

August 12, 2014

When communities experience fear, harassment and brutality simply because of who they are or how they look, we are failing as a nation. In light of the recent events in Missouri, it is clearer than ever that there is something profoundly wrong in our country.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community cannot be silent at this moment, because LGBT people come from all races, creeds, faiths and backgrounds, and because all movements of equality are deeply connected. We are all part of the fabric of this nation and the promise of liberty and justice for all is yet to be fulfilled.

The LGBT community stands with the family of Michael Brown, who was gunned down in Ferguson, Missouri. We stand with the mothers and fathers of young Black men and women who fear for the safety of their children each time they leave their homes. We call on the national and local media to be responsible and steadfast in their coverage of this story and others like it--racialized killings that have marred this nation since the beginning of its history. We call on policy makers on all levels of American government not to shrink from action, and we are deeply grateful to Attorney General Eric Holder and the Department of Justice for their immediate commitment to a thorough investigation.

At this moment, we are inspired by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies ... but the silence of our friends."

ACLU  
AIDS United  
Bisexual Resource Center  
Campus Pride  
Center for Black Equity, Inc.  
Courage Campaign  
Equality Federation  
Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)  
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)  
GetEQUAL  
GLAAD  
GMHC  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
Human Rights Campaign  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)  
PFLAG National  
Pride at Work, AFL-CIO  
Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)  
Soulforce  
Southerners on New Ground (SONG)  
Trans People of Color Coalition  
Transgender Law Center  
Trevor Project