



NEWS ADVISORY FROM Make the Road New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Immigrant and LGBTQ Rights organizations come together to demand LGBTQ inclusion on Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill

Make the Road New York, Immigration Equality, LGBTQ rights organizations, local elected officials call on Senate "Gang of Eight" to ensure immigration reform proposal includes LGBTQ families and individuals.

Who: Make the Road New York, Immigration Equality, The LGBT Community Center of New York, The New York City Anti Violence Project, Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, Rep. Nydia Velazquez (tentative), NY Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, Public Advocate Bill DeBlasio, NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn, NYC Council Members Daniel Dromm, Letisha James, and Rosie Mendez.

When: Monday March 18, 2013 at 12pm (doors at 11:30am)

Where: At the LGBT Community Center of New York, 208 West 13th Street (Take the 1, 2, or 3 to 14th Street and 7th Avenue; A, C, E, or L to 14th Street and 8th Avenue; F or M to 14th Street and 6th Avenue)

What: Press conference to speak on urgency of this issue, hear stories of LGBTQ community members who are directly affected.

Context: A bipartisan group of U.S. Senators is in the process of creating a framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform for more than 11 million undocumented immigrants in this country. Gary Gates of the Williams Institute estimates that at least 267,000 of those undocumented immigrants are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Queer (LGBTQ). This press conference will call on the "Gang of Eight" to advance reforms that will help this substantial sector of the immigrant community.

As officials and groups that serve and empower the LGBTQ community, we daily see how immigration and LGBTQ issues intersect: the man who would love nothing more than to petition for his husband and partner of 20 years but who cannot under current immigration laws; the lesbian who is facing the prospect of violence in her country of origin because she did not file an asylum claim within one year; the transgender woman held endlessly in immigration detention, where she is vulnerable to harassment and abuse. These issues relate to fundamental rights and, in many cases, they are matters of life and death for LGBTQ immigrants. It is therefore imperative that any bill for immigration reform arising from Senate negotiations provides substantive equality for LGBTQ immigrants and addresses the serious issues faced by LGBTQ community members.

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Make the Road New York (MRNY) is the largest participatory immigrant organization in New York with 12,000 members. With vibrant community centers in Bushwick, Brooklyn; Jackson Heights, Queens; Port Richmond, Staten Island; and Brentwood, Long Island; MRNY gives voice to thousands of immigrants and working class New Yorkers through community organizing, educates tomorrow's leaders and provides services to support families. To find out more or to make a donation, please visit our website:

www.maketheroadny.org

