Addressing Oppression and Abuse within the Latin@ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Communities

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Disclaimers

- Do not presume to know all the answers...this is a dialogue!
- Acknowledge I am heterosexist, homophobic, ageist, racist, etc.
Agreements

- Speak for yourself/your experiences.
- Listen for understanding (i.e. not for possible agreement/retort).
- Agree to disagree.
- Give unconditional respect to yourself and others.
- Take care of yourself.
- Check your privilege
- No one has the right to out someone else without consent.
Before we start repeat after me...

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender*
- Other terms

*Part of the oppression is the abbreviation of marginalized communities.*
U.S. Culture and LGBT Issues

- Within the United States, what are some cultural reasons you think LGBT issues and people may be...
  - rather openly discussed?
  - shunned or discriminated against?
  - protected and celebrated?
Why are we having this conversation?
TALKING ABOUT

LGBT Equality with Latinos & Hispanics

Authors

Contributing Editors
• 80% believe that gay people often face discrimination.
• 83% support housing and employment non-discrimination protections for gay people.
• 74% support either marriage or marriage-like legal recognition for gay and lesbian couples.
• 73% say that gay people should be allowed to serve openly in the military.
• 75% support school policies to prevent harassment and bullying of students who are gay or perceived to be gay.
• 55% (and 68% of Latino Catholics) say that being gay is morally acceptable.
Overall, results showed that LGBT-relevant victim assistance is lacking in:

1. LGBT specific services
2. Culturally specific outreach
3. Victim assistance provider training
4. Inclusive reporting forms
5. LGBT specific policies & practices
6. Collaboration between LGBT & mainstream victim service providers
7. Funding for LGBT specific services
LGBT victims fear re-victimization through homophobia, disbelief, denial and degradation of the institutions that have a history of exclusion, hostility and violence toward LGBT people.
Even in large cities, the LGBT community can be surprisingly small, privacy is often difficult to maintain, and trying to escape an abusive relationship can be more difficult.
Critical Analysis:

- The exploitation of the intersections as *believable* stereotypes in our workspaces:
  - Privilege of visibility.
  - Consequences of visibility.
  - Privilege of self-defense.
  - Conversations on comparison of privileges not oppressions!
  - If I identify as an ally what is my role?
Who is in the room?
Living on borders and in margins, keeping intact one's shifting and multiple identity and integrity, is like trying to swim in a new element, an "alien" element.

Gloria Anzaldúa, 1942 – 2004
Tejana, Poeta, Chicana, Lesbianas

THIS WORD DOES NOT DESCRIBE ALL LATINOS FOR IT EXCLUDES THE AFRICAN PORTUGUESE, AND INDIGENOUS CULTURES OF LATIN AMERICA!!!
Inmigrant = Latin@ = Mexican = Illegal = Criminal


- Professional
- Bilingual (Spanish)
- University graduate
- Latino
- Catholic
- US born
- Dark skin
- Transgender
Intersections of Racism & Homophobia!

Source: www.washingtonpost.com

San Antonio Immigrant Youth Movement
Immigration & LGBT Equality

While immigration reform and the movement for LGBT equality both involve advocacy against discrimination, Latinos tend to reject attempts to compare experiences of immigrants with other forms of discrimination. Latino immigrants routinely face deportation fears, racial profiling, workplace raids and more. These hardships differ from the discrimination suffered by LGBT people who are not immigrants, not in terms of being “greater” or “lesser” hardships, but simply in terms of being unique. Attempts to compare such experiences generally lead Latinos and non-Latino allies to focus on what they might see as differences between Latinos and LGBT people, rather than on our common ground. Instead, consider focusing on a sense of shared struggle against common opponents who are both anti-immigrant and anti-LGBT—though without comparing struggles or hardships faced.
Geographic Distribution

Top 10 States With The Largest Latino Populations

- California: +3 million (27.8%)
- Arizona: +599,500 (46.3%)
- New Mexico: +188,100 (46.3%)
- Texas: +2.7 million (41.8%)
- Colorado: +303,100 (41.2%)
- Illinois: +497,300 (32.5%)
- New York: +549,300 (19.2%)
- New Jersey: +437,900 (39.2%)
- Georgia: +418,400 (96.1%)
- Florida: +1.5 million (57.4%)

Figure 25: Hispanic same-sex couple households in the United States

Key:
1 dot = 10 Hispanic same-sex couple households

Map by Lopez & Cheung, Inc.
Data: 2000 U.S. Census, Summary File 4

Source: http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/HispanicLatinoHouseholdsUS.pdf
Victim assistance content in Spanish missing on 80% of websites in 16 states with 41,840,274 Latin@ residents in 2009. (Updated April 2011 with new 2010 Census figures)


The colors correspond to the percent of victim assistance websites in a state without information in Spanish.

- **80% - 100%**
- **75% - 79%**
- **57% - 74%**

2010 U.S. Census Bureau
Figure 25: Hispanic same-sex couple households in the United States

Key:
1 dot=10 Hispanic same-sex couple households

Map by Lopez & Cheung, Inc.
Data: 2000 U.S. Census, Summary File 4

The colors correspond to the percent of victim assistance websites in a state without information in Spanish.

- Red: 80% - 100%
- Orange: 70% - 79%
- Yellow: 57% - 74%

2010 U.S. Census Bureau
What are the institutions that contribute to our cultural identity?
How important is the "Church" in the Latino community?
La familia
Lesbianas y Gays Latinos: Historias de Fuerza, Familia y Amor

De Colores

Lesbian and Gay Latinos: Stories of Strength, Family and Love

Audience Award for Best Documentary Short
Los Angeles OutFest 2001

Unlearning Homophobia Series
In the Latino community, we do not turn our back on our family. We have a responsibility to nurture the youth in our families - not to push them out because they happen to be gay, lesbian, or transgender.

- Dolores Huerta
Civil Rights Leader

www.familiaesfamilia.org
CARLOS HERMOSILLO
DE FUTBOLISTA A FUNCIONARIO

PREMIO NOBEL
DE LA PAZ
EL HOMBRE
QUE ARROJO
LA INVASIÓN A IRAK

FÓRMULA 1
EN BRASIL
ENTRETENIMOS
DE LA VICTORIA DE
FELIPE MASSA

TE ADORAMOS, MARÍA
EN ESTA EDICIÓN, LA MODELO
MARÍA FLORENCIA ONORI
NO CESA A PRESENTAR
SU CONMOVEDORA BELLEZA.

PRIMER GANADOR DEL CONCURSO PLAYBOY DE FICCIÓN

MÁXIMO
Este exótico (un luchador que interpreta a un homosexual) trastorna a sus rivales coqueteando con ellos. Lleva cinco años como profesional.
La Marcha de las putas en Ciudad Juárez

Source: Leobardo Alvarado http://juarezdialoga.org/?p=1128d%3F
“... You look at a film like Milk. We know there were a lot of people of color doing organizing back then in the San Francisco Bay Area, but the only Latino character was this sexpot whose name was Taco. I saw a lot of mainstream media praising the movie, but from my perspective, I couldn't agree," Jimenez says.

LGBT and Latino, story by Mari Herreras, Tucson Weekly
www.tucsonweekly.com
Who is not in the room?
El Paso teen Brandon Elizares, 16, took his own life on June 2, according to family and friends.

Source: http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2012/06/el-paso-gay-teen-bullied-for-2-years-commits-suicide/
KEY FINDINGS

- Discrimination was pervasive for all respondents who took the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, yet the combination of anti-transgender bias and persistent, structural and individual racism was especially devastating for Latino/a transgender people and other people of color.

- Non-citizen Latino/a respondents were often among those most vulnerable to harassment, abuse and violence in the study; their experiences are noted throughout this report.

- Latino/a transgender people often live in extreme poverty with 28% reporting a household income of less than $10,000/year. This is nearly double the rate for transgender people of all races (15%), over five times the general Latino/a population rate (5%), and seven times the general U.S. population rate (4%). The rate for Latino/a non-citizen respondents was 43%.

- Latino/a transgender people were affected by HIV in devastating numbers. One in twelve Latino/a respondents were HIV-positive (8.44%) and an additional 10.23% reported that they did not know their status. This compares to rates of 2.64% for transgender respondents of all races, .50% for the general Latino/a population, and 0.60% of the general U.S. population. The rate for Latino/a non-citizen respondents was 23.08%

- Forty-seven percent (47%) of Latino/a respondents reported having attempted suicide.
The 2012 report found that 73.1% of all anti-LGBTQ homicide victims in 2012 were people of color. Of the 25 known homicide victims in 2012 whose race/ethnicity was disclosed, 54% were Black/African American, 15% Latin@, 12% White and 4% Native American.

The report also found that 53.8% of anti-LGBTQ homicide victims in 2012 were transgender women. This is a considerable increase from 2011 (40%) and continues a three-year trend toward disproportionate and severe violence experienced by transgender women.
Of the many details learned about LGBT Latino youth, the following were the most striking:

LGBT Latino youth are nearly as optimistic as their non-LGBT Latino peers about future life achievements. However, they feel much less hopeful than those peers about meeting those goals if they remain in their current communities.

The most difficult problems facing LGBT Latino youth are related to negative responses to their LGBT identity.

Concern about family acceptance is the top problem identified, and having their families accept and support them is a key change they wish for in their lives.

Slightly more than half of LGBT Latino youth are out to their immediate family, and nearly 6 in 10 say their family is accepting of LGBT people. Still, about one-third report a lack of family acceptance.

Slightly less than half of LGBT Latino youth have an adult in their family they can turn to, if worried or sad, while 8 in 10 of their non-LGBT Latino peers have such an adult.
Top five reasons why LGBT youth are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless

1. Ran away because of family rejection of sexual orientation or gender identity - 46%
2. Forced out by parents because of sexual orientation or gender identity - 43%
3. Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse at home - 32%
4. Aged out of the foster care system - 17%
5. Financial or emotional neglect from family - 14%

The importance of language

Wetback
LOCa
Tortillera
Joto
Tragaleche
illegal
The importance of language

- Lesbian/Gay
- Transgender
- Gender expression and / or identity
- Sexual Orientation
- Homophobia
- Transphobia
- Hetero-normativity
- Heterosexism
- Preferred gender pronouns
- Internalized racism

- Lesbianana/Gay
- Transgenero
- Expresión de género y / o identidad
- Orientación Sexual
- Homofobia
- Transfobia
- Heteronormatividad
- Heterosexismo
- Pronombres de género preferido
- Racismo internalizado
LGBT Latin@ Immigrant Victim

Church

Mental & Medical Professionals

Law Enforcement

Prosecutor

Homeland Security

Educational Institutions

Other Social/Legal Advocacy Groups

CPS/APS

Welfare System
We are one community/Somos una sola comunidad!

“Our movement has been supporting lesbian and gay rights for over 20 years. We supported lesbian and gay rights when it was just a crowd of 10 people.”

Cesar Chavez, 1987 march for gay and lesbian rights in Washington, DC.
How can I share my privilege as an ally?

- Be present and listen
- Reach out to QPOC leaders
- Do research on QPOC activists/feminists
- Does the leadership represent the community
National Latin@ Ally Organizations

MALDEF
Promoting Latino Civil Rights Since 1968

NCLR
National Council of La Raza

League of United Latin American Citizens
Questions?