

### June Highlights

NCTE Executive Director Mara Keisling keynoted at Chicago's *Be All* Conference. *Be All* is an annual conference for trans people and allies. This was the conference's 22<sup>nd</sup> year.

NCTE Field Director Caeden Dempsey served on a panel at the US Department of Transportation.

This panel was organized to discuss issues relevant to LGBT people that are often overlooked.

NCTE co-sponsored Gender Xplosion! with the National Youth Advocacy Coalition at their annual Youth Summit. This event provided space for young people to perform their genders in the creative manner of their choice.

### Upcoming Events

#### July 14-18

NCTE Field Director Caeden Dempsey will train students at GLSEN's annual conference, *Teaching Respect for All*.

#### July 16

NCTE Field Director Caeden Dempsey will be presenting a Transgender 101 workshop at GLSEN's annual conference, *Teaching Respect for All*.

#### July 26

9pm -2am

NCTE is co-sponsoring *Unity '04* at Avalon - 15 Lansdowne St., Boston, MA. Other sponsors include the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Leadership Institute, the Task Force, and more.

#### August 6

NCTE Executive Director Mara Keisling will be speaking at the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

### Miami Beach Extends Protections to Transgender People

On July 7, 2004, Miami Beach became the 73<sup>rd</sup> jurisdiction in the United States that protects trans people against discrimination. The vote by the Miami Beach city commissioners was unanimous and expanded the definition of "gender" to cover transgender people. It now reads "gender-related self-identity, self-image, appearance, expression or behavior whether or not such gender-related characteristics differ from those associated with the individual's assigned sex at birth."

Rajee Narinesingh, a local transgender rights educator and activist, said, "Today is a very big day, not only for transgender people, but for anyone who suffers discrimination because of their differences. I endure discrimination everyday, but today I can walk around Miami Beach knowing I am part of a community that will not tolerate any form of prejudice."

NCTE applauds the transgender activists and allies in Miami Beach for their hard work in achieving this victory.

### Trans Delegates at National Party Conventions

In a huge jump in visibility from 2000, seven transgender people will serve as delegates at the Democratic National Convention. At this time we do not know of any openly trans people who are delegates to the Republican National Convention.

In 2000, only one openly trans person that we know of served as a delegate at either of the major conventions -- Jane Fee, a Democrat from Minnesota. This year's increase in presence at the conventions comes at a time when the trans community is building greater visibility in politics and has credible candidates running for office, such as Amanda Simpson, a Democrat who is seeking a seat in the state legislature from Arizona's 26th District.

### Margaret Cho Provides NCTE with Unique Fundraising Opportunity

Margaret Cho and Cho Taussig Productions, Inc. have provided NCTE with a unique fundraising opportunity. Those who support NCTE can purchase Cho's DVD "Revolution" online and NCTE receives \$15.00 for every DVD sold. Margaret Cho is a trans-friendly comedian whose talent is respected in both the straight and LGBT communities alike. This DVD is not yet available in stores.

Now people can enjoy the performance of one of the best comedians around while simultaneously giving money to the only organization that serves as the eyes, ears and voice of transgender people in Washington. Follow the link below to purchase this DVD now and to give \$15.00 to NCTE.



[http://www.goemerchant7.com/index.cgi?ST=buy&Action=add&Merchant=chotaussigproductionsinc&ItemNumber=revolution\\_dvd\\_NCTE](http://www.goemerchant7.com/index.cgi?ST=buy&Action=add&Merchant=chotaussigproductionsinc&ItemNumber=revolution_dvd_NCTE)

If you have any questions, please contact us at [ncte@nctequality.org](mailto:ncte@nctequality.org) or 202.639.6332

## **FTMI Needs Assessment Calls for Increased Resources and Support for People of Color**

Recently, Female-to-Male International (FTMI) conducted a needs assessment of people of color on the FTM spectrum. This assessment looked at the over-all needs of FTM people of color, as well as specific concerns regarding how FTMI can better serve the community.

The report's Executive Summary states, "In the analysis of focus group and interview data, it was clear that the community of FTMs of color and their partners are struggling with a myriad of issues, including psychological and economic survival, accessing appropriate health care, and obtaining assistance for legal concerns." The report also identifies a strong need for community support.

This project both provides direction to FTMI as an organization as well as highlights some of the main issues that FTM people of color face in order to better assist the community in efforts to support and provide resources for all trans people.

NCTE applauds the efforts of this important organization in working to ensure they serve the needs of all trans people.

The full report, 'Assessing the Needs of Female-to-Male Transgendered People of Color and their Partners,' including a full list of recommendations, can be found at [www.ftmi.org](http://www.ftmi.org)

## **Gender Recognition Act of 2004**

On November 27, 2003, the Gender Recognition Bill was introduced in the British House of Lords and on July 1, 2004, it received Royal Assent. This act affects the entire United Kingdom and allows trans people who have taken "decisive steps to live fully and permanently in their acquired gender" to legally change their gender. A Gender Recognition Panel will determine who is eligible to become legally recognized under this act. Applicants must prove to the Panel that they have lived for two years, and plan to live until their death, in their gender.

Successful applicants will be issued a "gender recognition certificate." They will have the same benefits as anyone of that gender.

Lord Filkin, Minister at the Department for Constitutional Affairs, said, "I am delighted that the Gender Recognition Act has passed onto the statute books. For too long transsexual people have been denied the rights and responsibilities appropriate to their acquired gender. The Act demonstrates that this Government is committed to securing the rights of minority groups in our society and committed to their social and legal inclusion."

NCTE applauds the organization Press for Change and the entire UK trans activist community that worked to pass this bill.

## **Oppose the Federal Marriage Amendment Senate vote to take place in next few days**

The Constitution is under attack for partisan political purposes.

The time for being heard on the Federal Marriage Amendment is running out. The United States Senate has begun debate on the Federal Marriage Amendment (S.J. Res. 26). A vote in the Senate will be scheduled for either Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. Senators are currently getting more and stronger communications from people in favor of the amendment than people opposed.

The National Center for Transgender Equality's (NCTE) website has resources to help you find out who your United States Senators are and how to contact them: [http://nctequality.org/Visit\\_Legislators.asp](http://nctequality.org/Visit_Legislators.asp).

Information on how to fax them is available at <http://nctequality.org/WritingCongress.pdf>.

Please see the full Action Alert at [www.nctequality.org/news.asp](http://www.nctequality.org/news.asp)

## **Congressional Summer School NCTE Invites You to Participate**

Bolstered by the success of the Congressional Education Week that took place in April, NCTE is launching a second effort during summer Congressional recess called "Congressional Summer School."

Congressional Summer School is an event where teams of 3-4 trans people and allies will conduct educational visits with members of Congress during the August recess when members of Congress are in their home offices.

The goal of this project is to continue the process of educating the lawmakers of this country about transgender issues. Additionally, it is a unique opportunity to increase our power as a movement by empowering local trans people and allies to get more involved in their national movement.

We are currently looking for volunteers to participate in this event. If you are interested in being part of a Congressional Summer School team, please contact us at 202.639.6332 or [cdempsey@nctequality.org](mailto:cdempsey@nctequality.org).