

Freedom to Marry E-Update  
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1) A Note from Evan Wolfson

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Dear friends –

Once again, America is heading into an Election Day with another round of attacks on gay people on the ballot. This assault on a vulnerable minority, and the cruel attempt to wall us off from marriage and all other measures of protection, large or small, for our families, are both cruel and un-American.

But equally to be condemned is the very idea of cementing discrimination and permanent second-class citizenship into constitutions, intended to be the precious charters of freedom and national unity. America's federal and state constitutions embody the basic American invention of democratic rule combined with checks and balances, an independent judiciary, boundaries on government power, and "certain inalienable rights" for all regardless of popularity. While a shameful disregard for the importance, and fragility, of republican self-government is perhaps unsurprising during an administration seemingly intent not merely on circumventing the American Constitution, but repealing the Magna Charta, it remains, nevertheless dangerous and contemptible.

Frightening, too, is the silence of far too many non-gay people, allies, and even gay people in the face of this radical betrayal of America's fundamentals by fundamentalists and those who use them for crass political purposes.

THE REST OF EVAN'S NOTE - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?id=4861>

LINKS:

\* The Scary Work of winning (pdf) - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/pdfs/Scarywork.pdf>

\* The Scary Work of winning - [http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?doc\\_id=1937](http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?doc_id=1937)

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2) Marriage equality matters to bisexual people, too

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As someone who has, over the course of my adult life, been deeply in love – at different times – with both men and women, I can attest to the fact that love is love. It is silly to pretend otherwise. All relationships need the same support. All relationships deserve the same respect.

I am one of the tens of thousands of residents of Massachusetts who on May 17, 2004,  
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finally became a full citizen. In this state, I have the same rights and responsibilities as everyone else—no more, no less. I pay the same taxes, and I am eligible for the same benefits and protections.

Equality goes beyond taxes and benefits; it's also about intangibles. When Peg and I married, we were transformed by the support and love we received from our community. Our neighbors (of all sexual orientations) were there for us. People we know—and some we didn't know—stopped us on the street to hug us and wish us well. A street artist whom we had never met before handed us one of his paintings, saying "Let this be your first wedding present." An anonymous woman handed us a bouquet of flowers and congratulated us. There was so much love.

Equality has changed my life. It feels different in ways I could not have imagined.

—Robyn Ochs, Boston MA (bi activist, marriage equality activist, editor of Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World).

LINKS:

\* Robyn Ochs' website - <http://www.robynocho.com/>

\* Freedom to Marry's Bisexual Community page - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/node.asp?id=3708>

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3) Freedom to Marry joins with partners to help move equality forward

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Home is where you grew up, or went to college, or where you started your first job. Home is where you have family and friends – no matter how long you've been away.

Right-wing forces have put anti-LGBT initiatives on the November 7th ballot in eight states. Most seek to enshrine discrimination in a state's constitution by outlawing not only same-sex marriage, but any form of legal protections for our families.

Many people back home don't know about these ugly initiatives or how harmful they are. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people back home need you to write or call the people you know and ask them to vote against discrimination.

You can use Phone Home to find out more about the initiatives in each state, send e-cards to people you know in the targeted states and download talking points and suggested text for letters. Discrimination is wrong and should not be written into any more state constitutions. Spread the word: Hate is not what home is about...

LINK:

\* Phone Home - <http://www.phonehome2006.org/>

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4) NBJC Magazine's 3rd Issue Celebrates Family

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Denise and Treeva Liggett-Creek met through a mutual friend. Denise is an independent financial advisor and Treeva is a media and promotions specialist at a college in Maryland. Together they are raising two young daughters, Dominique, age 11, and Alexandra, age 6. Their decision to have a wedding was not only based on

their mutual love and admiration for each other, but also a desire to share their commitment with family and friends. The merging of two lives does not come without community. How do we know what love is if we do not see it?

Says Treeva, "I am a very traditional person with a Catholic upbringing. I believe in marriage. I believe that when two people come together and make a commitment... that is forever. Marriage is that institution."

Excerpted from the latest issue of NYANSAPO, the magazine of the National Black Justice Coalition.

LINKS:

- \* Denise and Treeva Liggett-Creek - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?id=4863>
- \* NYANSAPO - [https://secure.ga4.org/01/nyansapo\\_subscription](https://secure.ga4.org/01/nyansapo_subscription)
- \* The National Black Justice Coalition - <http://www.nbjc.org>

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5) NBJC Announces New Action Fund

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The National Black Justice Coalition, the nation's only Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights group, will host a reception to announce the formation of its Action Fund on Friday, October 6, 2006 from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. in Oakland, CA. Confirmed attendees include California Legislative Black Caucus Chair Hon. Mervyn M. Dymally, 16th District Democratic Nominee Sandre Swanson, NBJC executive director Alexander Robinson, NBJC Board Members Samiya Bashir, Keith Boykin, Jasmyne Cannick, and board president Earl Plante.

LINK:

- \* The media advisory from NBJC - <http://www.nbjcoalition.org/news/national-black-justice-action.html>

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QUOTE:

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"A bi person who is dating or in a committed same-gender relationship also wants the same right [to choose a beloved person as a life-partner] as straight-identified people. For all these reasons, bi people have been active in Freedom to Marry and the Equal Marriage movement since its inception, and continue their strong support."

- Alan Hamilton, a former president of the East Coast Bisexual Network (a.k.a. the Bisexual Resource Center) and a co-founder of the Unitarian-Universalist Bisexual Network

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