

**In Support of
PLGTF Pennsylvania Civil Rights Initiative: (1996 - Until It Is Over)**

[For All Organizations and Individuals: Pennsylvania and Non-Pennsylvania]

Initiative Status February 2003: 100 organization partners, 6,250 plus signatures

Whereas hate-based discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and education is epidemic against lesbian women and gay men of all races,

Whereas hate-based criminal violence, inclusive of physical assault, assault with a weapon, sexual assault, arson, vandalism, and other crimes are epidemic against gay men and lesbian women of all races,

Whereas hate-based discrimination and criminal violence against transgendered people and against bisexual people is a serious and substantive concern, *and* whereas such discrimination and violence is grounded in *gender-based bigotry and prejudice*,

Whereas public education is central to the development of knowledge and critical thinking skills as well as the formation of social attitudes and beliefs, *and* whereas each of our children and society suffer significantly from the *promotion* of narrow and rigid socio-cultural norms and, in concert, from the *absence* of affirmative multiracial-multicultural-gender fair education,

*We hereby call upon our community and upon Pennsylvania Legislators to support the Pennsylvania Civil Rights Initiative, the core principles, and twin civil rights bills as proposed to **amend and strengthen**, with **no weakening amendments or degrading caveats**, the*

(1) Pennsylvania Human Relations Act which prohibits discrimination in **employment, housing, and public accommodations** to (a) expand the Act to include and define the categories “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression,” (b) expand the Act to include the category “education” and to encourage multiracial-cultural-gender fair education in all schools for all children, and (c) strengthen the Act’s enforcement mechanisms on behalf of all women and minorities, inclusively. (*“Class” would be an important amendment as well.*)

(2) Fair Education Opportunities Act, which focuses on *postsecondary* education, to expand the Act to include the categories “sexual orientation,” “gender identity or expression.” (*“Class” would be an important amendment as well.*)

Please Print

Name: _____

Title: _____ Mo/Da/Yr Signed: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (e) () _____ (d) () _____ fax: _____

Email: _____ Other _____

*The PLGTF Study, Initiative Abstract and full texts of the proposed bills, if not attached, are on the web site. Please mail a copy of your statement of support and a contribution today to your local organizing committee **and** to the plgtf Initiative at 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1479. 215-772-2000 and 1-877-PRIDE-2000. Additional copies of the Statement of Support and Petitions (5 signatures per page) to Legislators are available on request and on the web. plgtf@plgtf.org and www.plgtf.org.*