

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,
Queer and HIV-affected Communities

Remarks by Sharon Stapel Executive Director, New York City Anti-Violence Project Press conference 6/4/2012

I'm proud to be co-chair of the LGBT Table of the march and pleased to be here today at the Stonewall Inn, site of the uprising against police harassment that is the birth of the modern day LGBT rights movement. Today we bring together a coalition of LGBT organizations standing united against racial profiling and committed to mobilizing LGBT communities in solidarity with the NAACP, the National Action Network, and SIEU 1199 to end this police violence.

The New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP) has endorsed the march because we know that police violence and racial profiling have always been an LGBT issue.

The gay liberation movement started at the Stonewall Inn in response to police targeting and violence.

Police violence continues to be an LGBT issue: in 2011 32% of LGBT survivors reported incidents of police misconduct including false arrest, excessive force, entrapment and police raids.

We know that transgender people, transgender people of color and LGBTQ youth of color are most at risk:

In the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs 2011 report on national anti-LGBTQ hate violence (released last week, available at <http://avp.org/documents/NCAVPHVReport2011Final.pdf>) we found that:

- transgender people were 1.67 times more likely to experience police violence
- transgender people of color were 2.38 times more likely to experience police violence and
- LGBTQ people of color under the age of 30 were 2 times more likely to experience police violence.

This is true in NYC, where we see this profiling and violence happen throughout the city, even in areas commonly thought "gay friendly" like the Chelsea Piers and the West Village and even to our young LGBTQ community members.

It's also true when LGBTQ people, particularly transgender and gender non-conforming people, are profiled by the police as sex workers, and targeted in video stores, cruising areas, and on the stroll – something AVP sees happen far too frequently.

AVP also endorses this march because we are actively working on solutions to this profiling and targeting, including:

- transgender-inclusive patrol guidelines for the NYPD and
- local legislation that would outlaw:
 - profiling and targeting,
 - invasive searches disproportionately happening to people of color and transgender and gender non-conforming people; and
 - that would require the NYPD to identify themselves clearly so that any officer violating these laws and guidelines could be held accountable.

Police profiling and targeting is institutionalized racism, homophobia and transphobia aimed at the people who don't conform with rigid race, gender or sex roles and is unacceptable state-sanctioned violence.

For as long as we are policed because of who we are, how we look, or who we choose to have sex with, racial profiling and stop and frisk will be an LGBT issue.