

**Notice: To Share: We need your financial support. Please send a generous contribution today.**

Advisory (briefcase) \*

Contacts

Rev. Winter 2003.1

Rita Addressa, Director, **Pennsylvania Lesbian and Gay Task Force (PLGTF)** and **Initiative Convener**  
215-772-2000 and 1-877-PRIDE-2000 toll free and [plgtf@plgtf.org](mailto:plgtf@plgtf.org) and [www.plgtf.org](http://www.plgtf.org)

Sandy Henise, Co-Chair. 717-845-8961

Kristine Holt, Esq. Philadelphia, PA 215-545-7789 . [Kristine@holtesq.com](mailto:Kristine@holtesq.com)

Andrew Grenier, Cry Out! Act Up/Pittsburgh, PA. 412-661-6264 [argq@aol.com](mailto:argq@aol.com)

Linda Martin, Co-Chair and President, NOW/Lancaster Area. 717-393-2883

Dan Miller, CPA, Harrisburg, PA 717-234-2250

Paul Thomas, Ed. D., Co-Chair. 215-587-6734 [plgtfpthomas@aol.com](mailto:plgtfpthomas@aol.com)

Melina Waldo, Philadelphia PFLAG Advocacy Chair. 856-216-8285 [melinaw@erols.com](mailto:melinaw@erols.com)

---

## Pennsylvania Civil Rights Initiative Gains...

AFL-CIO Pride At Work joins PSEA, PAFT and Human Relations Commissions  
to Strengthen Support...

The **Initiative**, launched in 1996, is a movement of diverse organizations and individuals with now **6250** plus Pennsylvanians who have signed *Petitions and postcards* to encourage lawmakers' introduction and adoption of twin civil rights bills. Grounded in core principles to guide this effort, our priority focuses on amendments to the *Pennsylvania Human Relations Act* that prohibits discrimination, limitedly, in employment, housing, and public accommodations. The Initiative legislation will add the critical category, **education**, to the Act and now absent categories "**sexual orientation**" and "**gender identity or expression**." Proposed amendments to the Human Relations Act will *strengthen and conform* education provisions (Section 8) to statewide education codes and regulations related to citizenship, diversity, and pluralism (Title 22, Chapter 5 and Equity Principles), and will strengthen **enforcement mechanisms** inclusive of compensatory and punitive damages. (The most recent Task Force *Study of Discrimination and Violence*, Initiative core principles, abstract, texts, and various reports are at [www.plgtf.org](http://www.plgtf.org))

**National** supporters include the: AFL-CIO Pride AT Work, Dignity/USA, Equal Partners in Faith, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Center for Women Policy Studies, Gay and Lesbian Parents International, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Council, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Lesbian and Gay Health Alternatives, the National Lesbian Rights Center, and National PFLAG. **Education** union supporters include the Pennsylvania State Education Association and the Pennsylvania Federation of Teachers. A **sampling** of organization supporters includes ACLU/Northwest Chapter; Alliance for Tolerance and Freedom (Lancaster); Human Relations Commissions in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh ; Jewish Reconstructionist Federation; Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates; the Unitarian Church/Harrisburg; GLSH (Harrisburg); GLCC (Pittsburgh). In Philadelphia, the Jewish Labor Committee, the NAACP, Project Home, Triangle Interests, and the William Way Center. The *Philadelphia Bar Association* has issued a resolution in support of proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission has **not** yet issued a **formal** resolution to support the *Initiative*.

Repeated requests to members of the Senate (50) and House (203) to **publicly** support the Initiative have resulted in the **public** commitment of now **19** legislators to support the effort (below). We remain in **search** of prime sponsors with integrity and commitment to introduce the proposed legislation to obtain *assigned bill numbers* and to **begin the public debate** toward full civil and education rights in Pennsylvania. The time is **now**. (**Issue Clarity: *Bias crime statutes do not* extend *basic* civil and education rights to our community *nor* address the underlying causes of ignorance and bigotry promoted through public and private educational institutions. Criminal penalties have *no* demonstrable impact on reducing bias crime.**

---

**Legislators** include: **eight** current Senators including: Democrats: Lisa Boscola (Bethlehem); Vincent Hughes, Shirley Kitchen, Allan Kukovich, Allyson Schwartz, Jack Wagner, Anthony Hardy Williams, Constance Williams, and **eleven** Representatives including Louise Bishop, Mark Cohen, Dwight Evans, Dan Frankel (Allegheny), Harold James, Thaddeus Kirkland (Delaware County), James Roebuck, Michael Sturla (Lancaster), W. Curtis Thomas, LeANNA Washington, and Rosita Youngblood (if not noted, Philadelphia Democrats).