MEDIA ADVISORY for May 7-15, 2016
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**#RedefineSecurity #StopProfilingImmigrants #NoPRIDInPolicing**

LGBTQ Asian Groups to Protest Policing In 8 Cities Nationwide

From Seattle to Boston, Groups Demand End To Profiling, Violence By Local, Federal Law Enforcement

From May 7-15, during Asian Pacific Heritage Month and on the cusp of June Pride events, organizers with the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) and its member organizations will host a #RedefineSecurity Week of Action to highlight the harm caused by legalized profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity by local and federal law enforcement. The events will engage participants across the country in reimagining safety in Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities, and push back against police presence at LGBTQ Pride events in June.

“Our communities will redefine security for themselves, without law enforcement agencies that routinely profile and harass South Asians and Muslims as terrorists, Southeast Asians as gang members and LGBTQ API people as targets for harassment,” said NQAPIA Organizing Director Sasha W.

“Transgender people, especially transgender women, are routinely subjected to violence. As LGBTQ APIs, we are in solidarity with all Black and brown people who experience profiling from police, from ICE, and from all state agencies.”

The week of action will also challenge LGBTQ API communities to rethink policing around Pride events. While policing means violence to some API people, it means safety to others - especially those who are lighter-skinned or upper middle class. “If I, as a mixed east Asian person who rarely experiences racial profiling, invest in a form of ‘safety’ that relies on policing and surveillance, it hurts Black and Brown folks,” said Sam H. of Invisible to Invincible.

Many law enforcement agencies are exempt from federal guidelines that protect people from profiling. In 2014, President Barack Obama’s executive order created the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP) which detains and deports people profiled as a danger to national security. The FBI’s Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program profiles Muslim youth. Together, these and other programs normalize and legitimize violence against LGBTQ API communities, and all communities of color.

“These agencies must be held accountable for their biased immigration and criminal justice systems that have been inflicting violence and trauma on API communities,” said Boston QAPA Steering Committee member Kevin Lam. “Especially queer and transgender API communities.”

WHO: NQAPIA and member LGBTQ API organizations across the country
WHAT: #RedefineSecurity Week of Action To Demand An End to Profiling, Violence by Law Enforcement
WHERE: Boston, Chicago, Bay Area, Seattle, D.C., New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans
WHEN: May 7-15 (Event listings below; all times local to timezones)

EVENTS
LOS ANGELES: Satrang, 3-6pm, May 7, Advancing Justice Community Room, 1145 Wilshire Blvd, LA
BOSTON: Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, 6:30-8:30pm, May 10, Asian American Resource Workshop, 42 Seaverns Ave # 1, Jamaica Plain, Boston
CHICAGO: Invisible to Invincible, 5:30-7:30pm, May 10, Uptown Library, 929 W Buena Ave., Chicago
SEATTLE: TrikoneNW, 12-2pm, May 15, El Centro de la Raza, 2524 16th AVE S, Seattle
BAY AREA: API Equality Northern California, 3:30-5:30pm, May 15, AACRE Retreat, Bay Area
NEW YORK: SALGA NYC, May 18, 6:30-8:30pm, 208 W 13th St, New York, NY
WASHINGTON D.C. KhushDC, May 22, 11am-3:30pm, Impact Hub, 419 7th St NW, Washington, D.C.
NEW ORLEANS: VAYLA, TBD, New Orleans

The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) is a federation of LGBTQ Asian American, South Asian, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) organizations. We seek to build the organizational capacity of local LGBTQ AAPI groups, develop leadership, invigorate grassroots organizing, and challenge homophobia and racism.