

April 8, 2010

EQTX: Making Equality Happen in Texas

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How You Can Help

[Ask your friends to join the EQTX Action Center](#) and Make Equality Happen.

Verify the accuracy of your contact info and email subscriptions. [Login to your Action Center account.](#)

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Equality Texas Contact Information

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From Interim Executive Director Chuck Smith

Dear Equality Texas Member,

I couldn't be more excited about the amazing group of sixty (60) panelists and moderators who will participate in our biennial **State of the State Public Policy Conference** on April 17th at the Capitol!

We are truly fortunate to have assembled a program that brings together such a wealth of knowledge and experience about public policy and its effect on the daily lives of Texans, including:

The Honorable Senfronia Thompson, State Representative District 141, Houston. The dean of women legislators, Rep. Thompson has served longer than any other woman or African-American in Texas history. Rep. Thompson has been at the forefront of every campaign against discrimination in the past four decades.

Dr. Joyce Locke Carter, Associate Professor, Texas Tech University, Lubbock. Dr. Carter is an associate professor of rhetoric and technical communications whose current projects include a book on identity (individual and group) set in a backdrop of transsexual transition.

Sara Straten, Police Officer, City of Fort Worth. Sara Straten has been with the Fort Worth Police Department for over 18 years. She currently serves as the liaison to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community.

Barbara-Jane Paris, School Principal, Round Rock ISD. Currently serving as the past president of the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, Paris has recently taken up office on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Secondary School Principals. A legislative liaison for Bullypolice.org, Paris advocates for safe schools and the right of every child to be in an environment that facilitates a passion for learning.

These are just four examples of the incredible people who will join us on April 17th. [Meet all the panelists here.](#)

The **State of the State Public Policy Conference** will directly impact attendees' ability to educate others on public policy as it relates to sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, and the effect of policy on the lives of Texans. If you are able, get to Austin for this special event.

The conference is free, however advanced registration is required.

There is much work to be done in Texas - either as an advocate, an educator, or a donor. **Please join us in the effort.**

Best personal regards,



Chuck Smith
Interim Executive Director

P.S. Please consider supporting our programmatic efforts with a monthly, tax-deductible [contribution to Equality Texas Foundation.](#)

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EQTX: Making Equality Happen in Texas

State of the State Public Policy Conference

Want Equality? You have to work for it.

Attend the

State of the State Public Policy Conference

presented by



Learn about the state of equality in Texas and how YOU can help change public policy in Texas.

Public policy isn't about distant state statutes and political lobbyists; it influences almost every aspect of your daily life, including:

- Safe schools
- Workplace discrimination
 - Hate crimes
- Family and relationship recognition
 - Child welfare

Speaking out about these issues is important, but Texans will never see concrete change in their homes, their workplaces, and their schools until they understand public policies and what they can do to transform them.

Attend the **2010 State of the State Public Policy Conference** on **April 17th at the Texas Capitol** to learn how, together, we can change public policy for the better.

At the Conference, you will hear panels and plenaries with Texas activists, subject matter experts, and State Representatives, including the **Honorable Rep. Senfronia Thompson, Rep. Garnet Coleman, Rep. Mark Strama, and Rep. Donna Howard.**



Panel topics include:

Best Interest of the Child: Parenting Policies
(Presented by Moore & Hunt)
Equality & Justice in Diverse Communities
Friends with Benefits: The Ally Agenda
Reading, Writing, and Bullying? Safe Schools Policies
Full Faith and Credit: Relationship Recognition
Gender Identity and Public Policy
On the Job Equality: Workplace Policies
(presented by Haynes & Boone, LLP)
Crimes of Bias: Hate Crimes Policy
Pride in Faith: Religious Support for Equality

Additionally, there will be two plenary sessions:
The Political Landscape
Our Town: Municipal Equality

These panels will address not only the state of Texas' public policies, but also how to improve these laws so they reflect the rights and needs of all Texans. **You** have the power to transform the policies that affect you every day.

[Register here for the State of the State Conference and your opportunity to enact change in Texas.](#)

[Click here](#) to learn more about the conference, view the [conference schedule](#), and [meet the panelists](#).

The State of the State Public Policy Conference is free of charge.

Advanced registration is required.

Our Presenting Sponsor:



Supported by the Harvey Milk Society at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and the Gender and Sexuality Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

Interested in mingling with conference attendees and speakers, Equality Texas board members, and key elected officials? Join the Equality Texas Foundation and host Anita Tschurr for a Pre-Conference Reception on April 16th. You can find out more information about the reception [here](#).

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Break the Silence! Speak Up for Sex Ed



Can't make the State of the State Conference but still want to speak up for vital issues affecting Texas' LGBT youth?

The **Texas Freedom Network** and **Advocates for Youth** wanted you to be the first to hear about a unique training opportunity in Dallas for youth who care about sex education.

**Youth Training Event (ages 15-24)
Saturday, April 17, 2010
9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Cathedral of Hope
5910 Cedar Springs Rd.
Dallas, TX**

This free event is open to all people ages 15-24, with a focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth (and their allies). There will also be a training program for adult allies and youth ministers.

This day-long training will promote tolerance, acceptance, and comprehensive sex education in Texas public schools. One of its primary goals is to inform youth about how abstinence-only programs fail and ignore LGBTQ youth, and what you can do to advocate effectively for responsible sex ed policies that help all young people.

Click [here](#) for more details and to register for this event.

Co-Sponsored by: **Equality Texas Foundation**, Advocates for Youth, Cathedral of Hope, Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), Youth First Texas, Planned Parenthood of North Texas and the Planned Parenthood TeenAge Communication Theatre, Religious Institute, and Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom

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San Antonio Fiesta Flambeau Fundraiser



Watch the parade from the height of the Penthouse at Mai Plaza and raise awareness for Equality Texas!

Come Join Host Paul Boskind at:

The Penthouse at Main Plaza
128 E. Main Plaza
San Antonio, TX
Saturday, April 24, 2010
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Tickets are \$100 (includes complimentary food, wine, and beverages).

[Please purchase tickets online here](#) or call 512-474-5475.

All proceeds benefit



Equality Texas advocates and lobbies for the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. As a political advocacy organization, contributions to Equality Texas are not tax-deductible.

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[Connect: Four Short Plays by Allan Baker](#)



"Connect: Four Short Plays," by Austin playwright and former Equality Texas board member Allan Baker, is currently on stage through April 17th at the Off Center in Austin.

Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8pm, and Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm, through April 17th.

All ticket sales benefit Equality Texas Foundation, AIDS Services of Austin, and OutYouth Austin.

To find out more information, visit [AbbyProductions.com](#).

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[Save the Date: Equality Project in Houston](#)

Save May 8th, 2010 for Equality Texas Foundation's next Equality Project Training.

The [Equality Project](#) is Equality Texas Foundation's public education program on policy issues and their effect on Texas citizens. The Project trains participants to establish relationships with their state representatives and senators, and to advocate for policy changes with their elected officials.

Our 2010 Work Plan is to conduct 15 trainings across Texas, including San Antonio, Houston, North Texas/Mid-Cities, El Paso, Corpus Christi, Abilene, Lubbock, Amarillo, Rio Grande Valley, Fort Worth, and Bryan/College Station.

**Save the Date!
May 8th
Houston**

We are not only seeking participants for the [Equality Project](#), but also looking for "train-the-trainer" candidates who will conduct additional [Equality Project](#) trainings in their local community. If you are interested in organizing an [Equality Project](#) training in your community, please contact Field Organizer [Lindsay Marsh](#) or Field Intern [Darcy Kues](#).

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