

COMMUNITIES OF COLOR STATEMENT RE PROP 8 DECISION

As organizations that represent or work with diverse racial and ethnic communities in California, or allies of such organizations, we issue the following statement in response to the California Supreme Court's decision in the lawsuits to stop the implementation of Proposition 8:

We are extremely saddened that the Supreme Court chose to uphold Proposition 8 and allow blatant discrimination to be written into the state Constitution. As people of color, we are disturbed that the highest court in our state would abandon its responsibility to ensure that all groups are treated equally under the state Constitution. Despite the structural protections that should prevent the initiative power from being used this way, the Supreme Court has allowed a simple majority vote to strip away the rights of a protected minority group. We fear not only for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members of our communities, but for all people of color and other vulnerable minority groups regardless of sexual orientation. We vow to restore marriage equality to California and to make our state a place that guarantees equality and justice for all.

However, we applaud the Supreme Court for ruling that the marriages entered into by the November 4th vote remain valid. Many of our community members are among the 18,000 couples who were able to marry in California between June and November 2008, and we are thrilled that they will continue to be treated equally to all other married couples in this state. We believe it is important that the Court understood that married lesbian and gay couples relied upon the rule of law, and that basic rights must not be granted temporarily and then retroactively taken away. However, it is bittersweet to uphold the 18,000 existing marriages while treating all other same-sex couples inequally.

Endorsed by:

1. Actors' Equity Association, AFL-CIO
2. Adelante Magazine
3. American Indian Changing Spirits
4. API Equality - LA
5. API Equality - Northern California
6. Applied Research Center
7. Art | Global Health Center, UCLA
8. Asian American Action Fund of California
9. Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area
10. Asian American Justice Center
11. Asian American Studies Center, UCLA
12. Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice
13. Asian Law Alliance
14. Asian Law Caucus
15. Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team
16. Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County
17. Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center
18. Asian Pacific American Legal Center
19. Asian Pacific Americans for Progress
20. Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicon Valley
21. Asian Pacific Coalition, UCLA
22. Asian Pacific Islander Family Pride
23. Asian Pacific Islander Law Student Association
24. Asian Pacific Islander Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
25. Asian Pacific Islander Pride Council
26. Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women and Transgender Community
27. Asian Pacific Islander Social Work Caucus, UCLA School of Public Affairs
28. Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council
29. Asian Women's Shelter
30. Asian/Pacific Islander Queer Women/Transgender Activists
31. Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits
32. Bay Area Lawyer's For Individual Freedom
33. Bayard Rustin LGBT Coalition
34. Bienestar
35. CALAFIA, LGBT Scholarship Fund
36. California Council of Churches
37. California Council of Churches IMPACT
38. California Faith for Equality
39. Cardea Center for Woman
40. The Center Long Beach
41. Center for Transformative Change
42. Central American Resource Center
43. Charles Houston Bar Association - Bay Area
44. Chinese for Affirmative Action
45. Chinese Progressive Association - San Gabriel Valley
46. Chinese Rainbow Association
47. Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
48. Consumer Attorneys of San Diego
49. Courage Campaign
50. East Bay La Raza Lawyers Association
51. Equal Justice Society
52. Equal Roots Coalition
53. Equality California
54. Equality Network
55. Fong & Chun
56. The Friends of Port Chicago National Memorial
57. Gamba Adisa Quilombo
58. Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
59. Gay Asian Pacific Alliance
60. Gay Asian Pacific Support Network
61. Gay Straight Alliance, Temple City High School
62. Here To Stay Coalition
63. HONOR Political Action Committee
64. Hyphen Magazine
65. InnerCity Struggle
66. Instituto de Educación Popular del Sur de California
67. Japanese American Bar Association of Greater Los Angeles
68. Japanese American Citizens League - N. CA, W. NV, Pacific District
69. Japanese American Citizens League - Pacific Southwest District
70. Jia Lan Foundation
71. John M. Langston Bar Association
72. Jordan Rustin Coalition
73. Khmer Girls in Action
74. Korean American Bar Association of Northern California
75. Korean American Bar Association of Southern California
76. Korean Resource Center
77. Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance
78. Lambda Legal
79. La Raza Centro Legal
80. La Raza Law Students Association, UCLA School of Law
81. Laotian American National Alliance - California Chapter
82. Latina Lawyers Bar Association
83. Latino Equality Alliance
84. Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
85. Legal Aid Society of San Francisco - Employment Law Center
86. Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association of Los Angeles
87. Liberty Hill Foundation
88. Long Beach Equality
89. Los Angeles Center for Law & Justice
90. Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center
91. Love = Love
92. Mexican American Bar Association of Los Angeles County
93. Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund
94. Minority Bar Coalition (San Francisco)
95. Multicultural Bar Alliance of Southern California
96. Multi-ethnic Immigrant Worker Organizing Network
97. National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
98. National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum - Bay Area
99. National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum - Los Angeles Chapter
100. National Black Justice Coalition
101. National Center for Lesbian Rights
102. National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
103. National Korean American Service and Education Consortium
104. OCA - Greater Los Angeles Chapter
105. O-Moi
106. Out4Immigration
107. OUTlaw, UCLA School of Law
108. Pacific Pride Foundation
109. Philippine American Bar Association
110. Pilipino Workers Center
111. Pride At Work, AFL-CIO, Los Angeles Chapter
112. Promotions West
113. Roots of Equality
114. Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center
115. Satrang
116. Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network
117. Shades of Equality Coalition
118. SilverLake Hollywood Echo Park Metro Alliance
119. Somos Familia
120. Somos Mayfair
121. Song That (Radio Program)
122. Soul of Pride - San Francisco
123. South Asian Bar Association - Northern California
124. South Asian Bar Association - Sacramento
125. South Asian Bar Association - Southern California
126. South Asian Network
127. Southeast Asian Community Alliance
128. Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Los Angeles
129. Southwest Asian and North African Bay Area Queers
130. STOP AIDS Project
131. Students of Color in Action, USC
132. The United People of Color Caucus of the National Lawyers Guild
133. Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California
134. Visual Communications
135. The Wall Las Memorias
136. Women's Creative Collective for Change
137. World Pride & Power Organization
138. World Trust Educational Services