

### Recent Highlights

#### August 6

NCTE Executive Director Mara Keisling spoke at the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

#### August 7

NCTE Executive Director Mara Keisling, along with several other trans leaders, met with the Human Rights Campaign Board of Directors.

\*\*Shortly after this meeting, HRC's Board took a trans-inclusive only stance on the Employment Nondiscrimination Act. For the full story go to: <http://nctequality.org/Aug04Newletter.pdf>

#### Sept 3-6

NCTE presented at *FTM 2004: A Gender Odyssey* in Seattle.

#### September 13

NCTE presented at the LGBTI Health Coalition Meeting in DC.

#### September 18

NCTE Executive Director Mara Keisling spoke at a transgender town hall meeting in Boston, MA, co-sponsored by Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition.

### Upcoming Events

#### September 30

NCTE will present at *Southern Comfort Conference* in Atlanta.

#### October 14-15

NCTE Field Director Caeden Dempsey will hold a series of trainings on trans issues at Princeton University.

### Indiana Extends Job Protections to Transgender State Employees

An Executive Order signed by Governor Joseph E. Kernan of Indiana on August 17th extends protections to transgender people who work in state government. The Order states that "gender identity shall not be a consideration in decisions concerning hiring, development, advancement, and termination of civilian employees."

NCTE applauds the Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance and Indiana Equality for their hard work in educating the Governor's office on transgender issues. According to the Governor's office, these groups and their educational efforts were key to the extension of workplace protections to transgender people.

"The dedication and hard work of trans organizers and our allies across the country are resulting victories that improve the lives of so many people who face job discrimination," said NCTE Executive Director Mara Keisling. "We congratulate the activists in Indiana who made this change possible and commend their hard work."

### New York City Now Has Trans Inclusive Safe Schools Law City Council Overrides Mayor's Veto

On September 9 the New York City Council overrode Mayor Michael Bloomberg's veto of the Dignity in All Schools Act (DASA). DASA, which protects all students, staff, and faculty from discrimination on school grounds based on a number of factors, including sexual orientation and gender identity, passed the NYC City Council by an overwhelming 45-3 in June. Shortly after the vote, Mayor Bloomberg vetoed this important education law.

NCTE commends the NYC City Council for overturning this veto and for their dedication to safe schools in New York City.

According to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network DASA is "one of the most far-reaching pieces of safe schools legislation in the country." Not only does DASA include protections for all students from violence, bullying, and harassment, but it also ensures that teachers and other school staff receive the training they need to make these protections a reality, requires the Department of Education to maintain records on the number of incidents of bullying and harassment, and mandates efforts to remedy problems of bullying and harassment.

### Second Coordinated Effort to Educate Congress a Success Education on Transgender Issues in Home Districts Across the Nation

During the month of August, the NCTE coordinated a national effort during which transgender people and allies visited members of Congress in their home districts during a Congressional recess. This second nationally coordinated effort, called Congressional Summer School, provided transgender and allied constituents the opportunity to educate lawmakers, face-to-face, about transgender people and issues.

Congressional Education Week, which took place the week of April 5<sup>th</sup>, was the first nationwide congressional education campaign coordinated by a transgender organization in which trans activists visited members of Congress in-district, rather than in the nation's capital. Congressional Summer School allowed trans people to continue this educational effort at home.

"This is a crucial time for the transgender movement. Trans people are becoming more vocal about the discrimination that plagues our community and are becoming better organized at fighting this discrimination," said Caeden Dempsey, NCTE Field Director.

Congressional Summer School Continued...

"These coordinated efforts to educate members of Congress move lawmakers closer to a place of understanding trans issues and the need for protections against discrimination. We are proud of the work that our lobbying teams conducted and are excited about the new relationships established between transgender activists and allies with these members of Congress."

Raj Narinesinch, a CSS participant from Miami, Fla., said, "I believe that Congressional Summer School gave us a noticeable face and voice with our members of Congress. The trans community has been obscure for quite some time now and I believe that these meetings help bring our issues to light."

During Congressional Summer School local activists built on the success of Congressional Education Week and conducted educational meetings with over 40 Members of Congress in about 10 states. NCTE worked with these activists to build small lobbying teams who met with members of Congress and Congressional staff to acquaint them with transgender issues with the long-term aim of creating lasting relationships the transgender movement can benefit from in the years to come.

"CSS and similar lobbying efforts have brought together trans people and trans allies in my community," said Kaelin Bowers from Oregon. "This strong coalition of diverse people visited with each legislative office and made certain that each legislator knew that their constituency includes trans people. All of the people in our coalition are active at the local and state level. Adding this national effort to the mix gives trans people in Oregon a phenomenal presence and better chance for success in fighting discrimination."

Activists interested in participating in future Congressional education efforts should contact NCTE at 202.639.6332 or [cdempsey@nctequality.org](mailto:cdempsey@nctequality.org).

## **New Airline Screening System to Take the Place of Controversial CAPPS II**

A new program called Secure Flight will take the place of the much debated CAPPS II system. Many civil rights and privacy organizations were concerned over CAPPS II because of the proposed methods of verifying passenger information and assigning passenger security risk levels.

NCTE saw several issues that CAPPS II posed for the transgender community because of the frequency of name and address changes by transgender people. There was concern that inconsistencies between the reservation information and the commercial data information would cause transgender people to be labeled as "high or unknown risk", requiring transpeople to go through heightened security screening by potentially insensitive personnel. Go to [www.nctequality.org/privacy.asp](http://www.nctequality.org/privacy.asp) for more information.

The government claims that, unlike CAPPS II, Secure Flight will not seek to identify anyone other than known or suspected terrorists. Secure Flight will also not assign security risk levels to passengers. This system will verify travelers' identities by comparing information passengers have given to airlines to records in government databases. The information in these databases comes from data collection companies. These companies gather information from banking, home mortgage and credit industries.

Civil rights and privacy organizations are still unsure as to whether this new system is in fact better and more secure than the CAPPS II system. NCTE will continue to monitor Secure Flight and it's implications to the trans community.

## **Man Pleads Guilty to Murder of DC Area Transwoman**

Last summer a series of violent crimes directed at transwomen rocked the DC area. One of the victims was Emonie Kiera Spaulding. Spaulding, who was 26, was found August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003 after being shot twice in the chest. Shortly afterwards, DC police arrested Derrick Lewis.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004, just a few days past the one-year anniversary of Spaulding's murder, Derrick Lewis plead guilty to manslaughter. Lewis faces a maximum of 30 years and a mandatory minimum of five years in prison.

The US Attorney's office said authorities have not determined a motive for the killing. Trans activists in the area suspect the killing was motivated by anti-trans hate.

## **Seattle Extends Anti-Discrimination in Public Schools to Transgender People**

On September 1, the Seattle School Board voted to add gender identity to its human-rights policy. Students and staff were already protected based on their sexual orientation. This change will extend protections against defamation and discrimination in educational opportunity or employment in the schools to trans students and staff members.

NCTE applauds the Seattle School Board for taking this stand against discrimination.

## **Become a Member of NCTE!**

The National Center for Transgender Equality depends on donations from trans people and our allies to continue our work in Washington, DC and around the country.

Go to <http://www.nctequality.org/donate.asp> to join.

When you join and give to the National Center for Transgender Equality, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to fight discrimination and violence against transgender people. Every donation ensures that transgender voices will be heard in Washington and around the country.