



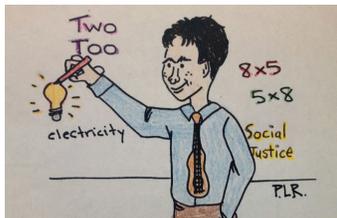
# THE NEWSLETTER

April 2019

ISSUE 4

VOLUME 26

## FIGHTING FOR STUDENTS' RIGHTS



Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, April 22** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service (JFS), 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego. **PLEASE NOTE: WE MEET ON THE 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH, NOT APRIL 29.**

Our speaker, Mick Rabin, is the Project Resource Teacher for LGBTQIA Advocacy in the San Diego

Unified School District. He was a classroom teacher for 21 years before he transitioned to this position, which he has held for the past three years. Mick has spent his career developing ways to integrate and infuse advocacy, affirmation, and respect for underrepresented populations into existing curriculum formats.

Mick will give us information regarding the upcoming documentary, "Raising Zoey." See article below.

Please join us for support groups, the cookie social, followed by Mick's presentation.

## "RAISING ZOEY"

On **April 26** from 6:00-8:30 pm, the San Diego Central Library presents "Raising Zoey," the coming-of-age story of a transgender teen on a journey to find her voice — as a daughter, sister, student and activist. The film covers topics pertaining to growing up trans in a working-class Latino home, and the intersectionality of the family addresses subjects like immigration, early transitioning, knowing your rights at school as a trans/gender non-conforming student, navigating medical insurance, community support, early medical support, suicide prevention, empowerment, and peer to peer advocacy. Following a screening of the 50-minute documentary, there will be Q&A time with Ofelia Barba and Zoey Luna, as well as filmmaker Dante Alencastre. PFLAG will have a table to distribute literature.

The library is located at 330 Park Blvd., downtown San Diego, and the screening is in the Shiley Special Events Suite, 9th Floor. There is free parking validation for 2 hours. The parking garage is located beneath the library. There is also free meter parking beginning at 6:00 pm.

## YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS HEDWIG

*Hedwig and the Angry Inch* made its explosive debut 20 years ago and changed American theatre forever. It's an iconic queer rock musical which comes to pulsating life for the first time on the Diversionary Theatre stage. Outcast turned rock underdog, Hedwig catapults the audience into their outrageous origin story that is both hilarious and horrifying, connecting the deeply personal to the universal. As Hedwig discovers themselves anew through telling their tale, this transcendent musical journey is a thrilling ride to discover your own rock and roll destiny.

*Hedwig* is at the Diversionary **through April 21**. For performance times and ticket info, go to: [www.diversionary.org](http://www.diversionary.org). You can also call: 619-220-0097. For \$5 off each ticket, use Promo Code PFLAG. The theatre is located at 4545 Park Blvd. in San Diego.

## "QUIET NO MORE"

The San Diego Women's Chorus invites you to attend their monumental 2019 spring concert, "Quiet No More: A Choral Celebration of Stonewall." This inspiring event will take place **Saturday, May 18** at 7:00 pm and **May 19** at 4:00 pm. The concert will honor the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. SDWC is participating in a commission project for a brand new, unique work that will commemorate and convey the impact and legacy of Stonewall.

The work will tell the Stonewall story clearly and passionately and will include previously unheard voices and the latest historical insights. The history of Stonewall will be balanced with the uprising's continuing impact in the present moment, and the future campaigning work that is still undone.

The concert will be performed at Lincoln High School, 4777 Imperial Avenue in San Diego in the Theatre at the Performing Arts Center (Building 900) on the campus. Tickets can be purchased at [www.sdw.org](http://www.sdw.org) or at the door for \$25 (\$20 for student, senior, military, disabled, youth). VIP tickets are also available.

## HARVEY MILK DIVERSITY BREAKFAST

The 11th Annual Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast will be held on Friday, **May 17** from 7:30-9:00 am at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel. Proceeds benefit the social services programs of the LGBT Center. Attended by more than 1,000 people, businesses, groups, and organizations, this San Diego event is the largest Harvey Milk celebration in the state of California! What a way to honor a gifted LGBT activist who brought about so many changes in the community. For ticket information: [events.thecentersd.org/HMDB](http://events.thecentersd.org/HMDB).

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National PFLAG, Washington, DC  
(202) 647-8180, www.pflag.org

## Membership Application

- New  Renewal  Change of Address  
 Please contact me for volunteer opportunities

Confidentiality is respected. Your donation  
is tax deductible (Tax ID 33-0512868)

Make checks payable to: PFLAG San Diego  
PO Box 82762, San Diego, CA 92138

- Individual ..... \$30  Household ..... \$40  
 Business ..... \$50  Supporting ..... \$60  
 Contributing ..... \$125  Lifetime ..... \$1000  
 Other ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Accept my donation, please do not list.

**Please fill out, clip and mail this form**

or apply online [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)

Name.....

Address.....

City ..... State ..... ZIP .....

Email.....

Phone.....Date .....

## SMILE!

If you have an account with Amazon, you can help raise funds for PFLAG San Diego County by changing your account to smile.Amazon. For every purchase, our chapter will receive .05% of the dollar amount of the order. This may not sound like a lot, but it adds up with the more people we have participating.

Go to smile.Amazon.com and log onto your account. When selecting to support PFLAG, it will be listed as either PFLAG San Diego County or by Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays San Diego County (our original name registered with the IRS).

## THANK YOU

Arlene Prater for the General Fund Donation



Equality is the soul of liberty, there  
is, in fact, no liberty without it.

Frances Wright

# Current Events

**April 15 | Monday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
South Bay

**April 16 – 1ST MEETING  
Tuesday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
El Cajon  
(see Support Groups for  
details)

**Thru April 21**  
Diversionary Theatre  
*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*  
(see article)

**April 22 | Monday**  
San Diego Metro General  
Meeting and Support Groups

**April 23 | Tuesday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Inland

**April 23 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway/High School

**April 23 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway/Middle  
School

**April 26 | Friday**  
"Raising Zoey"  
San Diego Central Library  
(see article)

**April 27 | Saturday**  
Project Youth Prom  
(see article)

**May 2 | Thursday**  
Dining Out for Life®  
(see article)

**May 6 | Monday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Coastal

**May 7 | Tuesday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
Ramona

**May 11 | Saturday**  
Launching Leaders Luncheon  
(see article)

**May 13 | Monday**  
Mi Familia

**May 14 | Tuesday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Inland

**May 14 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway/High School

**May 14 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway/Middle  
School

**May 17 | Friday**  
Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast  
(see article)

**May 18-19  
Friday-Saturday**  
San Diego Women's Chorus  
Concert  
(see article)

# SUPPORT GROUPS

## SD METRO GENERAL MEETING & SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every 4th Monday at 7:00 pm, at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Ave, San Diego in Kearny Mesa.

**For further information, contact the Info Line:  
888-398-0006 or [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)**

## NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets the 1st Monday at 6:30 pm  
Pilgrim UCC, 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad.

**Annette: 760-518-3345 | [northcountycoastal@pflag.com](mailto:northcountycoastal@pflag.com)**

## NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm  
St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway.

**Jill/Dan: 760-855-9424 | [RBPowaypflagsdc@pflag.com](mailto:RBPowaypflagsdc@pflag.com)**

## EAST COUNTY - 1st MEETING THIS TUESDAY

Meets the 3rd Tuesday from 6:00-7:30 pm, El Cajon Library,  
201 E. Douglas Avenue, El Cajon.

**Raegan: 858-531-5426 | [eastcountysdc@pflag.com](mailto:eastcountysdc@pflag.com)**

## SOUTH BAY – NEW MEETING LOCATION

Meets 3rd Monday from 7:00-8:00 pm, South Bay Youth Center,  
1180 Third Avenue, Suite C1, Chula Vista.

**Patti: 619-227-6092 | [pboman@pflag.com](mailto:pboman@pflag.com)**

## RAMONA

Meets 1st Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 pm, St. Mary's in the Valley,  
1010 12th Street, Ramona. For meeting info::

**Carlee: 757-448-5640 | [Ramonapflagsdc@pflag.com](mailto:Ramonapflagsdc@pflag.com)**

## POWAY LGBTQ YOUTH SUPPORT/HIGH SCHOOL

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm  
St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway.

**Al: 858-382-2262 | [al@transfamilysos.org](mailto:al@transfamilysos.org)**

## OUR SPACE-POWAY--LGBTQIA/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm, St. Bart's Church,  
16275 Pomerado Road, Poway. Facilitated by youth.

**Al: 858-382-2262 | [al@transfamilysos.org](mailto:al@transfamilysos.org)**

## MI FAMILIA (Spanish) NEW LOCATION

Meets 2nd Monday from 6:00-7:30 pm, South Bay Youth Center,  
1180 Third Avenue, Suite C1, Chula Vista.

**Patti: 619-227-6092 | [pboman@pflag.com](mailto:pboman@pflag.com)**

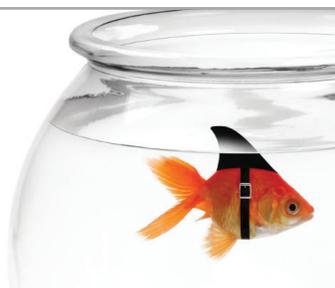
## TRANSFAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support groups held separately for children, teens, & adults  
to explore topics around gender identity and expressions.

**Kathie: 858-382-9156 | [info@transfamilysos.org](mailto:info@transfamilysos.org)**

# LOOK LIKE A BIG FISH

Competition is fierce.  
It's time to get aggressive.



Call for a Free Consult  
858.220.7478  
[belladiadesign.com](http://belladiadesign.com)

## LGBT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STANDS TALL

The Community Leadership Council commits to last year's resolution protesting the exclusion of Transgender service members from military service. PFLAG San Diego County will again stand with the community against the ban. Here is the Resolution:

The United States Department of Defense Exclusion of Transgender Persons from Military Service April 26, 2018

Whereas the mission of the San Diego LGBT Community Leadership Council, a project of The San Diego LGBT Community Center, is to support and enhance the business, political, cultural, and community life of the San Diego LGBT community, improve the health and well-being of its members, and advance the equality and civil rights of all by providing a stable, effective, and on-going collaborative mechanism through which LGBT community organizations and their allies can effectively exchange information, coordinate community activities, collaborate on community projects, and provide coordinated community leadership,

Whereas, On March 23, 2018, The President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, announced a Department of Defense policy that excludes transgender persons from military service based on their gender identity, except under certain limited circumstances; and

Whereas, The American Medical Association stated that there "is no medically valid reason — including a diagnosis of gender dysphoria — to exclude transgender individuals from military service"; and

Whereas, The American Psychological Association finds "substantial psychological research shows that gender dysphoria is a treatable condition, and does not, by itself, limit the ability of individuals to function well and excel in their work, including in military service"; and

Whereas, No scientific research has shown that transgender servicemembers adversely impact readiness or unit cohesion, but research does show that discrimination and stigma harms morale and readiness by creating stress for transgender persons that harms their well-being; and

Whereas, The American Psychiatric Association has also voiced strong opposition to banning transgender persons from military service; and

Whereas, This policy will result in the loss of potential and current fully trained and deployable military personnel bases solely on their gender identity; and

Whereas, Transgender individuals, including those from San Diego, have served, and continue to serve, our country with honor, and should be allowed to continue doing so; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the San Diego LGBT Community Leadership Council finds the exclusion of transgender persons from United States military service unfair, discriminatory and unconstitutional.

Dr. Shaun Travers  
Community Leadership Council Chair

## MUCH ADO AT NORTH COUNTY LGBTQ RESOURCE CENTER

On **Saturday, April 27**, the Resource Center presents Project Youth's Prom 2019, "Out of this World" from 6:00-9:00 pm. It is open to 8th grade-12th grade students. For more info: [lgbtplusprojectyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtplusprojectyouth@gmail.com).

And for the whole family, you are invited to the Resource Center's Annual Benefit Gala, "Leading with Love, an LGBTQI Gala Experience." The gala takes place on **Sunday, June 9** from 2:00-7:00 pm at the Leichtag Foundation, 441 Saxony Avenue in Encinitas. The signature event is what keeps their doors open to serve thousands of people each year. In 2019, their aim is to support more homeless youth, and to serve more marginalized and disadvantaged folks through the diversity of programs they offer.

While more details will be in the May newsletter, you can buy tickets at the early bird price until May 15. You can also sponsor or donate, all one stop shopping at: [www.ncresourcecenter.org/2019-annual-gala/](http://www.ncresourcecenter.org/2019-annual-gala/).

## AND THE AWARDEES ARE...



*Image from Chris Ward Facebook*

You can be there in person to find out who is receiving the 12 PFLAG scholarships at the Launching Leaders Luncheon on **Saturday, May 11** (I'm on my cell and can't bold the date). The luncheon is from 11:30 am-2:00 pm at the LGBT Community Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest. Tickets are \$60 each and you can use the information from the form on page 5 to purchase tickets or make a donation. For questions: [scholarships@pflag.com](mailto:scholarships@pflag.com).

We are pleased to announce that District 3 City Councilmember, Chris Ward, is the Keynote speaker. In addition, he will be presenting commendations from the City of San Diego to each recipient. The emcee is Ruthie Inacay, recipient of last year's Richard P. Geysler Memorial Ethics Scholarship.

Hope to see you there.

## CHEERS FOR LORI LIGHTFOOT

In early April, Lori Lightfoot won a resounding victory (i.e., landslide) to become both the first African American woman and openly gay person elected mayor of Chicago, dealing a stinging defeat to a political establishment that has reigned over City Hall for decades.

Lightfoot's win makes Chicago the largest U.S. city ever to elect an openly gay mayor.

"A lot of little boys and girls are out there watching us tonight, and they're seeing the beginning of something, well, a little bit different," Lightfoot said with a smile. "They're seeing a city reborn, a city where it doesn't matter what color you are, where it surely doesn't matter how tall you are and where it doesn't matter who you love, just as long as you love with all your heart."

It's heartwarming to hear of Ms Lightfoot's improbable journey, from the diminutive daughter of poor parents who worked multiple low-wage jobs in the segregated steel town of Massillon, Ohio, to graduate of University of Michigan and the University of Chicago law school, to federal prosecutor, major law firm partner and now mayor of America's third-largest city.

"My parents didn't have much money, but they had their dignity and their dreams, dreams for their children, dreams for me," Lightfoot said. "They taught me the value of honesty, decency, hard work and education, and they gave me faith, the faith that put me where I am today."

## ALWAYS IN NEED OF HELP!

The San Diego History Center is in desperate need of volunteers for the LGBTQ+ Community Exhibition in Balboa Park. Part of the AIDS Memorial Quilt is on display and they need monitors whenever the exhibition is open. There are two shifts: 10:00 am-1:30 pm or 1:30-5:00 pm daily. If you can sign up, please go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044ca5a82eabf94-april>. Any questions, please email Samantha Alberts: [salberts@sandiegohistory.org](mailto:salberts@sandiegohistory.org).



PFLAGers support the Planned Parenthood Gala:  
Terrie Vorono, Patti Boman, Brenda Arnold.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This is the first year we are making available a way to donate to the success of the Launching Leaders Luncheon where we honor the scholarship recipients. It's also a way to guarantee the continuation of the Scholarship Program. Tickets for the luncheon are \$60/each or a table of eight is \$500. But fear not! Using the information below, you can make a one-time donation. The same link can be used for both: [www.sdhdf.org/events/event\\_registration.php](http://www.sdhdf.org/events/event_registration.php)

### LAUNCHING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2019

Donation form: One Time Gift (Please print)

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

We are happy to accept cash donations. You may give it to the person requesting donations.

Specify Your Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### To charge donation:

[www.sdhdf.org/events/event\\_registration.php](http://www.sdhdf.org/events/event_registration.php)  
and click on the Online Donation link.

#### To pay via check:

Please make check payable to SDHDF and mail to  
325 W. Washington Street, Ste 2, #235  
San Diego, CA 92103

In the memo portion of the check, list:

PFLAG Scholarships

## DINING OUT FOR LIFE®; HELP FIGHT AIDS

Be a part of the LGBT Center's 13th annual Dining Out for Life® event. This year, there are over 60 restaurants participating on **Thursday, May 2**. The establishments listed give a minimum of 25 percent of their proceeds on food and liquor sales to the LGBT Center for HIV/AIDS services/programs. Please spread the word! It's not too late to volunteer to be a goodwill ambassador at one of the participating restaurants. For info, contact Ian Johnson at [ijohnson@thecentersd.org](mailto:ijohnson@thecentersd.org) or 619.692.2077, ext. 247.

All the restaurants are located in the San Diego area except for one restaurant located in Oceanside (19TEN). We hope you will plan on having a meal (or two or three) at one of the restaurants. You can call restaurants to ask if they accept reservations.



### 19TEN Oceanside

1910 Oceanside Blvd.,  
Suite F  
OCEANSIDE  
*(only North County  
restaurant participating)*

### Babycakes

2315 Reo Drive  
619-296-4173

### Baja Betty's

1421 University Avenue  
619-269-8510

### Barrio Star

2705 5th Avenue  
619-501-7827

### Big Front Door

4135 Park Blvd.  
619-255-4100

### Blind Lady Ale House

3416 Adams Avenue  
619-255-2491

### Bo-beau Kitchen + Cache

1027 University Avenue  
619-481-5034

### Burger Lounge-Hillcrest

406 University Avenue  
619-487-1183

### Burger Lounge-Kensington

4116 Adams Avenue  
619-584-2929

### Burger Lounge-La Jolla

1101 Wall Street  
La Jolla  
858-456-0196

### Café Madeleine

2850 El Cajon Blvd.  
619-723-5845

### Concept Two Seven Eight

3687 Fifth Avenue  
619-278-0080

### CopperTop Coffee + Donuts

101 W. Washington Street  
619-458-9045

### Cowboy Star

640 10th Avenue  
619-450-5880

### Crest Café

425 Robinson Avenue  
619-295-2510

### Del Sur Mexican Cantina

2310 30th Street  
619-501-0643

### DiMille's Italian Restaurant

3492 Adams Avenue  
619-283-3153

### Et Voila! French Bistro

3015 Adams Avenue, #103  
619-209-7759

### Fig Tree Café

416 University Avenue  
619-298-2010

### Flicks

1017 University Avenue  
619-297-2056

### Freshii

1255B University Avenue  
858-564-3447

### Gossip Grill

1440 University Avenue  
619-260-8023

### Great Maple

1451 Washington Avenue  
619-255-2282

### Hammond's Gourmet

Ice Cream  
3077 University Avenue  
619-220-0231

### Harbor Town Pub

1125 Rosecrans Street  
619-224-1321

### Harley Gray Kitchen & Bar

902 W. Washington Street  
619-955-8451

### Hash House A Go Go

3628 Fifth Avenue  
619-298-4646

### Haven (The) Pizzeria

4051 Adams Avenue  
619-281-1904

### Hillcrest Brewing Company

308 University Avenue  
619-269-4323

### Indigo Grill

1536 India Street  
619-234-6802

### insideOUT

1642 University Avenue  
619-888-8623

### Kensington Café

4141 Adams Avenue  
619-964-3778

### Kous Kous Moroccan Bistro

3940 4th Avenue, Ste 110  
619-295-5560

### La Puerta

560 4th Avenue  
619-696-3466

### Lotus Thai

3661 6th Avenue  
619-316-4186

### Lotus Thai Cuisine

906 Market Street  
619-595-0155

### Mariposa Ice Cream

3450 Adams Avenue  
619-284-5197

### Martinis Above Fourth/ Table + Stage

3940 4th Ave., Suite 200  
619-400-4500

### Mission-Mission Beach (The)

3795 Mission Blvd.  
858-488-9060

### Mission-North Park (The)

2801 University Avenue  
619-220-8992

### Mission-SOMA (The)

1250 J Street  
619-232-7662

### Natural Style Chicken

501 University Avenue  
619-228-9442

### Negociant Winery

2419 El Cajon Blvd.  
619-535-1747

### Oceana Coastal Kitchen

3999 Mission Blvd.  
858-539-8635

### Ortegas

141 University Avenue  
619-692-4200

### Pampas Argentine Grill

8690 Aero Drive  
858-278-5971

### Park & Rec

4612 Park Blvd.  
619-795-9700

**Parkhouse Eatery**  
4574 Park Blvd.  
619-295-7275

**Parma-Cucina Italiana**  
3850 Fifth Avenue  
619-543-0049

**Ponce's Mexican Restaurant**  
4050 Adams Avenue  
619-282-4413

**Ponce's Mexican Restaurant**  
Del Sur (4S Ranch)  
16480 Paseo Del Sur  
858-312-1114

**Pop Pie Co.**  
4404 Park Blvd.  
619-501-4440

**Project Pie**  
3888 4th Avenue  
619-501-8000

**Rail (The)**  
796 Fifth Avenue  
619-298-2233

**Redwing Bar & Grill**  
4012 30th Street  
619-281-8700

**RICHS**  
1051 University Avenue  
619-295-2195

**Sirens Bar & Restaurant**  
3797 Park Blvd.  
619-241-2710

**Smoking Gun (The)**  
555 Market Street  
619-233-3836

**Spill the Beans Coffee & Bagels**  
555 Market Street  
619-233-3836

**Terra American Bistro**  
7091 El Cajon Blvd.  
619-293-7088

**Tiger!Tiger!**  
4025 El Cajon Blvd.  
619-487-0401

**Uptown Tavern**  
1236 University Avenue  
619-241-2710

**Urban Mo's**  
308 University Avenue  
619-491-0400

**Waypoint Public**  
3794 30th Street  
619-255-8778

**West Coast Tavern**  
2895 University Avenue  
619-295-1688

**Wine Pub (The)**  
2907 Shelter Island Drive  
619-758-9325

## THIS IS 2019??

In the small southeast Asian kingdom of Brunei, a new law that went into effect early April, will punish homosexual sex and adultery with death by stoning, should they be found guilty. What are the odds they won't be found guilty?

Human rights groups were quick to express horror at the penal code, which will also order amputation as a punishment for theft.

"Brunei must immediately halt its plans to implement these vicious punishments, and revise its Penal Code in compliance with its human rights obligations. The international community must urgently condemn Brunei's move to put these cruel penalties into practice," Rachel Chhoa-Howard, Brunei Researcher at Amnesty International, said in a statement.

With more international pressure, the small nation said it has no plans to halt the law.

Actor George Clooney called for a boycott of the nine hotels linked to Brunei -- three of which are in the UK, two in the US, two in France, and two in Italy. They include the Beverly Hills Hotel and the Bel-Air in Los Angeles. "Are we really going to help pay for these human rights violations? Are we really going to help fund the murder of innocent citizens?" he wrote.

World leaders have followed in denouncing the country's harsh practices and stood by the LGBT community.

The United Nations has condemned the law, saying that human rights experts have "expressed their concerns about the cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments contained in the penal code order."

"I appeal to the government to stop the entry into force of

this draconian new penal code, which would mark a serious setback for human rights protections for the people of Brunei if implemented," wrote Michelle Bachelet, the UN high commissioner for human rights, in a statement.

And the United States? They refused to condemn the law. After being asked for comment several times by *The Daily Beast*, the State Department issued a statement saying that the U.S. is "concerned" with the law and that the punishments "appear inconsistent with international human rights obligations, including with respect to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." But did they condemn it? NO! Their statement was a broad no torture statement without referring to the new Brunei Penal Code (Shariah Law). When pressed further about this specific law, a spokesperson said, "Governments have an obligation to ensure that all people, including LGBTI people, can freely enjoy the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms to which they are entitled. We strongly oppose human rights violations and abuses against LGBTI persons, including violence, the criminalization of LGBTI status or conduct, and serious forms of discrimination." Again, nothing specific to Brunei.

In celebrity circles, Perez Hilton has outed the Sultan of Brunei's son, Prince Azim. He is the fourth in line to the throne. Not to be catty, and you can take it for what it's worth, it is well known that the prince has lavish parties with queer celebrities among the guests. These parties have free-flowing alcohol which would be strike two for Prince Azim. His brother, Prince Jefri, is also reportedly "hedonistic" and adultery would be his fatal sin. Both men would be put to death under their father's law.

As part of the LGBTQ community, it is important for all of us to speak up.

## JOHN MCCAIN WOULD NOT HAVE STOOD FOR THIS

Arizona has a law that bans schools from portraying "homosexuality as a positive alternative lifestyle" and from teaching safer sex methods for gay people.

In March, Equality Arizona and others sued Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman in federal court, arguing that the anti-LGBTQ curriculum law violates LGBTQ students' Fourteenth Amendment equal protection rights.

Now Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich says that he won't defend the law in court. Normally, the state attorney general represents state agencies in court.

Brnovich sent a letter to state House Speaker Rusty Bowers and state Senate President Karen Fann to inform them of his decision and to give them "adequate time and information to make an informed decision" about whether the state legislature will defend the law with its own attorneys.

The state attorney general's office said that the anti-LGBTQ curriculum law "is probably susceptible to being struck down by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals," even if it could be defended in court. Thank heavens!

A spokesperson for Bowers said that the state house is more focused on repealing the law than defending it in court.

"Details are still being negotiated, but Speaker Bowers expects the Legislature to revise current law to address the issues raised in the lawsuit."

Fann said that she has not made a decision on whether to defend the law.

Madelaine Adelman, the founder of GLSEN Phoenix, an LGBTQ student organization, welcomed the attorney general's announcement.

"A clean repeal will move Arizona away from this decades-old stigma-based approach to education," she said in a statement. "Such legal reform is critical, given what is known about its effect on the safety and health of students in K-12 schools."

The suit also ties the law to bullying, saying that it sends a message "that there is something so undesirable, shameful, or controversial about 'homosexuality' that any positive portrayals of LGBTQ people or same-sex relationships must be explicitly barred."



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