gets better; we must take action too. We continue to address bullying and harassment in our classrooms, ensuring every student has a nurturing environment in which to learn and grow. Across the Federal Government, we are working every day to unlock the opportunities all LGBT individuals deserve and the resources and care they need. Too many LGBTQ youth face homelessness and too many older individuals struggle to find welcoming and affordable housing; that is why my Administration is striving to ensure they have equal access to safe and supportive housing throughout life. We are updating our National HIV/AIDS Strategy to better address the disproportionate burden HIV has on communities of gay and bisexual men and transgender women. We continue to extend family and spousal benefits to legally married same-sex couples. And because we know LGBT rights are human rights, we are championing protections and support for LGBT persons around the world.

All people deserve to live with dignity and respect, free from fear and violence, and protected against discrimination, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. During Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month, we celebrate the proud legacy LGBT individuals have woven into the fabric of our Nation, we honor those who have fought to perfect our Union, and we continue our work to build a society where every child grows up knowing that their country supports them, is proud of them, and has a place for them exactly as they are.

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 2015 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 twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BARACK OBAMA
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
Washington D.C.

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President Barack Obama—June 1, 2015
Why are LGBTI rights a foreign policy priority for the U.S.? Ask Randy Berry by Lauren Monsen. 8 June 2015

With Liberty and Justice for All: the Advancement of LGBTI Rights in the U.S. by Lauren Monsen. June 2, 2015

How Same-Sex Marriage is Becoming Legal in the U.S. by Stephen Kaufman. April 17, 2015

LGBT Rights Worldwide Gain a New Advocate. February 26, 2015

Video:
Their Gay Son was Tortured and Left to Die: Now his Parents Fight for Justice by Stephen Kaufman. May 26, 2015
Publications

Freedom from Fear: Creating Safe Spaces for LGBT Youth  March 15, 2013, 4 pages

Electronic Journal

LGBT Rights in America Today  April 2014, 38 pages

YouTube

Freedom from Fear

Barack Obama: It Gets Better

The International Day against Homophobia & Transphobia
Torn Apart: United by Love, Divided by Law
by Judy Rickard and Judy Gilbert. Findhorn Press, 04/2011

Beyond (Straight and Gay) Marriage: Valuing All Families Under the Law

Permanent, Faithful, Stable: Christian Same Sex Marriage
by Jeffrey John. Darton Longman & Todd, 08/2012

Queer Film Classics: Zero Patience: A Queer Film Classic
by Wendy Pearso and Susan Knabe.

Becoming Dads
by Pablo Fernandez. BAAF, 2011

Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex
by Nat Smith & Eric Stanley. AK Press, 10/2011

Speaking Sex to Power: The Politics of Queer Sex
by Patrick Califia. Cleis Press, 01/2012

Same Sex Legal Kit for Dummies
by Carrie Stone and John G. Culhane. Wiley, 0/2012.

Fit to Serve: Reflections on a Secret Life, Private Struggle, and Public Battle to Become the First Openly Gay U.S. Ambassador

Living Out: Gay and Lesbian Autobiographies: Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey between Genders
We are Water: A Novel by Wally Lamb. Harper, 2013

I am my Own Wife: Studies for a Play About the Life of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf by Doug Wright. Faber and Faber, 2004.


The Goat, or, Who is Sylvia? by Edward Albee. Overlook, 2003
Webligraphy

Fact Sheets
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Human Rights Issues

Taking Action to Support LGBT Workplace Equality is Good For Business

Advancing the Human Rights of LGBT Persons Globally

U.S. Government websites:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health
http://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) - LGBT Health
http://www.hrsa.gov/lgbt/

HealthyPeople.gov—Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health

HIV among Gay and Bisexual Men
http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/gender/msm/facts/

Same-Sex Marriage: A Legal Background After United States v. Windsor by Alison M. Smith, Legislative Attorney—April 17, 2014

LGBT Youth resources
http://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm

Tips from Former Smokers
http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/groups/lgbt.html

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health, U.S. National Library of Medicine, Medline Plus—Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Health

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
http://www.eeoc.gov/federal/directives/lgbt_complaint_processing.cfm

The White House – President Obama and the LGBT community
https://www.whitehouse.gov/lgbt

Other Websites:

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) – LGBT Rights
https://www.aclu.org/issues/lgbt-rights

Center for American Progress – LGBT
https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/view/

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