



Building bridges across our communities

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I had a chance to sit down with Lisa Weiner-Mahfuz, NGLTF's Director of Capacity Building. Lisa arranged all of Wednesday's sessions on race relations. At one of the sessions, I noticed a sign on the door that read:

Building Bridges Across Our Communities: People of Color Organizing Institute for Intermediate Activists

Taped underneath the sign was another. It read: This workshop is for people of color only. While I understand the idea of a safe space, it struck me as humorous that a session on building bridges was *only* for one group of people. (*Disclaimer: I am not trying to criticize the session organizers. I'm not complaining. I just found it ironic and rather funny.*)

I used my opportunity to ask Lisa about the sign and the rationale behind it as well as expand to some other race issues including trans people of color, the history behind the sessions and how white LGBT folks can better work with people of color.

The video can be seen here:

http://www.bilerico.com/2009/01/building_bridges_across_our_communities.php.