

The 7th Annual NYC Trans Day of Action for Social and Economic Justice

Points of Unity

Initiated by TransJustice of the Audre Lorde Project, a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Trans and Gender Non-Conforming People of Color Center for Community Organizing.

June 24, 2011



We call on our Trans and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) community and on all of our allies from many movements to join us for the 7th Annual Trans Day of Action for Social and Economic Justice. We as TGNC People of Color (POC) recognize the importance of working together alongside other movements to change the world we want to see. We live in a time when oppressed peoples including people of color, immigrants, youth and elders, people with disabilities, women and TGNC people, and poor people are underserved, face higher levels of discrimination, heightened surveillance and experience increased violence at the hands of the state. We must unite and work together towards dismantling the transphobia, racism, classism, sexism, ageism, ableism, homophobia and xenophobia that permeates our movements for social justice. Let's come together to let the world know that TGNC rights will not be undermined and together we will not be silenced! These are *the points of unity*, which hold together the purpose of this important march:

- **We demand an end to profiling, harassment and brutality at the hands of the police.** Like many other oppressed communities such as POC, immigrants, people with disabilities and poor people, TGNC people are targeted, profiled and brutalized by the police. This violence does not occur in isolation, and is aggravated by racism, classism, ableism, xenophobia, misogyny, ageism and homophobia. We call for an end to the current NYPD Quality of Life Initiative and efforts to “clean up” Christopher St. with increased policing. We support legislation that would stop police and prosecutors from using possession of condoms as evidence of ‘criminal activity’.
- **We demand access to respectful and safe housing.** Many TGNC people face severe discrimination from landlords and housing administrators displacing us from our homes due to gender identity or expression. A disproportionate number of TGNC people have been or are currently homeless. However, many homeless TGNC people also face discrimination and violence when trying to access shelters and other assisted living programs. NYC law and the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) state that people will be placed in shelters according to that person's gender identity and that discrimination based on gender identity will not be tolerated. We support Queers for Economic Justice in their demand that all DHS shelters provide adequate Trans sensitivity trainings for all personnel and enforce clear non-discrimination policies that respect the dignity and safety of all homeless people.
- **We demand access to community spaces without fear of harassment, profiling, or censorship.** We oppose the NYC LGBT Center's moratorium, on groups using the Center as a meeting space to organize around ‘the issue of the Israeli/Palestinian divide’ and we support Queers for an Open LGBT Center in their demands for open board meetings and restoration of Siegebusters' and other pro-palestinian groups right to meet at the Center. We oppose the ongoing profit driven development of our neighborhoods. We support FIERCE's campaign to counter the displacement and criminalization of LGBTQ youth of color at the Christopher Street Pier in the West Village.
- **We demand the full legalization of all immigrants.** We stand in solidarity with Indigenous-identified Two-Spirit people and the sovereignty of the First Nations, on whose land we now see the US attempt to enforce arbitrary borders. TGNC people deserve the right to access competent and respectful immigration services. We demand that the consulates of all countries respect and honor our identities and issue passports and other documentation that accurately reflects who we are. We oppose the Secure Communities program, the guest worker program, the Real ID Act, enforcement provisions to build more walls and give greater powers to the Department of Homeland Security, increased barriers for asylum seekers, and other anti-immigrant policies. We support Governor Cuomo's decision to suspend the Secure Communities program in NY State and we urge all other states to do the same.
- **We are in solidarity with all prisoners, especially the many TGNC people behind the walls who are often invisible even within prisoner's rights movements.** We call attention to the under-reported accounts of severe violence and rape that our community faces at the hands of correction officers and other prisoners, in psychiatric facilities, and group homes. We demand an end to the torture and high level of discrimination TGNC prisoners face. We demand that all TGNC prisoners receive competent and respectful healthcare. We oppose the continued growth

of the prison industrial complex that continues to target our communities, yet we recognize that TGNC people need access to services and facilities that lessen our vulnerability to violence within the present jails and prisons. We call attention to the criminal injustice system that increasingly puts POC, immigrants, people with disabilities, TGNC people and poor people behind bars - further criminalizing our communities and our lives.

- **We oppose the US “War on Terrorism”** as an excuse to legitimize the expansion of the U.S. as an imperial super power and to justify a national security strategy that is really meant to militarize our borders and heighten surveillance and control over people living in the U.S., separating our communities by fostering feelings of hate, xenophobia, and violence. We demand the immediate removal of all U.S. troops from all countries under occupation and demand an end of use of U.S. dollars to cultivate and sponsor wars against people in the U.S. and abroad.

- **We demand health care.** TGNC people deserve the right to access health care, receive hormones and necessary surgery. We demand that health care providers and insurance providers acknowledge this right and provide this service without bias and discrimination.

- **We demand safety while utilizing public transportation.** TGNC people utilize the MTA (NYC’s public transportation system) daily. TGNC people should be addressed by their preferred pronoun, should not be targeted by transphobic employees of the MTA or harassed by other customers. We call on the MTA to insure the safety not only of TGNC people but of women, children and all riders.

- **We demand that all people receiving public assistance including TGNC people, be treated with respect and dignity.** We are in solidarity with all people living on public assistance. We celebrate that the Human Resources Administration (HRA), the NYC welfare agency, finally passed the procedure for serving Trans and Gender Non Conforming clients and approved a community developed training curriculum. However we call for full implementation of the procedure including culturally competent trainings for all employees.

- **We demand that TGNC people have equal access to employment and education opportunities.** We are outraged by the high numbers of TGNC people who are unemployed. Many TGNC people continue to face blatant discrimination and harassment from employers due to systemic transphobia. Few TGNC people have access to opportunities for learning in a safe school environment. TGNC people demand that all employers and educational institutions implement non-discrimination policies that respect the rights of all workers and students and that they comply with the NYC Human Rights Law that prohibits discrimination against gender identity and expression.

- **We demand justice for the many TGNC people who have been beaten, assaulted, raped, and murdered** yet these incidents continue to be silenced or misclassified. The police and the media continue to criminalize us even when we try to defend ourselves. Hate crime laws will not solve the problem but will give increased power to the state to put more people in jail. Instead we call for a unified effort for all of us to look deeper into the root causes of why these incidents happen. As a society that seeks social justice we seek to find ways of holding people accountable and coming to a joint understanding of how we can make our communities safer for all of us.

We commemorate the memory of the many brave souls we have lost, who struggled and lived their lives fearlessly day in and day out, being true to who they were. They keep the fire of struggle burning within all of us.

On June 24, 2011, TGNC People of Color and allies will take on the streets of New York City once again and demand justice to let the world know that the Stonewall rebellion is not over and we will continue fighting for social and economic justice, raising our voices until we are heard. We call on all activists from communities of color, the LGBT movement, immigrant rights movement, the anti-war movement, the reproductive justice movement, disability justice movements, youth and student groups, trade unions and worker organizations, religious communities and HIV/AIDS and social service agencies, both local and organizations around the country to endorse this call to action and to build contingents to march in solidarity together on **June 24, 2011**.

To endorse the Trans Day of Action 2011, send an email to endorsetdoa@alp.org, for more information about the march send an email to info4tdoa@alp.org or contact Mya Leilani Vazquez at 212-463-0342 x 15.