

Targeted News Service

Thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists to converge in Denver to strategize on heels of Inauguration

December 21, 2008

Just one week after the inauguration of a new administration, thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) activists will converge in Denver, Colo., for the 21st National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change, Jan. 28-Feb. 1. Activists will strategize on how to advance LGBT equality in this new political climate, share lessons from the 2008 election, and acquire the skills needed to build the political power of the LGBT community in 2009 and beyond.

Task Force Executive Director Rea Carey will present the annual State of the Movement address at the conference, in which she will lay out a vision and plan for the year ahead in the struggle for LGBT equality. Says Carey: "We are clearly entering a new time and there are tremendous opportunities to influence social change."

Critical legislative issues specifically affecting the LGBT community include passing a strengthened and expanded federal hate crimes law, passage of an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act and repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Other broader areas of focus will include the need for affordable housing, access to quality/affordable health care, and racial and economic justice-related issues.

Turning anger into action into long-term change

The passage of Proposition 8 in California has galvanized community activists across the country. Some of those activists will be featured at Creating Change on panels and in workshops, as attendees discuss regaining the freedom to marry in California and gaining it elsewhere.

For example, Join the Impact co-founder Willow Witte, one of the key organizers of the Nov. 15 national grassroots protests against the passage of Prop. 8, will lead a session about mobilizing the LGBT movement at this critical moment. Participants will learn how to use the Internet to organize on a worldwide level and how to make an impact in local communities. Also, at a daylong pre-conference institute, attendees will discuss the marriage equality landscape and strategize on how to make gains.

Conference attendees will also participate in sessions to learn how to defeat future attacks against LGBT people on statewide and local ballots on issues such as nondiscrimination and adoption.

For more information about the conference program and registration, visit www.CreatingChange.org.