

Freedom to Marry E-Update  
Issue #11 | February 15, 2006

Contents:

- 1) A Note from Executive Director, Evan Wolfson
- 2) On the Horizon: Latino/a Leaders Speak Out during Nationwide Radio Tour
- 3) Landscape: Marriage Equality Matters
- 4) Sharing Our Stories

-----  
1) A Note from Executive Director Evan Wolfson  
-----

Dear Friend of Freedom to Marry --

Gay people--and our friends, families, and allies--cannot assume that just because a person loves us and is

generally a good guy she or he understands how the denial of marriage harms same-sex couples, our kids, and our

country. We have to specifically and explicitly reach out to others, and make the substantive case and the personal

ask for support.

Even we at Freedom to Marry recognize the need to recommit to getting the message out and engaging anew with diverse

communities. To see how we are seizing the moment this Freedom to Marry Week, check out the "On the Horizon" section

below, and learn about our Spanish Language Radio Tour featuring key non-gay Latino/a Voices of Equality. Igualdad

en el matrimonio, indeed!

The exciting new "Marriage Equality Matters" campaign, about which you can read more in the Landscape section below,

illustrates that each of us can do our part together with others. Freedom to Marry is proud to be partnering with

Lambda Legal, the National Black Justice Coalition, Asian Equality, and the National Latina/o Coalition for Justice

in this multi-tiered public education campaign focusing on people of color who, like others, need, want, support,

and are speaking out for an end to discrimination in marriage.

With marriage equality cases pending in seven states, continuing right-wing attacks, debate and opportunities for

discussion in every state, and equality within reach, Freedom to Marry Week is one more chance to engage our

neighbors and fellow citizens in the personal and informational conversations they deserve -- and trust that from

this commitment to engagement will come understanding about why marriage matters to gay couples and their families

nationwide.

-- Evan Wolfson

Follow developments in the movement for marriage equality on our website ([www.freedomtomarry.org](http://www.freedomtomarry.org)), and in future

issues of Freedom to Marry's bi-monthly E-Update.

LINKS:

\* Lambda Legal Defense Fund -

<http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojaaaaaaabaeQCPT/>

\* National Black Justice Coalition -

<http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojabaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Asian Equality - <http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojacaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* National Latina/o Coalition for Justice -

<http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojadaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* "Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality, and Gay People's Right to Marry" - Evan Wolfson -

<http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabn652aaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Freedom to Marry Week -

<http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabn65Vaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Resources - <http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabn650aaaaaabaecqpt/>

~~~~~  
2) ON THE HORIZON: Latino/a Leaders Speak Out during Nationwide Radio Tour  
~~~~~

Throughout Freedom to Marry Week, Latino/a members of Freedom to Marry's Voices of Equality will be speaking out in

support of equal marriage rights in coast-to-coast radio interviews as part of a Freedom to Marry Week Spanish

Language Radio Tour.

Participants include Dolores Huerta, Christine Chavez, Rev. Carlos Aranda, Nila Marrone, and Carolina Cordero Dyer

-- as well as our own staffers, Lisbeth Melendez Rivera and Pedro Julio Serrano.

"Every child has the right to grow up in a family that is honored by society; to reach their full potential; to love

and share their lives with the person they choose," said Huerta, co-founder and First Vice President Emeritus of the

United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO.

LINKS:

\* More - <http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojaeaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Voices of Equality -

eupdate11\_text

<http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojafaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Dolores Huerta - <http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojagaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Christine Chavez - <http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojahaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Nila Marrone - <http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojaiaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Lisbeth Melendez Rivera -  
<http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojajaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Pedro Julio Serrano -  
<http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojakaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO -  
<http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojalaaaaaabaecqpt/>

~~~~~  
3) LANDSCAPE: Marriage Equality Matters  
~~~~~

As polling continues to show increased support for marriage equality in state after state, five national

organizations have announced a new initiative to elevate representation of communities of color speaking out in

support of marriage equality.

"The Marriage Equality Matters campaign reflects the importance of showing the diversity and reality of our families

and their need for marriage equality," said Samiya Bashir, Communications Director of Freedom to Marry.

This initiative, launched in conjunction with Freedom to Marry Week, February 12-18, 2006, will feature African

American, Latino/a and Asian American individuals and couples, gay and non-gay, showing their direct support for

ending discrimination in marriage.

LINKS:

\* More - <http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojamaaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Marriage Equality Matters -  
<http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojanaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Samiya Bashir - <http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabojaoaaaaaabaecqpt/>

\* Freedom to Marry Week -  
<http://freedomtomarry.c.topica.com/maaetdiabn65Vaaaaaabaecqpt/>

~~~~~  
4) GET ENGAGED! Sharing Our Stories  
~~~~~

Sharing our stories and showing our faces helps the rest of America understand why it is unfair and wrong to deny



