



PRESS ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance Opens the Gates of
Discussion of Contentious LGBT Immigration Issues in Public Forums**

Washington, DC- The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) in collaboration with its members will be hosting lesbian/ gay/ bisexual/ transgender (LGBT) Immigration Public Forums in four different cities around the country in the month of March. The Forums are intended to open the gates to an inclusive public discussion of the current debate on comprehensive immigration reform and to educate LGBT Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and allied organizations on immigrant rights.

Topics for discussion about LGBT immigrants' rights will include: Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Gender, & Sexual Orientation; Asylum, Detention, Deportation Family Reunification & Legalization; Immigration Concerns for Bi-national Couples and Same Sex Marriage; The 2010 Census, Immigrants and LGBT Families.

Immigrant rights and LGBT immigrant rights are among the most contentious issues facing our communities and our nation. The issues involved are often oversimplified by the media and by elected officials with a particular agenda. This series of forums is intended to air the complexities of the issue as well as the diversity of needs facing immigrant and LGBT communities.

Speakers and organizers represent a range of perspectives. LGBT immigrants will share their personal narratives. Experts will provide technical and legal expertise. The audience will participate in the debate! Please join us and be part of this important discussion.

All events are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

FORUM DETAILS

BOSTON: Monday March 1

Date: Monday, March 1, 2010
Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Location: Raytheon Amphitheater - Eagan Center Northeastern University
Street: 120 Forsyth Street
City/Town: Boston, MA



Web: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=340240682624>

Confirmed speakers include:

- Attorney Anita Sharma Esq. with the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project;
- Attorney Richard Iandoli Esq. with Iandoli and Desai, P.C.; and,
- Ben de Guzman, Co-Director of the National Queer Asian and Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), Washington DC.

Discussion will be moderated by Attorney Nima Eshghi, Esq. from Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders.

Contact Us: Please RSVP to Noreen Giga at ngiga@glad.org

PROVIDENCE: Tuesday March 2

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2010
 Time: 6:00pm - 8:30pm
 Location: PrYSM
 Street: 669 Elmwood Avenue
 City/Town: Providence, RI
 Web: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=321508911357>

Interpretation will be provided in Spanish. Habrá Interprete en Español.

Invited speakers include:

Alison Foley, Immigration Attorney
 Ben de Guzman, National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)
 Dimple Rana, Deported Diaspora
 Kathy Kushnir, Marriage Equality Rhode Island
 Michelle Deplante, Immigrants United
 Raúl Iriarte, Community Member

NEW YORK: Thursday March 4

Date: Thursday, March 4, 2010
 Time: 6:30pm - 9:00pm
 Location: Asian American Writers' Workshop
 Street: 16 West 32nd Street, Suite 10A
 City/Town: New York, NY
 Web: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=350810828967>

Featuring:



LGBT AAPI Immigrants and Experts
Miriam Yeung, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
Hon. Daniel Dromm, Chair of the NYC Council Immigration Committee
Trishala Deb, Arcus Foundation and formerly with the Audre Lorde Project

Moderator: Ben de Guzman, National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA),
Washington, DC

CHICAGO: Monday March 8

Date: Monday, March 8, 2010
Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Location: Merlo Public Library
Street: 644 W. Belmont
City/Town: Chicago, IL
Web: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=323929167621>

Speakers include:
Ben de Guzman, NQAPIA
Mimi Wilson, Davidson & Schiller, LLC
Ifti Nasim, Community Activist

Presented by:
The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA),
Invisible to Invincible (I2I): Asian and Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago
Trikone- Chicago, an LGBT South Asian Group and
akabaka productions
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)

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