Dear organization serving the LGBT community,

Bisexual people have been a driving force in the LGBTQ community since before Stonewall and continue to be leaders within local, regional and national organizations and issue-based campaigns. Every day, bisexuals work side by side with the larger LGBT community to effect change and equality and we are now asking you to acknowledge the work that we’ve accomplished on our own and together.

Statistics show quite clearly that bisexual people report higher levels of [physical and mental health disparities](http://biresource.net/bihealthmonthlinks.shtml), sexual and domestic violence, and poverty than gays and lesbians. Often these disparities can be attributed to bisexual discrimination and anti-bisexual bias. [Wendy Bostwick’s study on microaggressions](http://binetusa.blogspot.com/2014/04/wendy-bostwick-on-bisexual-specific-microaggressions.html) against bisexual people points out that many of these negative interactions are initiated by lesbian and gay people, so it is not surprising that [Pew research](http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/06/13/a-survey-of-lgbt-americans/) has shown that bisexual people report much lower levels of feeling connected to the LGBTQ community. With the [Williams Institute](http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Gates-How-Many-People-LGBT-Apr-2011.pdf) findings that bisexual people make up half of the LGBTQ population, that’s a huge group of people that is being ignored and alienated. Thankfully the bisexual community has also displayed a high level of resiliency and despite these hurdles has worked to create awareness of these important bisexual public policy priorities. Whether it be speaking with President Obama about the bisexual community, launching bisexuality related social media campaigns or advocating for fair treatment in the media, the bisexual community’s hard work towards equality should be recognized and supported.

We ask your organizations to reaffirm that all members of our LGBTQ community should be respected, valued and celebrated by co-sponsoring Bisexual Awareness Week (September 21-27), a week-long campaign that utilizes media, social engagement and events worldwide to draw attention to important policy issues that affect the bisexual communities. We ask your organizations to encourage your staff and membership to participate in various ways:

* Write blog posts by bisexual, pansexual, fluid or non-monosexual identified writers sharing their pride
* Write blog posts by allies sharing their support for bisexual communities and bisexual culture
* Post on Twitter, Facebook and other social media engagements that visibly affirm, celebrate and support bisexual people
* Host an event to celebrate Bi Pride Day on September 23rd or another day during the awareness week

We also call on all LGBT service providers and organizations to commit to training their staff in bisexual cultural competency and bisexual community issues by the end of 2015. Cultural competency training is a necessity to understand bisexual history, identity, culture, politics and community and should be presented by trainers affiliated with one of the three bisexual non-profit community organizations in the U.S.,The Bisexual Resource Center, Bisexual Organizing Project and BiNet USA.

We ask your organization to make a commitment to develop bi-specific resources that address the particular concerns of the bi community. We ask that your organization investigate the needs of bi elders, bi youth and bi people of color to ensure that your programming and services are accessible and welcoming towards members and organizations of the bisexual community.

Thank you for your commitment to the B in LGBT!

**TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE VISIT** [**WWW.BISEXUALWEEK.COM**](http://www.bisexualweek.com)**.**

**SIGNATORIES**

Faith Cheltenham, BiNet USA President

Ellyn Ruthstrom, Bisexual Resource Center President

Camille Holthaus, Bisexual Organizing Project Chair

**BISEXUAL AWARENESS WEEK CO-PARTNERS**

GLAAD

National Black Justice Coalition

The Human Rights Campaign

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Huffington Post

Movement Advancement Project

San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Pridelines Youth Services

Alliance of Multicultural Bisexuals of Metro DC

Center for Culture, Sexuality, and Spirituality

BiRequest NYC

BiMagazine.com

The BiCast

Center Bi

Equality Michigan

Bi Community News

The Los Angeles Bi Task Force

Bi Women's Quarterly

BiMedia

bisexual-books.tumblr.com

Bisexual Index

Transgender Violence Tracking Project

Transgender Human Rights Institute

Nehirim

Boston Bisexual Women's Network

Bay Area Bisexual Network

**To sign on as a co-partner please email** **binetusa@binetusa.org** **to sign up!**