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Human Rights Campaign President Urges Supporters to Wage a Strategic and Peaceful Battle against Proposition 8 this Weekend



HRC President Joe Solmonese's statement comes in advance of protests of California's Proposition 8 to be held across the nation.

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WASHINGTON— In advance of protests against California's Proposition 8 to be held in cities across the nation this weekend, Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, has released the following statement calling for renewed commitment to coalition-building between all oppressed groups. HRC is the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization. Solmonese's statement, which also urges respect and civil behavior during the Join the Impact rallies, was sent to HRC's 750,000 members and supporters.

Good afternoon,

Our community is facing great challenges in the wake of the outcomes of ballot initiative fights in California, Arizona and Florida. Now, we must decide how to approach the obstacles ahead.

As Martin Luther King wrote in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail:

Will we be extremists for hate or will we be extremists for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice--or will we be extremists for the cause of justice?

On November 4, less than six months after the California Supreme Court ruled that lesbian and gay people are fully equal under the law, a slim majority of voters declared that we are not.

In Arizona and Florida voters also took away rights we had not yet even been granted.

We are angry - and that anger has moved to the streets.

Our rights were stripped. Our love was branded unworthy of the name marriage, though our commitments and responsibilities to each other are worthy of nothing less.

We are determined the world will see we are not an issue; we are families. Many of us are people of faith; many are people of color; our children play with yours; all of us are neighbors.

The Mormon Church played a huge role in the travesty called

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