

# The Rainbow Times

The Freshest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Newspaper in New England

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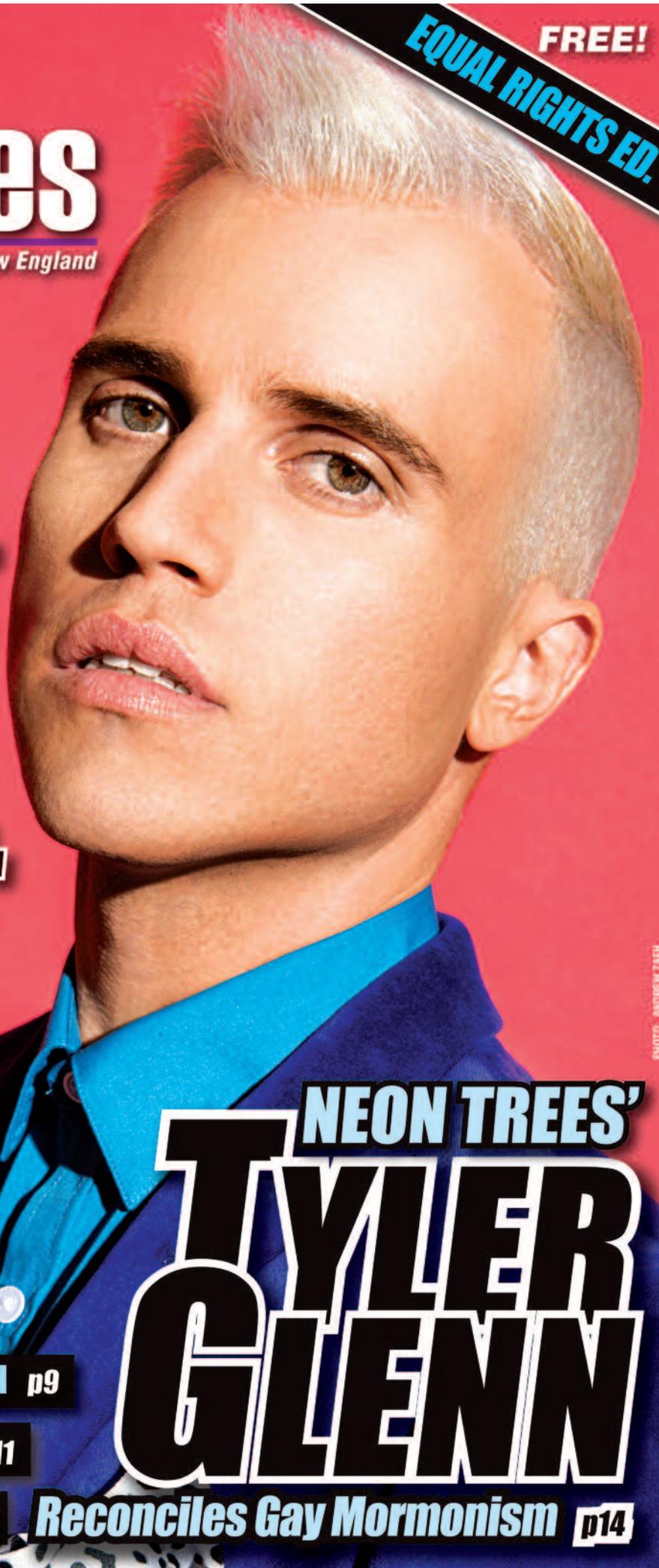


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**MassSPIRIT SUPER PAC**  
Launches in MA to  
Keep Equality at the  
Forefront of Politics **p3**

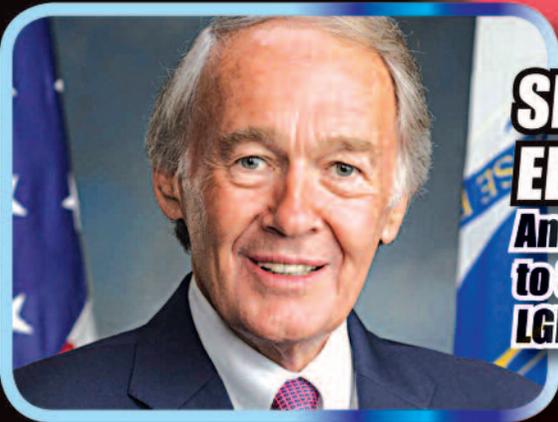


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**SENATOR ED MARKEY**  
Announces Legislation  
to Support International  
LGBT Rights **p8**



PHOTO: DOUG PLUMMER

**LGBTQ INCLUSION**  
Boston Area Orgs.  
& Clubs cater to the  
Community **p12**

**PROMISE PLACE SCHOOL: SERVES HOMELESS YOUTH** **p9**

**EQUALDEX: TIMELINE OF LGBT LAWS, DATA, NEWS** **p11**

**ENDA: GROUPS AGAINST RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION** **p11**

**Reconciles Gay Mormonism** **p14**

**NEON TREES'**  
**TYLER**  
**GLENN**

## Only when it comes to contraception & LGBTs

By: Nicole Lashomb\*/TRT Editor-in-Chief

**OPINIONS** Late last month, The Supreme Court has ruled that a “closely-held” company, a for-profit corporation mostly owned by five or fewer individuals, can be exempt from the contraceptive coverage mandate provided to its female employees under the Affordable Care Act, based on its owner’s religious beliefs. Shocked and outraged by such a ruling, this is the precedent that has opened the flood gates for all sorts of religiously based discrimination to occur, disguised as religious liberty.

The 5-to-4 ruling, which applied to two companies owned by “Christian” families, opened the door to many challenges from corporations over laws that they claim violate their religious liberty. In *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, the court ruled that corporations controlled by religious families cannot be required to pay for contraception coverage for their female workers. Not surprisingly, all 5 Justices in favor of such a reckless ruling were all Conservative men. The 4 dissenting Justices were Sotomayor, Kagan, Ginsberg and Breyer, of which 3 were women, the only women sitting on the bench.

And the flood gates, indeed, are open. The day after the ruling, President Obama received a letter from fourteen religious leaders who wanted to ensure that they, too, would be exempt from being mandated to act on federal law if it conflicted with their faith. It argued that since the Hobby Lobby ruling, it is clear that the federal government should permit more deference to religious organizations that do not want to employ LGBT people due to a conflict of their religious values.

According to an MSNBC report, when the legal challenges against the Affordable Care

Act’s contraception mandate were first filed, they seemed destined to fail. The law already exempts houses of worship and religious non-profits, and as the 3rd Circuit explained, courts have “long recognized the distinction between the owners of a corporation and the corporation itself.” It was understood that ruling in favor of “a for-profit corporation [to] engage in religious exercise” would

**... these companies that are so offended based on religious values for female contraception, do allow for Viagra to be covered.**

“eviscerate the fundamental principle that a corporation is a legally distinct entity from its owners.” Until now. However, it should also be noted that these same companies that are so offended based on religious values for female contraception, do allow for Viagra to be covered.

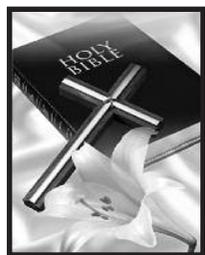
When any group of people is targeted, based on so-called religious principle or otherwise, it only allows for injustices to continue moving forward from one to the next. There is no such thing as freedom or liberty, unless we are all treated equal and fair by the law, and religious organizations. I mean really, what is next?

What would happen if an employer’s religious beliefs were against blood transfusions, vaccines, or paying minimum wage? Will they also be allowed to claim religious liberty as a defense? Or is this grave “religious violation” of female contraception coverage simply an issue of convenience? Where does it stop? As Justice Ginsberg expressed in her dissent from the ruling, “Approving some religious claims while deeming others unworthy of accommodation could be ‘perceived as favoring one religion over another,’ the very risk the [Constitution’s] Establishment Clause was designed to preclude.”

It is a scary day in America when your boss can determine which laws apply to you and which ones can be evaded. They should be ashamed.

## Faith, Family and God: Building up instead of tearing down

By: Paul P. Jesepe\*/TRT Columnist



**A**postle Paul cautions us in how we react to things. “Let no evil talk come out of your mouths,” he wrote in one of his letters to the early Christians, “but only what is useful for building up” (Ephesians 4:29) (<http://tiny.cc/yyqhix>).

This should include sending out biting emails, too.

I don’t suffer fools well. I can be un-Christian with acerbic slings and uncharitable and impatient toward those committing an injustice. I still have to catch myself from tearing down instead of building up, as tearing down causes more harm than good.

Recently, I had an emotionally challenging weekend filled with confusion. It involved a close, long-term friendship. Of course miscommunication played a role. Perceptions can lead to inaccurate conclusions and needless emotional pain.

Initially, I reacted in a human way, failing to separate emotion from reason. Re-channeling the energy, however, had to become a priority, or I’d be headed toward a dark abyss, dropping a small fortune at my fa-

**In any situation—job loss, wounded relationship, or LGBTQ discrimination—each person must ask: how do I build myself up?**

vorite bakery.

Attempts to wrestle with the situation had to include managing negative feelings that I permitted to fester. I needed to build myself up, not engage in a self-destructive binge or lash out.

Life can be unkind. In any situation—job loss, wounded relationship, or LGBTQ discrimination—each person must ask: how do I build myself up? My experience is another reminder, at least for me, of the necessity to react as constructively as possible.

In my online travels I came across an outstanding, collective example of building up called We Are the Youth ([www.WeAreTheYouth.org](http://www.WeAreTheYouth.org)), a photographic journalism project, chronicling the individual stories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth. Although it documents the meanness of life, it also underscores the positive in a cold, complicated world.

**See Building Up on Page 15**

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

[Re: Anti-LGBT Conservative: “Overturning Marriage Ban is Akin to KKK Lynching”]

It is difficult for me to believe that Matt Stavers would say that: “Without opposite-sex marriage, there is no procreation.”

Surely he must be aware of the countless couples made up of two lesbian or bisexual women who have used artificial insemination to procreate. It also overlooks the use of surrogate mothers who give birth to children for countless male-male couples. Finally, many same-sex couples create families by adopting children and give them a stable, loving environment in which to grow up.

I suspect that Staver realized that he has lost the case and was simply overcome by the emotion of the moment

—Bruce Robinson, Online

Dear Editor,

[Re: There’s No Pride in Apartheid—Stop Pink-Washing Israel’s Crimes]

The ignorance here is appalling – does the author not know that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel, having lived here for over 3000 years? The only colonialists here are the Muslim conquerors of the Jewish people’s ancestral homeland, and even when we offer to share it with them, as we have done time and time again, the answer is a resounding, racist, imperialist no. The author needs to do an awful lot of homework and a lot less demagogic posturing.

—Shimon Felix, Online

Dear Editor,

[Re: There’s No Pride in Apartheid—Stop Pink-Washing Israel’s Crimes]

I am disappointed that The Rainbow Times published this anti-Semitic diatribe against Israel in its Pride issue without a countervailing opinion. By printing it in the Pride issue, you give it a prominence it wouldn’t have otherwise, and by publishing it in this issue without an opposing view, you essentially agree with the author that this is linked to Pride.

—Jim F. Brinning, Boston, Online & via phone call

Dear Editor,

[Re: Senior Pride Tea Dance Celebrates 11 years of Supporting LGBT Elder Community]

Thank you Lauren Walleser (and The Rainbow Times) for so quickly writing and publishing this report from yesterday’s event. You really capture the range of folks at this important annual dance and the interests and concerns of queer elders. I’m proud to have been included in this excellent piece.

—Sue Katz, Boston, Online

Dear Editor,

[Re: HRC Delivers Letter to Vatican Due to Growing Concern on Anti-LGBT Stance of Catholic Schools Across America]

HRC and Chad Griffin are ridiculous. At the same time they are sending out this publicity stunt, they are in the midst of their own \$2M campaign to push the religious exemption laden ENDA of 2013 through John Boehner’s House of Representatives that will allow all “religiously affiliated” employers to legally discriminate against not just against teachers but any employee.

—Cathy Kristofferson, Online, Springfield

## Astonished by ignorance

[Re: There’s No Pride in Apartheid — Stop Pink-Washing Israel’s Crimes]

I am at a loss of where to begin with this offensive take on a very complicated landscape that is Israel and Palestine. I would like to refer the author to a very riveting account of the history and much more — “My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel” by Ari Shavit, an Israeli journalist.

If Mr. O’Brien (<http://tiny.cc/vxqlix>) intended to turn off gay Jews here and globally, he has succeeded. If he is simply missing pieces of information, then I hope he would be open to learning and listening. The loaded language used in this piece is nothing less than a conversation stopper. The founding documents of Hamas, moreover, call for the destruction of Israel and more. To my knowledge, Hamas stands by that sentiment. And last but not least, I am unaware of any LGBTQ Pride celebration in Gaza.

—Chuck Colbert, Cambridge, MA (TRT Reporter)

## The Rainbow Times

The Freshest LGBT Newspaper in New England—Boston Based

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# LGBT Grassroots Super PAC, MassSpirit, launched in Massachusetts

By: Chuck Colbert\*/TRT Reporter

IN THE LIMELIGHT

BOSTON, Mass.—Say hello to a new player in Bay State gay politics: The MassSpirit PAC, a grassroots political action committee, aimed at amplifying the “voice of the LGBT community to support LGBT candidates, defeat candidates who do not stand with [the gay] community and defend [LGBT] allies who do,” according to a Facebook posting and mission statement posted on its website at [www.massspiritpac.com](http://www.massspiritpac.com).

“Massachusetts has led the way when it comes to LGBT equality, but the gains we’ve made are fragile,” said co-founder Kevin Franck, who serves as chairman. “MassSpirit is an attempt to harness the kind of political power the LGBT community showed during the fight for marriage a decade ago to keep moving equality forward in the Commonwealth.”

Established in May, Massachusetts Spirit Independent Expenditure Political Action Committee—MassSpirit’s full name—is a super PAC, meaning it can raise money without limit from individuals, labor unions, and corporations, all of which do not have to abide by the same rigorous campaign finance disclosure rules as candidates are required to do by law. That is to say, super PAC donors remain unknown for a longer time period insofar as the campaign finance-filing deadline for super PACs, under current law, is not until September 2—only eight days before the primary, which is September 9.

While super PACs are not required to disclose donors names until September 2, the PAC must report the the amount of money spent and to whom within seven days of the expenditure.

Recently, however, the Massachusetts House approved a measure, by a vote of 143-4, which would require corporations, labor unions and other entities to disclose expenditures in statewide, county or local

mocrat, and former state Senator Richard Tisei, who is an openly gay Republican and candidate for lieutenant governor in 2010.

Franck co-founded MassSpirit with Dee Dee Edmondson, who served as its treasurer for a short time but has recently stepped down.



MassSpirit’s co-founder and chairman Kevin Franck

PHOTO: FACEBOOK



racess—and the sources of their funding—within seven days.

While MassSpirit can support candidates, the PAC cannot coordinate directly with the various campaigns.

Because MassSpirit is a state PAC, it cannot touch federal races, for instance, the closely watched re-match in Massachusetts’ 6th Congressional District between incumbent U.S. Representative John Tierney, a De-

Both longtime political operatives, Franck is a former communications director for the Massachusetts Democratic Party. He also served as a spokesperson for Governor Deval Patrick. Edmondson is the founder of a political consulting and public affairs organization. Previously, she served as political director for the grassroots, statewide LGBTQ organization MassEquality.

The timing of MassSpirit PAC’s formation

could not have been more opportune as the state’s political landscape for LGBT people is flourishing. All three Democratic gubernatorial candidates—state Treasurer Steve Grossman, Attorney General Martha Coakley, and former federal healthcare administrator Don Berwick—unabashedly favor full LGBT equality. All of these candidates, for example, advocate for full transgender rights, needs of LGBTQ youth and elders, comprehensive sex education in public schools, increased funding for HIV/AIDS, and efforts to combat domestic violence.

Further down the ticket, two openly gay candidates are vying to make history, with Stephen Kerrigan, a former top aide to the late U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and Maura Healey, a former top aide to Coakley, running for lieutenant governor and attorney general, respectively.

“We’re blessed to have terrific pro-LGBT candidates running up and down the ballot, but our primary objective is to make sure Massachusetts doesn’t go backwards on equality,” said Franck. “We’re aiming to help elect the first LGBT statewide official in the country and keeping the anti-LGBT crowd out of the corner office.”

The presumptive Republican nominee for governor is Charlie Baker, although he faces a primary election opponent, Mark Fisher, a favorite among Tea Party and other conservative GOPers. Karyn Polito, the only Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, is a former five-term state representative for the 11th Worcester District (Shrewsbury and

See MassSpirit on Page 15

SIDNEY BORUM JR.  HEALTH CENTER

# ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON WHO

MIGHT BE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL OR TRANSGENDER? IS LIVING ON THE STREETS? WANTS AN HIV TEST OR IS LIVING WITH HIV? IS WORRIED ABOUT STDs? NEEDS HEALTH INSURANCE? WANTS TO SEE A DOCTOR OR MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER THAT UNDERSTANDS YOU AND YOUR SITUATION?

The Sidney Borum, Jr. Health Center is here for you.

We provide safe, non-judgmental care and support for young people ages 12–29 who may not feel comfortable going anywhere else. Just call us at 617.457.8140 and make an appointment or stop in Monday–Friday after 1 p.m. and we’ll see you at the next opening in our schedule. We can help you get health insurance and provide you with the care you need.

75 Kneeland Street Boston, MA 02111 [www.sidneyborum.org](http://www.sidneyborum.org)  
Monday+Friday 8:45 a.m.—5 p.m. Tuesday–Thursday 8:45 a.m.—7 p.m.



617.457.8140

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Once-Daily  
 Discover the  
**PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>**  
**EXPERIENCE**

### ABOUT PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>

PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> (darunavir) is a prescription medicine. It is one treatment option in the class of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) medicines known as protease inhibitors.

PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> is always taken with and at the same time as ritonavir (Norvir<sup>®</sup>), in combination with other HIV medicines for the treatment of HIV infection in adults. PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> should also be taken with food.

**PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>.**

Please read Important Safety Information below, and talk to your healthcare provider to learn if PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> is right for you.

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>?

- **PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> can interact with other medicines and cause serious side effects. See “Who should not take PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>?”**
- **PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> may cause liver problems.** Some people taking PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> together with Norvir<sup>®</sup> (ritonavir), have developed liver problems which may be life-threatening. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests before and during your combination treatment with PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare provider should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems
- Tell your healthcare provider if you have any of these signs and symptoms of liver problems: dark (tea-colored) urine, yellowing of your skin or whites

of your eyes, pale colored stools (bowel movements), nausea, vomiting, pain or tenderness on your right side below your ribs, or loss of appetite

- **PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> may cause severe or life-threatening skin reactions or rash.** Sometimes these skin reactions and skin rashes can become severe and require treatment in a hospital. You should call your healthcare provider immediately if you develop a rash. However, **stop** taking PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> and ritonavir combination treatment and call your healthcare provider immediately if you develop any skin changes with these symptoms: fever, tiredness, muscle or joint pain, blisters or skin lesions, mouth sores or ulcers, red or inflamed eyes, like “pink eye.” Rash occurred more often in patients taking PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> and raltegravir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild

### Who should not take PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>?

- **Do not take PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> if you are taking the following medicines:** alfuzosin (Uroxatral<sup>®</sup>), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E.45<sup>®</sup>, Embolex<sup>®</sup>, Migranal<sup>®</sup>), ergotamine (Cafergot<sup>®</sup>, Ergomar<sup>®</sup>), methylergonovine, cisapride (Propulsid<sup>®</sup>), pimozide (Orap<sup>®</sup>), oral midazolam (Versed<sup>®</sup>), triazolam (Halcion<sup>®</sup>), the herbal supplement St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), lovastatin (Mevacor<sup>®</sup>, Altoprev<sup>®</sup>, Advicor<sup>®</sup>), salmeterol (Advair<sup>®</sup>, Serevent<sup>®</sup>), simvastatin (Zocor<sup>®</sup>, Simcor<sup>®</sup>, Vytorin<sup>®</sup>), rifampin (Rifadin<sup>®</sup>, Rifater<sup>®</sup>, Rifamate<sup>®</sup>, Rimactane<sup>®</sup>), sildenafil (Revatio<sup>®</sup>) when used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension, indinavir (Crixivan<sup>®</sup>), lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra<sup>®</sup>), saquinavir (Invirase<sup>®</sup>), boceprevir (Victrelis<sup>®</sup>), or telaprevir (Incivek<sup>®</sup>)
- Before taking PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>, tell your healthcare provider if you are taking sildenafil (Viagra<sup>®</sup>, Revatio<sup>®</sup>), vardenafil (Levitra<sup>®</sup>, Staxyn<sup>®</sup>), tadalafil (Cialis<sup>®</sup>, Adcirca<sup>®</sup>), atorvastatin (Lipitor<sup>®</sup>), rosuvastatin (Crestor<sup>®</sup>), pravastatin (Pravachol<sup>®</sup>), or colchicine (Colcrys<sup>®</sup>, Col-Probenecid<sup>®</sup>). Tell your healthcare provider if you are taking estrogen-based contraceptives (birth control). PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> might reduce the effectiveness

**Once-Daily PREZISTA®** taken with ritonavir and in combination with other HIV medications can help lower your viral load and keep your HIV under control.

The PREZISTA® Experience isn't just an HIV treatment. It's an HIV treatment experience as unique as you.



Call **\*\*PRZ (\*\*779)** on your mobile phone to watch videos of people living the PREZISTA® Experience.



**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION CONTINUED**

of estrogen-based contraceptives. You must take additional precautions for birth control, such as condoms

**Serious problems can happen if you or your child takes any of these medicines with PREZISTA®.**

**This is not a complete list of medicines. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you are taking or plan to take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking PREZISTA® without first talking to your healthcare provider.**

**What should I tell my doctor before I take PREZISTA®?**

- **Before taking PREZISTA®, tell your healthcare provider if you** have any medical conditions, including liver problems (including hepatitis B or C), allergy to sulfa medicines, diabetes, or hemophilia
- Tell your healthcare provider if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding
  - The effects of PREZISTA® on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if taking PREZISTA® is right for you
  - **Do not breastfeed.** It is not known if PREZISTA® can be passed to your baby in your breast milk and whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV should not breastfeed because HIV can be passed to your baby in the breast milk

**What are the possible side effects of PREZISTA®?**

- High blood sugar, diabetes or worsening of diabetes, and increased bleeding in people with hemophilia have been reported in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines, including PREZISTA®

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking HIV medicines, including PREZISTA®. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time
- Changes in your immune system can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden
- The most common side effects related to taking PREZISTA® include diarrhea, nausea, rash, headache, stomach pain, and vomiting. This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. If you experience these or other side effects, talk to your healthcare provider. Do not stop taking PREZISTA® or any other medicines without first talking to your healthcare provider

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

Please refer to the ritonavir (Norvir®) Product Information (PI and PPI) for additional information on precautionary measures.

**Please see accompanying full Product Information for more details.**

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## IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

### PREZISTA (pre-ZIS-ta)

(darunavir)  
Oral Suspension

### PREZISTA (pre-ZIS-ta)

(darunavir)  
Tablets

Read this Patient Information before you start taking PREZISTA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or your treatment.

Also read the Patient Information leaflet for NORVIR® (ritonavir).

### What is the most important information I should know about PREZISTA?

- **PREZISTA can interact with other medicines and cause serious side effects.** It is important to know the medicines that should not be taken with PREZISTA. See the section “Who should not take PREZISTA?”
- **PREZISTA may cause liver problems.** Some people taking PREZISTA in combination with NORVIR® (ritonavir) have developed liver problems which may be life-threatening. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests before and during your combination treatment with PREZISTA. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare provider should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you have any of the below signs and symptoms of liver problems.
  - Dark (tea colored) urine
  - yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes
  - pale colored stools (bowel movements)
  - nausea
  - vomiting
  - pain or tenderness on your right side below your ribs
  - loss of appetite

**PREZISTA may cause severe or life-threatening skin reactions or rash.** Sometimes these skin reactions and skin rashes can become severe and require treatment in a hospital. You should call your healthcare provider immediately if you develop a rash. However, **stop** taking PREZISTA and ritonavir combination treatment and call your healthcare provider immediately if you develop any skin changes with symptoms below:

- fever
- tiredness
- muscle or joint pain
- blisters or skin lesions
- mouth sores or ulcers
- red or inflamed eyes, like “pink eye” (conjunctivitis)

Rash occurred more often in people taking PREZISTA and raltegravir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

See “What are the possible side effects of PREZISTA?” for more information about side effects.

### What is PREZISTA?

PREZISTA is a prescription anti-HIV medicine used with ritonavir and other anti-HIV medicines to treat adults with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection. PREZISTA is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

When used with other HIV medicines, PREZISTA may help to reduce the amount of HIV in your blood (called “viral load”). PREZISTA may also help to increase the number of white blood cells called CD4 (T) cell which help fight off other infections. Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4 (T) cell count may improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

PREZISTA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using PREZISTA.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection.

- **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
- **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.**
- **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions on how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

### Who should not take PREZISTA?

**Do not take PREZISTA** with any of the following medicines:

- alfuzosin (Uroxatral®)
- ergot-containing medicines: dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Embolex®, Migranal®), ergotamine (Cafergot®, Ergomar®) methylergonovine
- cisapride
- pimozide (Orap®)
- oral midazolam (Versed®), triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herbal supplement St. John’s Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- the cholesterol lowering medicines lovastatin (Mevacor®, Altoprev®, Advicor®) or simvastatin (Zocor®, Simcor®, Vytorin®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®) only when used for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Serious problems can happen if you take any of these medicines with PREZISTA.

### What should I tell my doctor before I take PREZISTA?

**PREZISTA may not be right for you. Before taking PREZISTA, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- have liver problems, including hepatitis B or hepatitis C
- are allergic to sulfa medicines
- have high blood sugar (diabetes)
- have hemophilia
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if PREZISTA will harm your unborn baby.

**Pregnancy Registry:** You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if taking PREZISTA is right for you. If you take PREZISTA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry. The purpose of the registry is follow the health of you and your baby.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed.** We do not know if PREZISTA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk and whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV-1 should not breastfeed because HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in the breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Using PREZISTA and certain other medicines may affect each other causing serious side effects. PREZISTA may affect the way other medicines work and other medicines may affect how PREZISTA works.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the medicines listed below. The generic name is provided, followed by examples of possible brand names for the drug product:

- medicine to treat HIV
- estrogen-based contraceptives (birth control). PREZISTA might reduce the effectiveness of estrogen-based contraceptives. You must take additional precautions for birth control such as a condom.
- medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection such as cyclosporine (Gengraf®, Sandimmune®, Neoral®), tacrolimus (Prograf®), sirolimus (Rapamune®)
- amiodarone (Pacerone®, Cardarone®)
- artemether/lumefantrine (Coartem®)
- atorvastatin (Lipitor®)
- bepridil (Bepadin®, Vasacor®)
- boceprevir (Victrelis™)
- bosentan (Tracleer®)
- buprenorphine (Butrans®, Buprenex®, Subutex®)
- buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone®, Zubsolv®)
- carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Eptol®)
- clarithromycin (Prevpac®, Biaxin®)
- colchicine (Colcrys®, Col-Probenecid®)
- desipramine (Norpramin®)
- dexamethasone (Ozurdex®)
- digoxin (Lanoxin®)
- felodipine (Plendil®)
- flecainide (Tambocor®)
- fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Veramyst®, Flovent®, Flonase®)
- itraconazole (Sporanox®, Onmel®)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
- lidocaine (Xylocaine Viscous®)
- methadone (Methadose®)
- metoprolol (Lopressor®, Toprol-XL®)
- nifedipine (Procardia®, Adalat CC®, Afeditab CR®)

## IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

- paroxetine (Paxil®, Pexeva®)
- phenobarbital
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- pravastatin (Pravachol®)
- propafenone (Rythmol®)
- quinidine (Nuedexta®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- risperidone (Risperdal®)
- rosuvastatin (Crestor®)
- salmeterol (Advair®, Serevent®)
- sertraline (Zoloft®)
- sildenafil (Viagra®, Revatio®)
- tadalafil (Cialis®, Adcirca®)
- telaprevir (Incivek™)
- thioridazine (Mellaril®)
- timolol (Cosopt®, Betimol®, Timoptic®, Isatolol®, Combigan®)
- trazodone (Oleptro®, Desyre®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®)
- voriconazole (Vfend®)

This is **not** a complete list of medicines that you should tell your healthcare provider that you are taking. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above. Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your doctor or pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking PREZISTA without first talking with your healthcare provider.

### How should I take PREZISTA?

- Take PREZISTA every day exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider.
- You must take ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the same time as PREZISTA.
- Do not change your dose of PREZISTA or stop treatment without talking to your healthcare provider first.
- Take PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) with food.
- Swallow PREZISTA tablets whole with a drink. If you have difficulty swallowing PREZISTA tablets, PREZISTA oral suspension is also available. Your health care provider will help decide whether PREZISTA tablets or oral suspension is right for you.
- PREZISTA oral suspension should be given with the supplied oral dosing syringe. Shake the suspension well before each use. See the Instructions for Use that come with PREZISTA oral suspension for information about the right way to prepare and take a dose.
- If your prescribed dose of PREZISTA oral suspension is more than 6 mL, you will need to divide the dose. Follow the instructions given to you by your healthcare provider or pharmacist about how to divide the dose. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- If you take too much PREZISTA, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

### What should I do if I miss a dose?

#### People who take PREZISTA one time a day:

- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by less than 12 hours, take your missed dose of PREZISTA right away. Then take your next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.
- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by more than 12 hours, wait and then take the next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.

#### People who take PREZISTA two times a day

- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by less than 6 hours, take your missed dose of PREZISTA right away. Then take your next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.
- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by more than 6 hours, wait and then take the next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.

If a dose of PREZISTA is skipped, do not double the next dose. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of PREZISTA at any one time.

### What are the possible side effects of PREZISTA?

PREZISTA can cause side effects including:

- See **“What is the most important information I should know about PREZISTA?”**
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia).** Some people who take protease inhibitors including PREZISTA can get high blood sugar, develop diabetes, or your diabetes can get worse. Tell your healthcare provider if you notice an increase in thirst or urinate often while taking PREZISTA.
- **Changes in body fat.** These changes can happen in people who take antiretroviral therapy. The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the back, chest, and stomach area. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.

- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Call your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.
- **Increased bleeding for hemophiliacs.** Some people with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors including PREZISTA.

The most common side effects of PREZISTA include:

- diarrhea
- headache
- nausea
- abdominal pain
- rash
- vomiting

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of PREZISTA. For more information, ask your health care provider.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

### How should I store PREZISTA?

- Store PREZISTA oral suspension and tablets at room temperature [77°F (25°C)].
- Do not refrigerate or freeze PREZISTA oral suspension.
- Keep PREZISTA away from high heat.
- PREZISTA oral suspension should be stored in the original container.

### Keep PREZISTA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

### General information about PREZISTA

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use PREZISTA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give PREZISTA to other people even if they have the same condition you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about PREZISTA. If you would like more information, talk to your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about PREZISTA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call 1-800-526-7736.

### What are the ingredients in PREZISTA?

Active ingredient: darunavir

Inactive ingredients:

**PREZISTA Oral Suspension:** hydroxypropyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylparaben sodium, citric acid monohydrate, sucralose, masking flavor, strawberry cream flavor, hydrochloric acid (for pH adjustment), purified water.

**PREZISTA 75 mg and 150 mg Tablets:** colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose. The film coating contains: OPADRY® White (polyethylene glycol 3350, polyvinyl alcohol-partially hydrolyzed, talc, titanium dioxide).

**PREZISTA 600 mg Tablets:** colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose. The film coating contains: OPADRY® Orange (FD&C Yellow No. 6, polyethylene glycol 3350, polyvinyl alcohol-partially hydrolyzed, talc, titanium dioxide).

**PREZISTA 800 mg Tablets:** colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, hypromellose. The film coating contains: OPADRY® Dark Red (iron oxide red, polyethylene glycol 3350, polyvinyl alcohol-partially hydrolyzed, talc, titanium dioxide).

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S Food and Drug Administration.

Product of Ireland

Manufactured by:

PREZISTA Oral Suspension

Janssen Pharmaceutica, N.V.

Beerse, Belgium

PREZISTA Tablets

Janssen Ortho LLC, Gurabo, PR 00778

Manufactured for:

Janssen Therapeutics, Division of Janssen Products, LP, Titusville NJ 08560

Revised: April 2014

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014859-140506



# TRT Exclusive: Markey announces legislation to support international LGBT rights, create new position in State Department

By: Lauren Walleser/TRT Assistant Editor

BOSTON, Mass.—After a roundtable discussion with key members of the Massachusetts LGBTQ community last month at Fenway Health, United States Senator Edward J. Markey announced new legislation—the International Human Rights Defense Act—that will create a position within the U.S. Department of State devoted specifically to global LGBT issues, and will make those issues a priority in U.S. foreign policy.

“At the heart of the new legislation is a requirement that a special envoy on LGBT issues be created in the State Department to represent our views, as a country, to the rest of the world,” Markey said in an exclusive interview with The Rainbow Times. “And it is with the intention of ensuring that we’re elevating this issue in country after country using the prestige and the influence of the United States to advance the LGBT agenda.”

Markey is sponsoring the legislation, along with 24 cosponsors in the Senate, though he said he believes that number will rise.

“As a Senator from Massachusetts, I think we have a responsibility to continue to be at the forefront of advocacy for the LGBT community,” said Markey. “We’re kind of the beacon of LGBT progress for the whole country, and I think we have to be for the whole world as well, and we need someone in the state department who will represent

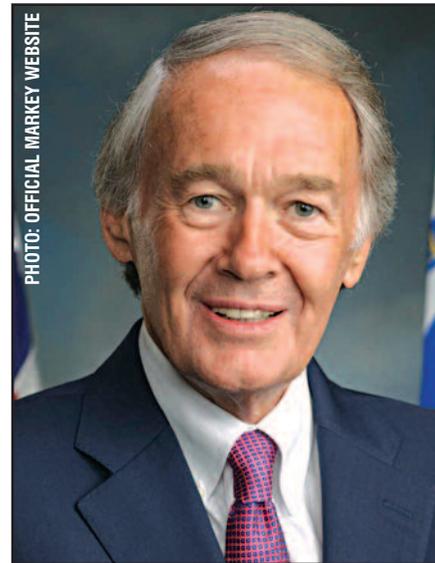
that point of view.”

In press release on his website, Markey said “The International Human Rights Defense Act will foster a coordinated effort across the federal government and relevant agencies so we can meet the enormous challenge before us and work to ensure equality for all people around the globe.”

According to the press release, the Act directs the State Department to:

- Make preventing and responding to discrimination and violence against the LGBT community a foreign policy priority and devise a global strategy to achieve those goals.
- Coordinate efforts to promote international LGBT human rights with local advocacy groups, governments, multilateral organizations, and the private sector.
- Create the position of “Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT Peoples” in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, which will be responsible for all inter-bureau and inter-agency coordination of the United States government’s efforts to defend human rights for the LGBT community internationally.
- Continue to include a section on LGBT international human rights in the annual State Department Report on Human Rights.

Wilfred Labiosa, clerk and board member of MassEquality, was one of many individuals representing state-wide LGBT organizations at the roundtable, which served to announce the legislation and receive feedback from the



U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey

community.

“We were the first state with marriage and we were the first state with legislation in favor and support of LGBT youth, and I think this is a very good first step as well to be able to bring that message of inclusion and acceptance all around the world in regards to LGBT issues,” Labiosa said with regards to the legislation.

Labiosa expressed a need to be inclusive of all countries where LGBT issues need to

be addressed—including those with anti-LGBT policies and laws—in Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

“I’m not saying the United States has to bring its message, because we need to be culturally competent and linguistically appropriate, but more that we need to be knowledgeable about what’s happening in other parts of the world,” said Labiosa.

Labiosa also said he hopes the announcement of the legislation will lead to more people educating themselves about the diversity of LGBT issues around the world, beyond those that are most prominent in the media—such as the anti-LGBT propaganda laws in Russia that were much discussed during the Olympics, as well as same-sex marriage in the U.S.

“There’s so much need of LGBT acceptance around the globe that is not about gay marriage all the time. Gay marriage is the least of the issues around the globe,” he explained. “It is more about acceptance of being LGBT, so it is important for them to be able to recognize that there is diversity.”

Nelson Roman, board president of The Principality of Western Massachusetts—a philanthropic organization within the International Imperial Court System—was also present at the roundtable, which was closed to the press.

“I felt contextually [the roundtable] was

**See Markey on page 15**

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# Promise Place School to provide housing, education for LGBT homeless youth in MA

By: Lauren Walleser/TRT Assistant Editor

CAPE COD, Mass.—Plans are well under way for The Foundation for International Justice, Inc. to open Promise Place School, a residential school aiming to provide a permanent, safe and loving home environment in Cape Cod for homeless LGBT youth in Massachusetts ages 12-24.

Erica Kay-Webster, founding board chair of the Foundation for International Justice, Inc. and CEO of Promise Place School, was rejected by her family at the age of 15 and became homeless. She eventually made her way to New York, where she continued to struggle, taking shelter on the Staten Island Ferry, surviving two suicide attempts, and almost starving to death, all while coming to terms with her identity as a transgender woman.

“That was over 46 years ago, and I have never forgotten the fear, hunger, desperation, loneliness and the depression from feeling unloved and rejected,” said Kay-Webster. “Finally, I was able to find a job and my boss and his wife rescued me, bringing me into their home with acceptance, safety and love. My own experience has motivated me to work at creating a better world than I had personally found at such a young age.”

In 2010, Kay-Webster began working to create the Foundation for International Justice, which was incorporated in 2012. She found that in the U.S. today, there are 600,000 young people who have been rejected by their families and are living on the streets.

“My desire has always been to create a program that would fully meet the needs of our homeless youth with a comprehensive program, and to create a permanent living and learning environment in a highly supportive family atmosphere—a place that our youth can call home,” she said.

Elizabeth McCliment, board member and assistant treasurer, shared why she believes Promise Place School is needed in Massachusetts.

“I’m the parent of a transgender son, and



through him I was introduced to the young transgender community and first heard of the broken family relationships, abandonment, abuse and hopelessness faced by such a large proportion of LGBT youth. Before that time, I had no idea that homelessness in this vulnerable group had reached epidemic proportions,” McCliment said. “I’m proud to be part of the mission of the Promise Place School, which will serve to provide more than just a safe place to sleep, more than just an education and training, but will also fill the critical role of providing access to an entire community, along with the consistency and the support system that are lost when LGBT youth are rejected by family and loved ones.”

As Kay-Webster explained, there are currently few beds available specifically for LGBT youth throughout the Commonwealth. The current options include shelters, which were originally created for emergency situations and do not provide continual stability, and the foster care system, through which many LGBT youth have had negative experiences as they come out.

“These programs are failing our youth, and this is the reason why Promise Place School is needed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and throughout our nation,” Kay-Webster said.

The first location on Cape Cod will be able to accommodate 50 youth at full capacity. The plan is then to expand their locations throughout Massachusetts.

“We believe our program will save the Commonwealth money in the long run, and the Commonwealth needs to incorporate funding in the annual budget for long term, permanent solutions to ending homelessness,” she said.

Kathy A. Felt, board president and chief operations officer of Promise Place School, shared how her experience developing and running group homes for youth will contribute to the creation and impact of Promise Place School on the lives of LGBT youth.

“I have seen first-hand the detrimental effect that lack of permanency and safety in living situations, rejection by family, peers and loved ones can have on any youth today. The LGBT community of youth face a particular set of challenges in life for which they are often unprepared, and those kids are slipping through the cracks, living life on the street and in the shadows,” said Felt. “In order to thrive and become productive, contributing members of society, all kids need

to have a safe place to live, to obtain an education, to explore possibilities for their future and to dream and be free to be who they are. Promise Place School will make that difference in the lives of these kids. The supportive community living will provide a sense of belonging and acceptance for them. When kids feel safe and are encouraged by caring adults, they have a better chance of successfully transitioning to adulthood. Promise Place School will offer that chance.”

According to Kay-Webster, Promise Place School will celebrate diversity, offering encouragement, respect, and individual attention in a preparatory school setting. Services will include: a permanent, safe, loving home environment to ensure stability; a healthy and nutritious diet; clothing (gender appropriate and appropriate for all four seasons); HIV/STD testing, medical services, and safe sex education; mental health services and substance abuse education; education for grades 6-12 including a GED program and guidance counseling; life skills education...

To read the rest of this interview visit: <http://wp.me/p22M41-31X>

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# El derecho a expresar nuestro amor en público, hagámoslo con respeto y unión

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa\*/Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Creemos en una sociedad heteronormativa, machista y sexista y muchas veces no lo cuestionamos. Ahora hay más personas LGBT que antes que preguntan y están tratando de cambiar este tipo de sociedad que nos rodea, el resto de nosotros/as, que quizás no seamos activistas o políticos, no nos atrevemos a cogernos de las manos en público, darnos un beso en una cena romántica, o estar en público con nuestras parejas del mismo sexo de la misma manera que los heterosex-

uales a nuestro alrededor lo hacen. No podemos y algunas veces no queremos expresar el cariño que tenemos a esta persona tan significativa en nuestras vidas por que tenemos miedo, timidez, temor y algunas veces terror. El beso de Lisa M (la rapera y DJ de Puerto Rico en un restaurante de la zona turística de Condado—la situación es que dicen que se dio un beso con su novia y la botaron del restaurante; unos días después sale a relucir un video que pone las cosas en otra dimensión. De cualquier modo, sin embargo, la situación se suscitó por darse un beso en público. Esta situación me recordó de esta interrogante: ¿tenemos el mismo derecho que los heterosexuales en darnos y expresar nuestro amor en público? Mi respuesta es que sí, pero es una respuesta compleja.

El darnos un beso en público con una persona del mismo sexo en muchas partes del mundo conlleva el encarcelamiento y hasta la pena de muerte. En otras partes del mundo no se acepta culturalmente y puedes tener consecuencias de maltrato físico policíaco y/o de personas en la comunidad. Hay miedo de los efectos que esta expresión tan linda tiene en nuestro ser. Si la sociedad heterosexual lo hace, ¿por qué nosotros no podemos hacerlo? Escuché de dos parejas de hombres que fueron a caminar y de compras en Plaza de Las Américas (un centro comercial considerado el más grande del Caribe); estas dos parejas estaban cogidas de manos, fueron de compras, a cenar y al cine. Nadie les dijo nada pero las miradas, los murmullos, y la gente mirándolos intencionalmente fueron expresiones negativas que recibieron. Les aplaudo por que no se rindieron y me imagino que se vieron tan bonitos cogidos de manos. ¡Aplausos, por favor!

En unos de mis viajes recientes (de cuatro horas de duración) estubo una pareja de mujeres que estaban sentadas en una fila al frente mío. Parece que estaban agotadas por que por casi todo el viaje una estaba recostada de la otra y durmiendo (casi todo el viaje). ¡Se veían tan bonitas! Pero noté que una de las personas habló con el asistente de viaje para decirle que le dijera a estas dos muchachas que habían niños en el viaje. La mujer comentaba que eso no debería de suceder en el vuelo y buscaba que se hiciera algo al respecto. El asistente de viaje le mencionó que la póliza de la aerolínea es que después de que no estén haciendo un daño al vuelo y que no estén teniendo sexo (heterosexual u homosexual) no hay nada que hacer ya que como ellas hay muchos/as que hacen lo mismo y nadie dice nada. El le mencionó que su trabajo es el de asegurar que todos/as estén seguros en el viaje y no para decidir que se ve mal o bien. Unos minutos después le agradecí al asistente de viaje por su forma de lidiar con la situación. ¿Por qué la gente no pone atención a lo suyo y se deja de hacerle daño al prójimo o meterse en cosas que no le incumben?

En nuestras vidas siempre ocurre algo nuevo o diferente (que LGBT no lo es pero hay personas que dicen que sí), se hace rutina y se pasa por algo normativo y entonces se hace viejo y nadie habla del asunto. Aplausos para estas parejas (y a Lisa M) y a tantos más por tomar el primer paso. Reconozco que estamos abogando por una igualdad de derechos pero lo más importante es educar a nuestra comunidad y sociedad. Aplaudivo el trabajo en muchos países de Latino América, Cuba, y países de Asia que están educando a la sociedad a la misma vez que abogan por la equidad e igualdad. Es un trabajo que debe llevarse a la par y no separadamente. ¿De qué importa que tengamos el derecho a casarnos o adoptar a niños/as si

la sociedad todavía nos pone problemas cuando un niño/a llama a sus dos mamás en público o dos hombres se toman de la mano durante una cena romántica? O, ¿dos mujeres agotadas se recuestan una de la otra?

En algunos estados de la nación norteamericana se viene celebrando el Orgullo LGBT por más de 40 años. En Puerto Rico, Cuba, y otros países Latino Americanos son 8 o 10 años (algunos más o menos) pero no se pone "viejo" por que todavía estamos batallando por una igualdad y equidad. La comunidad LGBT Latina debe de unirse ahora más que nunca, debemos de conocer a los/as líderes que están dando el frente por nosotros/as—hay algunos/as que son aliados/as y están juntos/as en esta "batalla" con nosotros. Nos debemos de unir y hacer una "revolución" Latina LGBT para traer justicia e igualdad. Nos debemos de unir a la pareja en el avión, a las dos parejas en Plaza, a esas parejas que están batallando por la igualdad de matrimonio en Puerto Rico; a aquellos/as que expresan su amor abiertamente; a Ada, Yvonne por ser la pareja líder en el caso de matrimonio igualitario en Puerto Rico; y a tantos/as otros/as que siguen en esta marcha, en esta revolución LGBT todos los días del año y no sólo durante mayo y junio.

Aplaudivo a Maité Oroñoz Rodríguez, la primera juez en la corte suprema de Puerto Rico que está abierta en cuanto a su orientación sexual como lesbiana durante su proceso de confirmación (y ser confirmada). ¡Muchas felicidades Maité, orgullo LGBT Boricua! A PJ, a Malú, Pedro, Silverio, Marga, María, Mayra, Mariela, Byron, Lisbeth, Diego, Robyn, Manny, Grisel, Erica, y tantos/as mas líderes, aliados/as, y miembros de nuestra comunidad Latina LGBT en el Caribe y Estados Unidos les aplaudo por su trabajo y liderazgo. Me "quito mi sombrero" en respeto. Sigán dándose los besos, los abrazos, tómense de manos, expresen su amor abiertamente, expresen su cariño en público como quieran, usen nuestro lenguaje y expresiones para que se haga de una manera inclusiva. Vamos a la playa, plaza, al cine cogidos/as de manos. No es tiempo de rendirnos, es tiempo de actuar y de seguir la lucha—nuestra revolución LGBT Latina—¡vamos a expresar nuestro orgullo Latino! Se que muchos/as van a tener miedo, pero recuerden que en la unión esta la fuerza. ¡La lucha por la igualdad y equidad continúa! Expresa tu amor con respeto, orgullo y firmeza—siempre. Espero que esta revolución Latina LGBT crezca y se multiplique por todo el mundo en el Caribe y Latino América. Gracias por su apoyo y liderazgo.

\*Escrito por Wilfred Labiosa, activista y trabajador social. Para comunicarse con el visítenlo en Facebook. Él está coordinando otro viaje LGBT a Cuba. Si te interesa envíale un mensaje por Facebook. Editado por Grisel M. Ocasio.

## Pregúntale a Lambda Legal – Los centros universitarios LGBT y las terapias reparativas ex-gay

Por: Hayley Gorenberg/Subdirectora Jurídica de Lambda Legal



P: Un grupo se acercó reciente al centro LGBT de mi universidad para indicarnos que, por ley, tenemos que proveer materiales que promuevan terapias de reorientación sexual o las llamadas terapias reparativas ex-gay. ¿Es esto cierto?

R: De vez en cuando, el personal de centros LGBT o estudiantes universitarios nos llaman a nuestra línea de ayuda con preguntas similares, y por suerte, la respuesta sencilla es que no. La ley no obliga a los centros LGBT universitarios a ofrecer materiales sobre "convertir", "reorientar" o "reparar" a alguien de su orientación sexual o identidad de género.

Apenas el mes pasado, Lambda Legal respondió a un ataque organizado contra las universidades públicas de todo el estado de Virginia, y también proporcionamos información legal para el personal de los centros LGBT de todo el país sobre si deben proporcionar dicho material promocional sobre estas terapias reparativas. El grupo en respaldo de estas terapias argumentó que, debido a que las universidades son públicas y reciben fondos del gobierno, la Primera Enmienda requiere que ellos no "discriminen en contra de un punto de vista" y que por lo tanto no pueden excluir estos materiales reparativos del resto de la información que ofrecen.

La verdad es que las protecciones importantes de la Primera Enmienda en contra de la discriminación de un punto de vista no se aplican a esta situación específica. Los centros LGBT en las universidades no se han creado como foros públicos a los cuales les aplican los derechos de la libertad de expresión. Es similar a los planes de estudios universitarios. Por ejemplo, no se requiere que una clase de historia incluya material sobre aquellos que niegan que el Holocausto ocurriera para balancear los relatos sobre la aniquilación de judíos, gays, personas con discapacidad, entre otros, en los campos de concentración durante la Segunda Guerra

Mundial. Los centros LGBT existen en las universidades principalmente para proporcionar información y apoyo a los estudiantes que se identifican como LGBT en el campus. Ellos no tienen que proveer información sobre prácticas que han sido refutadas o son consideradas peligrosas, y que no ayudan o apoyan a las personas LGBT.

Las asociaciones médicas y psicológicas principales en los Estados Unidos han emitido declaraciones oficiales en contra de la terapia reparativa señalando que no hay evidencia de que ninguna terapia pueda cambiar la orientación sexual o identidad de género, o que hay beneficios en lugar de riesgos para las personas que reciben esta "terapia". Lambda Legal publicó una lista de dichas organizaciones y sus declaraciones aquí: <http://tiny.cc/kkclix>.

California y Nueva Jersey han declarado que la terapia reparativa es ilegal para los menores de edad. Las leyes se celebraron en todo el país, pero inmediatamente—aunque sin éxito—fueron impugnadas en los tribunales por los que piensan que el ser LGBT debe ser reparado. Lambda Legal se unió a ambos casos como amicus curiae o amigo del tribunal a nombre de las organizaciones que trabajan con jóvenes LGBT. Instamos a los tribunales a defender las leyes que prohíben que los proveedores de salud mental autorizados por el estado lleven a cabo prácticas peligrosas con los menores de edad. Lea sobre los casos en California, *Pickup v. Brown* y *Welch v. Brown* aquí: <http://tiny.cc/onclix>.

La información sobre nuestro trabajo más reciente en contra de estas supuestas terapias en Nueva Jersey, el caso *King v. Christie*, se encuentra aquí: <http://tiny.cc/koclix>.

Tenemos que continuar trabajando en nuestra oposición a estas llamadas terapias y no bajar la guardia ante las personas que afirman que pueden cambiar la orientación sexual o identidad de género de alguien, o cuando quieran intimidar a los servicios de apoyo LGBT a que ofrezcan este tipo de propaganda.

Si tienes alguna pregunta o sientes que has sido discriminado por tu identidad de género, orientación sexual, o estatus de VIH, comunícate con nuestra Línea de Ayuda al 1-866-542-8336, o ve: [www.lambdalegal.org/es/linea-de-ayuda](http://www.lambdalegal.org/es/linea-de-ayuda).

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## LGBT groups against ENDA's religious exemption

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, Mass.—A growing number of national and statewide LGBT organizations are coming out against the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act, saying that while it bans workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, the federal law also would allow religious organizations to discriminate against LGBT people even in non-ministerial or pastoral capacities.

Advocates for LGBT equality maintain the proposed religious exemption, unprecedented in civil rights legislation, would in effect gut the non-discrimination protections.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights, said in an email that NCLR now “strongly oppose[s] any religious exemption in ENDA or any other federal, state, or local non-discrimination law that is broader than the religious exemption that already exists in federal civil rights laws.”

“We do not support legislation that will create a new and broader exemption for LGBT people than exists for other protected groups,” Minter said. “While we are confident the current discriminatory religious exemption in ENDA will not be part of the final legislation, we will not continue to support ENDA if it is not changed to be consistent with Title VII’s religious exemption.”

The 1964 Civil Rights Act Title VII in fact contains an exemption that addresses a nar-



Shannon Minter

row issue, specifically the interest of a religiously affiliated organization to create a community of fellow believers. Accordingly, the exemption allows faith-based organizations to hire employees based on their religion in order for the entity to maintain a religious community and faith based-identity. Title VII does not restrict protections in the law against workplace discrimination based on race, sex, or national origin.

Minter said that if ENDA were enacted in its current form, it would be “the first time in any civil rights legislation at any level, to my knowledge, expressly permit[ing] discrimination on any other basis other than religion.”

He added, “There is a long history now of accommodating religious beliefs by permitting certain narrowly defined religious employers to favor individuals from the same faith.”

“That Title VII exemption,” Minter explained, “is reasonable” as “religious liberty is important. That kind of accommodation, we have decided for a long time now, makes sense.”

“But never, ever,” he added, “has a civil rights law—certainly not at the federal level or state level—said in addition to that, you can also discriminate on the basis of other protected categories, such as race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.”

Read the rest of this story at:  
[http://tiny.cc/trt\\_enda14](http://tiny.cc/trt_enda14)

## Equaldex: Timeline of LGBT laws, data, news, more

By: Lauren Walleiser/TRT Assistant Editor

BOSTON, Mass.—Equaldex—a collaborative website that serves as a database for LGBT rights—uses crowdsourcing to create a visual database and timeline for LGBT movements, organizations and news in countries around the world. According to its founder, Dan Leveille, the site aims to feature every law related to LGBT rights in order to provide a comprehensive, global view of the movement across the globe.

“Equaldex really opens people’s eyes to the world around them. So many people are too focused on their own country and don’t realize how hard LGBT people in other countries have it,” said Leveille.

After developing an interest in LGBT rights while in college in 2009, Leveille said he began to question which countries or states had legalized same-sex marriage or were passing other laws related to LGBT life.

“I noticed that there was a huge opportunity to build a site that listed and visualized every LGBT related law around the world,” Leveille said. “Information is powerful, and I think that if presented well, it can really drive home an argument.”

According to Leveille, what makes Equaldex unique is that it brings together information that can be found scattered across various websites and compiles it into a single, comprehensive format. Using maps, timelines, charts and infographics, the site gives users a visual of where each state and



Dan Leveille  
Founder of Equaldex

country falls. Various maps and graphics display information on laws regarding sexual activity, marriage, adoption, military, discrimination, housing discrimination, employment discrimination, age of consent, donating blood, changing gender, and conversion therapy. There is also an option to view each item globally or just in the United States.

“I’ve always intended Equaldex to be a one-stop-shop for data related to LGBT rights. My hope is that when people ask themselves questions like ‘Is gay marriage legal in X country?’ or ‘How many U.S. states have legalized same-sex adoption?’ their first thought is to come to Equaldex,” said Leveille. “The site is also a great resource for LGBT people who are looking to travel to other countries. As an LGBT individual, it might be important to know the laws of a country you’re visiting.”

While Leveille said he first planned to upload all the data himself, he eventually realized it was too big of an undertaking, as laws are constantly changing. As some laws also appear to be unclear or unknown, Equaldex offers the opportunity for users to discuss and research laws together. Viet Vu, a contributor to Equaldex, started out as an alpha tester for the site and now volunteers as a moderator.

“Having come out as bi two years ago...

Read the rest of this story online at:  
<http://wp.me/p22M41-321>



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THE HELP YOU NEED CLOSE TO HOME

# Boston area orgs. & clubs cater to LGBTQ community & inclusion

By: Lauren Walleser/TRT Assistant Editor

BOSTON, Mass.—Earlier in the year, The Rainbow Times published an article about LGBTQ-themed and -friendly dance nights throughout the Boston area (<http://tiny.cc/90qhix>). The piece featured groups such as Gays for Patsy, OUT to Dance, Boston Open DanceSport, Swingtime, and events like those held at Bella Luna Restaurant and Milky Way Lounge, including Dyke Night, Boyfriends, La Boum, If You Can Feel It, Speak It, and Dirty Water Saloon. However, we quickly realized these were only some of the groups and organizations hosting queer and LGBT-specific dance in the city.

Every second and fourth Saturday, the Gay and Lesbian Contra Dance is held in Jamaica Plain through the umbrella group Lavender Country & Folk Dances (LCFD). For 25 years, this group has been holding what they call “gender free dances” for LGBTQ people and allies. Organizer and board member Jon Gintell started dancing with the group in 1997 and said he has missed very few dances and camps ever since.

“I think this dance has formed a very well knit community, and we have parties and do other things together,” Gintell said. “In contra dancing—related to square dance—couples line up in a line, setup into sets of four. A caller teaches the dance and then contin-

ues to call while the band plays. A sequence of moves get done and then the couple progresses to the next set. By the end of the evening, you will have danced with

everyone in the hall.” Gintell explained how the gender free dances they host are special. “In traditional contra dancing, the roles are called gents and ladies, but in the early days of our dance some people objected to this

terminology, so we adopted a convention of calling them bare arms and arm bands,” he said. “At NEFFA [New England Folk Festival Association], there is always a gender free

NEFFA has helped this transition.” LCFD helps form dance series and operates a twice-a-year dance camp. They also host dances in other cities, such as New York, San Francisco, Oakland, Atlanta and Montague. Additionally, The Jamaica Plain group hosts a twice-monthly gender free English Country Dance series, held on the second and fourth Tuesdays.

Gintell shared more about how the gender free language serves to make everyone feel included.

“Some people don’t like to be referred by the opposite gender. At a gender free dance, a person can ask anyone to dance regardless of gender, so it is likely that there will be many people dancing the opposite gender role,” Gintell said. “Some transgender people don’t identify themselves as either male or female, so appreciate not being referenced as one or the other of gent or ladies. Others care very much about their gender tag even if their appearance is ambiguous, perhaps because they are [in a] transitional stage.”

He explained why it is important for ...



Dance Brazen Boots performs at the Dyke Night Lush Pride Party. PHOTO: CHRISTINE HURLEY



Up: The Gay and Lesbian Contra Dance has been held in Jamaica Plain for 25 years. PHOTO: DOUG PLUMMER



Blend Night at Machine Nightclub. PHOTO: EVAN SMITH

Club Cafe in Boston’s South End hosts several LGBTQ-focused dance nights. PHOTO: JENN MARQUEZ PHOTOGRAPHY

women dancing with women or people reversing roles. We feel that our appearance in

To read the rest of this story visit: <http://wp.me/p22M41-325>

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# “The times, they are a-changin’”: Trans people in media make strides for equality

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw\*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



As Bob Dylan sings, “The times, they are a-changin’.” They certainly are changing for LGBT people, especially for the transgender segment of that acronym, and the changes are for the better. For a long time it seemed like it would never get better, but it has.

I think the turning point for us transgender folk was a couple of years ago, when Chaz Bono appeared on *Dancing with the Stars*. With Chaz being on television, the whole country—no, make that the whole world—saw a transgender person. If they never saw a transgender person before, well, now there was Chaz right in front of their eyes, right there in their living room on their televisions.

Last year, Laverne Cox appeared as one of the stars on Netflix’s *Orange is the New Black*, and once again a transgender person was in the spotlight. Just a few weeks ago Laverne graced the cover of TIME Magazine. This was the biggest publicity yet for us transgender folk, as it gave us the visibility of finally being acknowledged and accepted as a legitimate part of society. When

I was a teenager, TIME used to be a staunch Republican-slanted magazine and there was no way that they would ever feature a transgender person on their cover. Surprise! My, how times have changed.

Sure, there was some backlash when Chaz appeared on television a few years ago and

jobs, our friends, our families, and too often even our lives. When you came out as transgender back in those days, you were in for some pretty awful circumstances and situations. Back then, in transgender support groups everyone’s news was very often bad and sometimes even devastating. Those

teacher, a librarian, or a stay-at-home mom. That was just about it. The doors were shut tight. Then came the late 60s, when things began to change for many groups of people, and at the forefront was the option for women to pursue whatever career they wanted to pursue. There was still some backlash, but it was changing for the better. In the 70s and 80s, suddenly some men began staying home with the children as many wives became the sole providers. In these cases, the roles were completely reversed. Women were breaking through glass ceilings in the 90s and 2000s, and today men and women across every socioeconomic background continue to strive towards full equality.

Enter us transgender folk in the 2010s. We are now gaining acknowledgment and acceptance. We are now gaining equality. Ask yourself: does it really matter if you are male or female? No, it doesn’t. Ask yourself: does it really matter if you were born physically into one gender but live in the other gender? No, it doesn’t. We are all equal in this world, and more and more people are starting to agree.

Yes, Mr. Dylan, “The times they are a-changin’!”

\*Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has three grown children and works at 3M. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.

**We are now gaining acknowledgment and acceptance. We are now gaining equality. Ask yourself: does it really matter if you are male or female? No, it doesn’t.**

sure, there was some backlash recently when Laverne was on the cover of TIME, but the backlash was beaten back by the media and by countless people who came to Chaz and Laverne’s defense. The tide has finally turned, and it’s getting to the point where the majority of people are beginning to acknowledge and accept transgender people as their equals. This was not so even just a few years ago, when we were either unheard of or ridiculed and shamed, so much that our only choice was to try to go stealth and blend into society as our true gender. It was not an easy road. We were most definitely a marginalized group. We lost our

were sad and seemingly hopeless times.

Today’s transgender support groups are different. The news is often very good, as positive breakthroughs are constantly reported, including acceptance from co-workers, friends and family members. Not everyone is on board with us, but many are.

I was born in the early 1950s. In my life, I have seen vast changes in gender and gender roles. When I was a young child, mothers would wear dresses and stay home with their children while fathers were the sole providers of the family. Most jobs were for men and not for women. Back then a woman could be a nurse, a secretary, a school

## Ask a Transwoman: I always felt like a guy; now I ask you, am I Trans?

By: Lorelei Erisis\*/TRT Columnist



Dear Lorelei,

I’ve known since I was nine years old that I didn’t want breasts. I went through puberty very young. By the time I was ten I was already getting hair in certain parts of my body. I was raised that hair was to be shaved off because young girls and women are not supposed to have body hair.

I’ve always liked men’s clothes. It took me until 2006 to feel ready to shed the female drag I was wearing. My body has always been masculine looking. I knew something was wrong, but being raised in a family where homosexuality and being trans was wrong didn’t help me one bit.

My natural testosterone has always been elevated. Doctors and specialists can’t figure out why. I don’t want to change that.

I’m very relaxed and at peace with myself in that department. I stopped shaving back in very early 2004, because at the time I was going through a major crisis and couldn’t afford the shaving cream and blades. I’ve been transitioning since 2006. On November 23, 2013 I finally had top surgery.

I couldn’t take it any more mentally, physically and emotionally. I chose not to do hormones and SRS due to my health and the side effects alone scared me to no end with the testosterone.

I’ve been told by several support groups that I have gone to and met online that due to my decision to not go through with SRS and hormones I am not a real trans person and was run out on a rail.

I’ve been totally alone in my transition.

My question to you is, am I a trans person

even though due to my health I decided not to go through hormones and SRS?

Salutations, **Jessie Nash\***  
Jessie,

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and doing me the honor of offering you some advice. I will try my best to serve you where it appears others have not.

First of all, I should say that if you are able to, you may want to seek professional coun-

seling of some sort. I’m not much for the whole gatekeeper approach of many therapists and doctors, but it can help to have a professional to talk these things out with sometimes.

**Even in your decision to forgo SRS and HRT, you are in very good company. ... [These choices are due] to variety of reasons, ranging from health issues—as you are dealing with—to lack of funds, to simply personal choice.**

That said, let me start by making it absolutely clear that the only person who can ever truly know whether you are trans or not is you. People will offer you all sorts of opinions about your transness. They will claim to know beyond a shadow of a doubt how to spot a trans person, as well as how to tell a fake. It seems to be rather a hobby in our community. Though to be fair, it is not an activity exclusive to us. It is human nature to try and define the world around us.

But, since you asked, and it’s my actual

job to offer opinions about these things, my professional advice columnist opinion is that you are as trans as anyone else I have ever met. Judging by your story and how it compares to the stories of other trans men I have known, you seem to have had a fairly typical experience.

Might you be simply a very butch woman?

Sure, that’s possible. But judging by the details of your story and your clear telling of

opt not to have SRS because quite frankly the surgical options available for phallic construction (phalloplasty) are not nearly as sophisticated or satisfactory for a lot of folks as, say, the procedures available for vaginal construction (vaginoplasty). So, many trans men and trans women choose to work with what we have.

Plus, in your case, you’ve actually had top surgery! Which is actually the legal metric in a lot of places for defining whether a person has transitioned their gender surgically or not.

So, if as you say, you are relaxed and at peace with yourself and all you really need is for someone to assure you that you are in fact trans, then consider this your confirmation! As near as I can tell from your brief message, you’re as trans as I am, and I will be happy to call you brother or sister or zister or whatever pronouns and honorifics you find work for you.

I hope that helps, Jessie. More than anything though, know that you do not have to be alone. There are folks out there, like me, or my friend, the trailblazing trans man Bet Power, founder of the East Coast FTM group, who will stand with you just as you are.

If you want to contact Bet for direct support, you and or other trans male readers can join the private Facebook “East Coast FTM Group.” Slainte!

\* Some identifying details may have been altered to protect the identity of the questioner.

\*Lorelei Erisis is an actor, activist, adventurer and pageant queen. Send your questions about trans issues, gender and sexuality to her at askatranswoman@gmail.com.

Also, it’s worth noting a lot of trans men

# Tyler Glenn, Neon Trees frontman, talks reconciling gay Mormonism, more

By: Chris Azzopardi\*/Special to TRT

Neon Trees frontman Tyler Glenn is still figuring out what it means to be a gay Mormon. Not just how both modifiers can exist simultaneously, but if it's even possible that they do.

The alt musician spoke candidly on the heels of the band's latest album, *Pop Psychology*, revealing how he's not letting other people—even the Mormon Church—define his relationship with God, the gay atheists who lambasted him for standing by his beliefs and one of the reasons he recently came out: to find love.

**Chris Azzopardi:** *What does being a gay Mormon mean to you? How are you able to*

*be both without feeling like a contradiction?*

Tyler Glenn: Yeah, it's interesting. Because there were things about the church they didn't agree with, or they decided they wanted to live a different lifestyle regardless of sexuality, I had seen so many of my friends fall away from the church, even if they didn't necessarily want to. They just felt like they had to pick one or the other.

In my life, I've never felt like I totally wanted to do everything that I was told I had to. I've always been that way, and I still have a lot of faith in God and in a lot of the teachings of the church. Obviously there are things I scratch my head at, but I've always been that way. I just wasn't so quick to throw away that

part of me and accept this other part of me, so I guess my situation is, I want to be open and honest and say I have these feelings and I've acted on these feelings and this is who I am. I'm not ashamed of it. There have been a lot of people that have come up to me since (I came out) and said, "Thank you for being that way, because a lot of other people feel that way too."

**Q. The Mormon Church is tolerant of homosexuality as long as you abstain from homosexual relations. That said, how are you able to reconcile Mormonism and homosexual-**



PHOTO: ANDREW ZAEH

Tyler Glenn, second from left to right, is Neon Trees frontman and a gay Mormon.

**ity in terms of establishing physical relationships? What happens when you're in a relationship, and are you in one?**

A. I wish I could find a relationship. I don't want to sound like I'm on the prowl, but when I came out, part of it was because I want to find love. I want to find somebody. I've never been all about the random hook-ups, although I've had those experiences, but that's just not who I am. Coming out was a release. I want to meet someone in a more open, normal setting and not just have to be covert on apps and online—hiding it.

I think reconciling—I don't know. I guess when it comes to it, I will. You know, I identify as Mormon because I believe in it, and

regardless if, at some point, they decide to say, you can't be (Mormon), I still won't let someone here on Earth define my faith or my relationship with God and my beliefs. I will still identify with those beliefs.

**Q. So, if your bishop does not approve of your relationship with another man, you wouldn't walk away from the church?**

A. I don't think I would be the one walking away, but I would probably be removed from the records. I mean, I do go occasionally, but I haven't actively gone to church in about seven or eight years. I've always kind of felt like I didn't fit in, but at the same time

**Read the rest of this story at:**  
<http://wp.me/p22M41-31U>

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**LESBIAN TOP 10**

1. Orange Is the New Black: Season 1
2. Stud Life
3. Concussion
4. Reaching for the Moon
5. Vic + Flo Saw a Bear
6. Bumblef\*\*k, USA
7. Kissing Jessica Stein Blu-ray
8. Breaking Through
9. Blue is the Warmest Color
10. Margarita

**GAY TOP 10**

1. Test
2. Five Dances
3. Getting Go: The Go Doc Project
4. Eastsiders: The Movie
5. Hot Guys with Guns
6. I Am Divine
7. Free Fall
8. Stranger By the Lake
9. The Birdcage Blu-ray
10. Pit Stop

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

**MassSpirit from page 3**

Westborough).

For Franck, building on the progressive LGBT legacy of Governor Deval Patrick is of the utmost importance for the gay community.

“When you look at the presumptive Republican ticket,” he said, “there are some very real differences. Four years ago when Republican Charlie Baker ran for governor, he took a hard line against transgender rights to appease the ultra-conservative wing of the Massachusetts Republican Party. Some people looked past that because Baker picked an openly gay Republican as his running mate in 2010, but this year Baker has teamed up with a Tea Party favorite who was one of the leaders of the effort to defeat marriage equality ten years ago.”

So far, GOP frontrunner Baker has not yet embraced full transgender equality even as he is supportive of a gay brother who is married to a man. Four years ago, in voicing opposition to transgender equality, Baker stood behind social conservatives who derided the transgender civil-rights protections on the basis of “gender identity” and “gender expression” as the “bathroom bill.”

This spring at the state Republican Party convention, Baker told a reporter he supported transgender protections but without safeguards for public accommodations, which would include, for example, restaurants, transportation (busses and trains), restrooms, businesses and other places of daily activities.

In another jab at LGBT and reproductive rights, the state GOP platform inserted language about values. On abortion, it states,

**Building Up from Page 2**

Why such injustice occurs is too often overlooked—especially by the LGBTQ adult community—as an unanswerable question. Laurel Golio, a photographer and visual anthropologist, and Diana Scholl, an award-winning writer, are the brains and compassion behind We Are the Youth, profiling the strength, tenacity and spiritual and emotional wounds of LGBTQ youth. I interpret their work as an opportunity to heal and educate. The project offers life lessons to both LGBTQ youth and adults in general.

Despite all the civil and human rights advances, the work of Golio and Scholl and the stories shared in the project by young people (21 and under) is a reminder not to forget the most vulnerable in the LGBTQ community while teaching how to manage and process harsh, unpleasant experiences. The project builds up in a beautiful though bittersweet way.

The young people—some having experienced homelessness—are building up, not tearing down, through self-destruction like allowing negativity to deny their joy

**Markey from page 8**

very good. There were points that were brought up that I definitely think were great around focusing on tangible and very specific actual measures of change, and without forgetting our own struggles here at home around LGBT youth,” said Roman. “I think, on an international scale, the LGBT movement being out of the closet is 50 years old. Think about that. We have a lot of LGBT international individuals who are aging, who are coming into retirement, who are transgender, who end up being homeless or living

“We affirm the inherent dignity and sanctity of human life. We believe that every instance of abortion is tragic. We advocate policies that will assist a woman during a crisis pregnancy.”

On equal-marriage rights for gays, the platform states, “We believe the institution of traditional marriage strengthens our society. There should be no infringement on the rights of the people of Massachusetts to vote on ballot initiatives.” The last sentence is an apparent reference to ballot initiative attempts, albeit unsuccessful, to overturn gay marriage.

The Massachusetts Transgender Equal Civil Rights Law took effect July 1, 2012, banning discrimination in employment, housing, education, credit, and hate crimes. Since then, advocates have been pressing Beacon Hill lawmakers to add public accommodations to the current law.

Tisei, then a state senator, co-sponsored the measure.

For her part, Polito has come around to marriage equality.

“Karyn supported civil unions at a time when most Republicans did not,” Tim Buckley, Baker’s campaign spokesman, told The Boston Globe last December. “Like many, including President Obama, Karyn’s posi-

tion has evolved, and she now supports the existing law and will not work to undo the progress achieved over the last decade,” Buckley said, quoted in the Globe. But Franck will have none of that. “Marriage equality was born in Massachusetts and spread throughout the country, but if Karyn Polito had her way, it would have died in the crib,” he said. “Time and again, Polito has taken positions against the LGBT community and she has stood alongside some pretty big haters along the way,” Franck explained. “Combine Baker’s anti-trans baggage with Polito’s anti-equality record and the fact that the appointees in a potential Baker/Polito administration would be drawn from ultra-conservative circles, and it becomes clear that the stakes are very high for the LGBT community in 2014.”

Just how anti-gay, according to Franck, is Polito? “Polito voted for a constitutional amendment that would have defined civil marriage as exclusively heterosexual, voted against repeal of the law preventing non-resident same-sex couples from marrying in Massachusetts, voted against protecting transgender people under the state’s hate crimes and anti-discrimination laws, co-sponsored an anti-gay ‘parent’s rights’ bill penned by anti-LGBT hate group president Brian Camenker [of MassResistance], and filed an official complaint when the Registry of Motor Vehicles began allowing transgender people to change the sex designation on their driver’s license without proof of sex reassignment

and personhood. They are finding hope from within. Their stories are a reminder that no matter what happens, life does go on and we have to get back on its unrelenting merry-go-round that will throw us off again and again. In being thrown off, we must develop the inner strength to build up and not tear down with the dark energy we choose to create.

If you are a member of the LGBTQ youth community, please consider sharing your story at WeAreTheYouth.org. It might be an important way for you to nurture your soul and inspire others. Regardless of age, next time you are challenged personally or professionally, think through your reaction first so you build up instead of tearing yourself or anyone else down. \*Paul is a Schenectady, NY based attorney, seminary trained priest and founder of CorporateChaplaincy.biz, committed to the spiritual wellness of professionals. He also is author of *Lost Sense of Self & the Ethics Crisis: Learn to Live and Work Ethically* (<http://tiny.cc/vg0whx>).

on the streets.”

Markey also said the roundtable discussion was positive, as those present offered “some suggestions about how to make the case for the legislation.”

“The who’s who was here from the LGBT community, and I felt a lot of enthusiasm for the legislation,” he said. “It is giving me a lot of additional momentum towards seeing it become a law.”

For more information, including a full list of sponsors and endorsements, as well as a copy of the proposed legislation, visit [www.markey.senate.gov](http://www.markey.senate.gov).

**“We’re blessed to have terrific pro-LGBT candidates running up and down the ballot, but our primary objective is to make sure Massachusetts doesn’t go backwards on equality,” said Franck.**

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