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GLAA Makes 'A Call to Coalition'

The Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C. (GLAA) has released its LGBT Pride Month letter, "A Call to Coalition," to be distributed at its booth at the Capital Pride Festival on June 8. In the letter GLAA steps back from current legislative and policy efforts in the District and speaks to those from many states who attend the festival. The message, according to GLAA President Rick Rosendall, is, "Defeating the right-wing backlash requires a revitalized liberal coalition."

The document is available in flyer format:

<http://glaa.org/archive/2014/acall2coalition0604.pdf>

It has also been published on the Daily Kos blog, with numerous related links:

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/06/04/1304453/-A-Call-to-Coalition>

A shorter version is published in *Metro Weekly*:

<http://www.metroweekly.com/2014/06/a-call-to-coalition/>

Rosendall states, "GLAA has helped build many coalitions over the years to advance LGBT equality in the District. As activists and scholars mark the fiftieth anniversary of Mississippi Freedom Summer, the stark political polarization and erosion of rights affecting a broad spectrum of populations in America make renewed coalition efforts vital, beginning with voter registration and turnout." GLAA will have voter registration forms at its booth:

<http://tinyurl.com/pn9yb49>

Here are excerpts from "A Call to Coalition":

"We cannot remain in separate silos, divided by race, religion, gender, class, immigration status, and sexual orientation. Our lives and bonds cross multiple categories."

"The escalating paranoid rhetoric is in response to our victories. We cannot ignore the craziness--violent words can lead to violent acts--but vigilance needs clarity and resolve, not fear."

"Right-wing pols and pundits have blamed floods, tornadoes, helicopter crashes and mass murders on gay marriage. The God to whom they attribute these punishments is not only cruel and deranged, He has terrible aim."

"The radical right's artificial state of siege is based on a sense of aggrieved entitlement.... The politics of resentment is an old strategy of divide-and-conquer designed to distract you while you are pick-pocketed."

"We are in the midst of an historic cultural shift.... This is a season for seizing opportunities--one of which is revitalizing coalitions."

"We secure our freedoms by exercising them--beginning with our right to vote."

Founded in 1971, the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington (GLAA) is an all-volunteer, non-partisan, non-profit political organization that defends the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the Nation's Capital. GLAA lobbies the D.C. Council, monitors government agencies, educates and rates local candidates, and works in coalitions to defend the safety, health, and equal rights of LGBT families. GLAA remains the nation's oldest continuously active gay and lesbian civil rights organization.

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