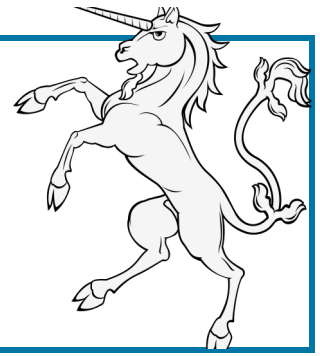


"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

The Unicorn

HORN



A Publication of The Unicorn Motorcycle Club / Cleveland, Ohio Est. 1971

October 2020

2205 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114-4046

Annual Business Meeting & Election of Officers Announced

Pursuant to Articles of Incorporation, and By-laws, of the Unicorn Motorcycle Club, Article 10: At the November meeting elections for the next year's officers shall occur. This meeting shall occur on November 15, 2020 at 4:30 PM, and shall be held in the Clubroom of the Leather Stallion Saloon (*Covid Restrictions Permitting*).

In addition to the Election of Officers, a decision as to the Unicorn Charity Funds will be made. Anyone desiring to add anything to the Agenda are requested to send Notification to the Club President no later than November 3rd, so that proper Documentation and Notification may be sent to the membership 10 days prior to the meeting, as required by Article 10 of the By-laws.

Club Changes Meeting Times

For the foreseeable future the Unicorn MC will be holding all meeting at 4:30 PM, this decision was made by unanimous consent at our September meeting. The reasons cited are due to the shortening Daylight hours, winter driving conditions, and the current State Covid Restrictions. There is only one remaining business meeting scheduled for the 2020 year, which will be in November, as our December gathering is the Annual Christmas Party, during which no business will be conducted. This year's Christmas party will be hosted by Jack Giles and Dennis Sherrill at their home in Willowick, Ohio, on Saturday, December 12th. Watch for more details in the next edition of the Horn. However upon starting the 2021 (*Our 50th Anniversary Year*) the meeting will continued to be held early. Planning has been put on hold for the 2021 year, as everything depends upon the State Department of Health's Covid Restrictions, everything is up in the air.

Unicorns to act as Host for Leather Stallion's Halloween Party

Saturday, October 31st, Come get your ghouls on at the **Leather Stallion's Annual Halloween Party!** This year due to the Department of Health's Regulations and restriction to keep the Coronavirus under control the Bar's Operating Hours have been reduced, the **Stallion** will be open from 3PM until 10 PM, at 50 % capacity (*only 75 customers permitted*), so do not be ghosted. Members of the Unicorn MC will be on hand to help with the celebration, and will be asking for donations to support the Unicorn Charities Fund, as well as assisting with the Costume Contest, which will be conducted at 9 PM. Remember every Trick is a Treat!!!

Happy Halloween!!!

Up, up and away, in my beautiful, my beautiful balloon

By Jim B (Bad boy from Detroit)

Now for something entirely different. Since most of the people I know are reminiscing of the old days, I thought it would be great to rehash some of my memories of the men and people I have met in the gay community. After Albert and I had both gotten bikes, Albert (my former husband) wanted to take me to gay motorcycle rallies. The Unicorns "Rites of the Full Moon" was our first motorcycle run that we enjoyed but not the last.



We discovered the Motorcyclers of New Mexico located in Albuquerque. They were having a Run in the second weekend of October. Since we were members of the Motorcycle Men of Leather and Albert was the President, we asked our members to join us for the trip. Mike joined us for an in-town Run.

We settled into our historic hotel in the middle of Albuquerque, and took a tour of the town. Walking through the Old Town around the tree lined square and past historic adobe buildings, some lined with drying chili peppers hanging from their roofs and balcony railings.

We arrived a few days early of the Official Run and wanted to meet some of the members of the club and do some sightseeing of Albuquerque. We met the President, Pat S. of the Motorcycle Men of New Mexico. Pat took us to his home outside the city. It was made entirely of adobe, including the floor, which was a solid as cement. Pat and his lover were gracious hosts, and showed us around the property which sat next to an adobe farm, which had the adobe bricks drying out in the midday sun.



Albert wanted to visit authentic Indian sites. Pat decided to take us to St Augustin Church, which sat on an original Indian Reservation. He rode up to the church that was having a baptism, at the time, so we waited outside. When the service was finished, the priest came out and shouted at Pat, "How's that bike running?"

After exchanging pleasantries, we visited the church and the surrounding Indian Reservation including the outdoor bread ovens and a small gift shop. We purchased an Indian Wedding Vase which now sits in front of a picture of me and Jim H, now the love of my life.



We had a formal dinner at the historic hotel that Thursday evening. That Friday afternoon the whole group proceeded to a local supermarket parking lot. One of the members was a registered Hot Air Balloonist by the name of Matthew, who provided tethered rides for those in attendance, while motorcycle games proceeded for those on the ground.



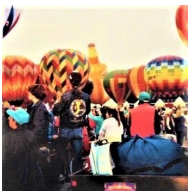
The gondola of the balloon could hold only three people at a time, including Matthew.

Albert and I were next in line for the ride when the wind began to pick up. The tethered balloon had to be brought down and we were promised to be the first in line for the next day. This time, there would be no tether out on the Mesa. The balloon was set

up and we for in a wonderful experience, floating silently across the desert. The wind began picking up and we soon lost the van that was following us with the next couple waiting for the ride. Since the wind was not calming down, we stayed aloft for quite a while until, Matthew told us, we had to descend and land because there was an ordinance that no balloons could be in flight after dark. Matthew told us to brace ourselves.

We landed, bouncing off the ground until we came to a stop and over-turned. Albert suffered a slightly sprained ankle, other than that, we were fine. There we were in the middle of the desert and, no one knew where we were. We waited until it was dark before the van showed with help. They lit the torches on the gondola for light. When we got back to the hotel, we had missed the time for our cocktail party. Later we were told by the MMNM Club (jokingly), that we were banned from any more balloon flights, since we were the only couple of that day, to get a ride and the longest of them of all, the entire weekend. After partying and going to bed late, we got up around 4 AM on Sunday to meet the group and pile into a rented bus to travel to the desert for The Grand Accession.

The Motorcycle Men of New Mexico Run, was always scheduled in the second week of October, during the same time as The Hot Air Balloon Festival. The cost to attend the Festival was included in the Run fee. So, Sunday morning we took the bus to the site, in the desert, were over six hundred balloons lined up in rows getting ready, in the cold, to roll out and inflate.



One after another, row upon row, the balloons were signaled to roll out and inflate. After they were fully inflated, they were given the signal by referees, Matthew being one of them. This was done to ensure safety, so that no balloon was rising under another. It was a grand and awesome sight. It was an unbelievable experience!!!

Barrett dodges on Same-sex Marriage, Downplays ties to Anti-LGBTQ law firm

Chris Johnson, Chief Political & White House Reporter for the Washington Blade.



Judge Amy Coney Barrett nominee to the Supreme Court.

Amy Coney Barrett, **President Trump's** pick for the now vacant seat on the **U.S. Supreme Court**, fended off questions during her confirmation hearing on whether she'd undo same-sex marriage, declining to disavow dissents to historic rulings for marriage equality from her mentor **Antonin Scalia**.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), top Democrat on the **Senate Judiciary Committee**, invoked the memory of gay rights pioneers **Del Martin** and **Phyllis Lyon** in questioning Barrett, recalling their wedding in 2008 after the **California Supreme Court** ruled in favor of marriage equality.

Feinstein, recalling when **Martin** died two months later that **Lyon** was ineligible for **Social Security** survivor benefits because of the **Defense of Marriage Act**, asked **Barrett** about **Scalia's** dissent to the 2013 ruling striking down the **Section 3 of DOMA**, which barred federal recognition of same-sex marriage.

"Now you said in your acceptance speech for this nomination that Justice Scalia's philosophy is your philosophy," Feinstein said. **"Do you agree with this particular point of Justice Scalia's view that the U.S. Constitution does not afford gay people, the fundamental right to marry?"**

Barrett insisted upon her confirmation **"you would be getting Justice Barrett, not Justice Scalia."**

"I don't think that anybody should assume that just because Justice Scalia decided a certain way that I would, too," Barrett said.

Barrett, however, then invoked the rule associated with the late **U.S. Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, as is customarily done for judicial nominees, to avoid answering directly how she'd directly rule on same-sex marriage, which is consistent with her testimony and other judicial nominees seeking confirmation.

"No hints, no previews, no forecasts," Barrett said. **"That had been the practice of nominees before her, but everybody calls it the Ginsburg rule because she stated it so concisely and it's been the practice of every nominee since since. So I can't and I'm sorry to not be able to embrace or disavow Justice Scalia's position but I really can't do that on any point of law."**

Feinstein, however, wasn't satisfied with that answer, calling marriage rights for same-sex couples **"a fundamental point for large numbers of people, I think, in this country."**

"You identify yourself with a justice that you like him would be a consistent vote to roll back hard fought freedoms and protections for the LGBT community," Feinstein said. **"And what I was hoping you would say is that this would be a point of difference where those freedoms would be respected and you haven't said that."**

Barrett responded to Feinstein's concerns by insisting she **"has no agenda,"** then went on to disavow discrimination on the basis of **"sexual preference."**

"I do want to be clear that I have never discriminated on the basis of sexual preference, and would not ever discriminate on the basis of sexual preference," Barrett said. **"Like racism, I think discrimination is abhorrent."**

The term sexual preference is considered inappropriate, and offensive, to describe whether or not a person identifies as LGBTQ because it implies being LGBTQ is a choice. Instead, the standard terms are sexual orientation and gender identity **(and in some circles, the term sexual identity is emerging as a broader term to encompass all aspects of the LGBTQ community).**

Shannon Minter, legal director for the **National Center for Lesbian Rights**, criticized Barrett in a statement for using the term **"sexual preference,"** crediting such terminology with the prevalence of widely discredited conversion therapy.

"When Amy Coney Barrett used the term 'sexual preference' in her testimony before the Senate today, she perpetuated the dangerous

and false stereotype that being LGBTQ is not a fundamental aspect of identity, but a mere 'preference,'" Minter said. "This is why so many people, including many parents who send their children to conversion therapy, think being LGBTQ is a choice. As judges know, language matters."

Upbraiding Barrett on the committee for use of the term sexual preference was *Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii)*, who said that was *"offensive and outdated"* language and *"used by anti LGBTQ activists to suggest that sexual orientation is a choice."*

"It is not," Hirono continued. "Sexual orientation is a key part of a person's identity. That sexual orientation is both a normal expression of human sexuality and immutable was a key part of the majority's opinion in Obergefell, which by the way Scalia did not agree with. So, if it is your view that sexual orientation is merely a preference, as you noted, then the LGBTQ community should be rightly concerned whether you would uphold their constitutional right to marry."

Although Hirono continued in a tirade against Barrett she didn't allow the nominee to address those remarks. *Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa)* at the start of her questioning, gave the nominee an opportunity to clarify and apologize.

"I certainly didn't mean to use a term that would cause any offense in the LGBTQ community," Barrett said. "So if I did, I greatly apologize for that. I simply meant to be referring to Obergefell as holding with respect to same-sex marriage."

The prospect of *Barrett's* confirmation leading the *Supreme Court to reverse Obergefell v. Hodges*, the 2015 ruling granting full marriage rights to same-sex couples, has emerged as a concern following an unexpected statement from *U.S. Associate Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas* declaring war on the decision.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, sought to allay concerns the Trump-appointed nominee would overturn *Obergefell* as well as other Supreme Court precedents with questioning of his own, prompting Barrett to affirm the limited role of justices.

"Judges can't just wake up one day and say, 'I have an agenda. I like guns. I hate guns. I like abortion. I hate abortion,' and walk in like a royal queen and impose their will on the world," Barrett said.

Initially asking Barrett to identify the Supreme Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriage (which Barrett correctly identified as *Obergefell*), Graham asked if the process for a state seeking to defy the decision would be the same for any legal challenge.

"It would and one thing I've neglected to say before that's occurring to me now is that not only would someone have to challenge that statute...if they outlawed same-sex marriage, there'd have to be a case challenging it, and for the Supreme Court to take it up, you'd have to have lower courts going along and saying we're going to flout Obergefell," Barrett said.

Barrett went on to downplay the prospect of the Supreme Court overturning same-sex marriage based on lower courts rejecting the challenge flat-out ignoring the prospect of the Supreme Court reviewing those lower court decisions and deciding to overturn Obergefell as precedent.

"The most likely result would be that lower courts, who are bound by Obergefell would shut such a lawsuit down, and it wouldn't make its way up to the Supreme Court but if it did, it would be the same process I've described," Barrett said.

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), attending the confirmation hearing virtually, asked Barrett whether she'd respect the principle of *stare decisis* — the idea the Supreme Court should keep with precedent to ensure consistency in the law with respect to same-sex marriage.

After Barrett initially simply affirmed the holding in *Obergefell* that same-sex couples have a right to marry, the nominee declined to say whether she agrees with that precedent consistent with her testimony in her response

to other cases.

"Senator, for the reasons I've already said, I'm not going to as Justice Kagan put it, give a thumbs up or thumbs down to any particular precedent," Barrett said. "It's precedent of the Supreme Court that gives same-sex couples a right to marry."

Upon further questioning from Leahy, however, Barrett affirmed she would not seek to overturn decisions just because a majority of the court supported it, saying *"the doctrine of stare decisis requires that"*

Leahy also brought up Barrett admitting to having taken speaking fees to address the *Blackstone Legal Fellowship*, which is a project of the *anti-LGBTQ Alliance Defending Freedom*, asking her if she was familiar with the law firm's filings in support of keeping same-sex relations criminalized in the United States, and recriminalizing them abroad.

"They celebrated when India restored a law punishing sodomy with 10 years in prison," Leahy said. "Now I don't whether you believe being gay is right or wrong is irrelevant to me, but my concern is you worked with an organization working to criminalize people for loving a person that they're in love with. So, that's what worries me."

Barrett, however, said her experience with Blackstone *"was a wonderful one,"* saying it gathers *"the best and brightest Christian law students from around law students from around the country,"* making a notable correction to describe her response.

"As you said, I gave a one-hour lecture on originalism," Barrett said. "I didn't read all the material that students were given to read. That had nothing to do with my lecture. I enjoyed teaching the students about what my specialty was, which was constitutional law."

Barrett went on to defend *the Blackstone fellowship* despite having ties to the legal firm that has been at the forefront of curtailing *LGBTQ rights*, most recently before the *U.S. Supreme Court in the Bostock v. Clayton County* case that affirmed firing workers for being *LGBTQ* was illegal.

"Nothing about any of my interactions with anyone involved in Blackstone were ever indicative of any kind of discrimination on the basis of anything," Barrett said.

Sharon McGowan, legal director for *Lambda Legal*, criticized Barrett for refusing to denounce *ADF* during the confirmation hearing.

"Clearly, Judge Barrett sees no inherent problem with her affiliation with ADF, which is deeply problematic to us and should be to anyone who cares about LGBTQ people and our families," McGowan said. "ADF is among the largest, best known, and most extreme of the many anti-LGBT legal organizations, so her claim that she isn't aware of their hostility toward LGBTQ people is disingenuous at best."

Coming to Barrett's defense on the committee was *Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas)*, who listed judges who ruled in unforeseen ways, pointing out *U.S. Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch*, a Trump appointee, ended up ruling *anti-LGBTQ discrimination is prohibited under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.*

"I think about the attacks on Neil Gorsuch for his unwillingness to make a prior commitment on LGBT issues," Cornyn said. "He wrote the Bostock case extending Title VII of the Civil Rights Act to gay or transgender. Obviously, those predictions were wrong."

McGowan added Barrett's choice of the term "sexual preference" goes hand-in-hand with her past work with the anti-LGBTQ legal group.

"Her use of the term 'sexual preference' instead of 'sexual orientation' during today's hearing, as well as her prior misgendering of transgender people, come straight out of the ADF playbook," McGowan said. "Such language is not only dismissive of our identities, but also reveals a deep hostility to our entitlement to equal protection of the law. It is unreasonable to think that she would be able to administer fair and impartial justice to our communities if she can't even accept our basic humanity and dignity."

Vote as if your life depends on it: Political & judicial appointments

Under the Constitution, the President is responsible for appointing a Vice President, 15 members of the Cabinet, and more than 50 heads of federal agencies.

Under the Constitution, the President is responsible for appointing a Vice President, 15 members of the Cabinet, and more than 50 heads of federal agencies. These appointments are then responsible for the execution and enforcement of the laws created by Congress.

LGBTQ representation in these political positions, as appointed by the President, is imperative for the future of equality. We have a long way yet to go. To date, no person from our community has served as President, Vice President, or Supreme Court Justice. There are two LGBTQ members of the 100 member United States Senate and seven in the House out of 435.

Out LGBTQ Obama Appointments (2 Terms):

U.S. District Court Judges — 9

U.S. Court of Appeals Judges — 1

U.S. Ambassadors — 7

U.S. Attorneys — 1

U.S. Commissioners on Civil Rights — 1

U.S. Commissioners on Equal Employment Opportunity Commission — 1

U.S. Marshals — 1

U.S. Secretaries of the Army — 1

TOTAL Obama appointments: 22

Openly LGBTQ Trump Appointments (1 Term):

Cabinet Members — 1*

U.S. Court of Appeals Judges — 1

U.S. Ambassadors — 5

TOTAL Trump appointments: 7

*Richard Grenell made United States history as the first out LGBTQ cabinet-level official when he was appointed on February 20, 2020, as Acting Director of National Intelligence. He resigned from the position on June 1, 2020.

574 LGBTQ Candidates on General Election Ballots This Year, Up 33 Percent: Victory Fund Report

The LGBTQ Victory Fund has put out its inaugural Out on the Trail report which offers an analysis of the diversity of the openly LGBTQ candidates who ran for office in 2020.

Among the report's findings:

“At least 1,006 openly LGBTQ people ran or are running for office in 2020 – the most in history – and a 41 percent jump since the last mid-term election in 2018, when 716 openly LGBTQ candidates ran. At least 574 LGBTQ candidates will appear on the general election ballot in November, up from 432 in 2018, a 33 percent increase.”

“31 percent of LGBTQ candidates running in 2020 identify as people of color, with the LGBTQ candidate population continuing to be significantly more racially diverse than the general candidate population.”

“LGBTQ men of color are running in numbers proportional to men of color in the overall U.S. population in 2020, yet LGBTQ women of color are running at rates just half their proportion in the U.S. population.”

“The proportion of bisexual and queer candidates in the total LGBTQ candidate population grew significantly from 2018 to 2020, but the proportion of lesbian candidates dropped.”

“The number of transgender people running for office decreased between 2018 and 2020 (from 48 to 34), yet the number of genderqueer/non-binary/gender non-conforming candidates increased dramatically (from six to 25).”

“Alabama is the only state where zero known openly LGBTQ candidates ran in 2020, while California, Texas and Florida were the states with the greatest number of LGBTQ candidates running.”

[Head on over to the Victory Fund for a deeper dive.](https://victoryfund.org/outonthetrail/)

<https://victoryfund.org/outonthetrail/>

LGBTQ Victory Fund works to achieve and sustain equality by increasing the number of openly LGBTQ elected officials at all levels of government while ensuring they reflect the diversity of those they serve.

“LGBTQ Victory Fund is pleased to present you with our inaugural Out on the Trail report – which analyzes the diversity of the openly LGBTQ candidates who ran for office in 2020. More than 1,000 LGBTQ people ran this election cycle – the most in U.S. history – and we expect an unprecedented number to win on Election Day. This report will show that LGBTQ candidates are significantly more diverse than the overall candidate population, but that we have work to do to ensure LGBTQ candidates are as diverse as America. I hope you enjoy exploring the LGBTQ people who stepped up to run in 2020. You can see all of our active endorsed candidates at victoryfund.org/ourcandidates.” – Mayor Annise Parker, President & CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund October 2020

Victory Fund Endorsed Ohio Candidates:

Craig Covey, Stark County Treasurer, Ohio

Craig will be the first openly LGBTQ person elected to any county-wide office in Stark County!

Zachary Dickerson, Montgomery County Clerk of Courts, Ohio

Zach will be the first openly LGBTQ person elected to Montgomery County government.

Robb Koons, Marion County Clerk of Courts, Ohio

Robb will be the first openly LGBTQ person to hold a county office in Marion County.

Sandra Kurt, Summit County Clerk of Courts, Ohio

Sandra is an LGBTQ leader on the local level in northeast Ohio.

Jeff Mackey, Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division, Franklin County, Ohio

Jeff will be the first LGBTQ judge elected in Franklin County.

Charmaine McGuffey, Hamilton County Sheriff, Ohio

Charmaine will be the first woman and openly LGBTQ Sheriff of Hamilton County.

Zach Stepp, Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio

Zach Stepp is running for the Ohio State House to bring results-driven representation for Lorain County. There are currently no openly LGBTQ members of the Ohio State House.



Do LGBTQ+ Asylum Seekers Have a Future in the United States



America has turned it's back on Queer Refugees

By Neela Ghoshal & Yael Schacher

Yael Schacher is senior U.S. advocate at Refugees International and Neela Ghoshal is a senior LGBT researcher at Human Rights Watch.

When Pricila, a 32-year-old trans woman, fled El Salvador in February 2019, she had good reason to fear for her life. Police had beaten and sexually assaulted her, telling her they would make her a man. Gang members attempted to forcibly recruit her. They extorted her, burned her, beat her, abducted her gay friend, and threatened that she would be next.

Pricila fled to safety in the United States, where her asylum case is underway. But if the Trump administration has its way, people like Pricila, who asked us to use her first name only, may no longer be eligible for asylum in the United States.

A regulation proposed by the **Justice and Homeland Security Departments** in June would, as the organization **Immigration Equality** put it, “**essentially eliminate asylum protection altogether**” for people seeking **asylum on grounds of persecution related to their gender identity or sexual orientation**. And now, in what has to be categorized as the regulatory equivalent of beating a dead horse, **the Justice Department** on September 23 proposed yet another regulation to **limit asylum seekers’ ability to provide evidence in support of their claims**.

LGBT asylum seekers, including those, like Pricila, from **Central America’s Northern Triangle**, often have strong asylum claims, as documented in a new report by **Human Rights Watch**. Although the **Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras** have passed some laws and policies to protect people from violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, LGBT people can tell you a yawning gap exists between what is on paper and the abusive reality they face.

In another 70 countries (<https://www.humandignitytrust.org/lgbt-the-law/map-of-criminalisation/>) around the world, LGBT people can be imprisoned based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Data spanning 2007 through 2017 shows that asylum seekers with persecution claims based on gender identity or sexual orientation overwhelmingly passed initial U.S. screenings regarding their fear of returning to their home countries.

72 jurisdictions criminalize private, consensual, same-sex sexual activity. The majority of these jurisdictions explicitly criminalize sex between men via **‘sodomy,’ ‘buggery’** and **‘unnatural offences’** laws. Almost half of them are Commonwealth jurisdictions.

44 jurisdictions criminalize private, consensual sexual activity between women using laws against **‘lesbianism,’ ‘sexual relations**

with a person of the same sex’ and **‘gross indecency’**. Even in jurisdictions that do not explicitly criminalize women, lesbians and bisexual women have been subjected to arrest or threat of arrest.

11 jurisdictions in which the **death penalty** is imposed or at least a possibility for **private, consensual same-sex sexual activity**. At least 6 of these implement the death penalty – **Iran, Northern Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen** – and the death penalty is a legal possibility in **Afghanistan, Brunei, Mauritania, Pakistan, Qatar and UAE**.

15 jurisdictions criminalize the **gender identity and/or expression of transgender people**, using so-called **‘cross-dressing,’ ‘impersonation’** and **‘disguise’** laws. In many more countries transgender people are targeted by a range of laws that criminalize same-sex activity and vagrancy, hooliganism and public order offences.

Sign up to the **Human Dignity Trust Newsletter** (<https://www.humandignitytrust.org/newsletter-signup/>) for updates on key legal challenges to anti-LGBT laws around the world, news on the reform of discriminatory laws in the Commonwealth, comment from our Director on landmark judgments and employment opportunities at the Trust.

The international refugee system exists to provide protection to people like Pricila, who are persecuted because of their identity or beliefs. But the **U.S. administration** seems bent on shutting them out. **Homeland Security** has compelled asylum seekers arriving at the southern border to wait for months in **Mexico** before they undergo a **‘credible fear’** interview, the first step in the asylum process. Some are forced to remain in **Mexico** for many more months **while U.S. courts adjudicate their claims**. **Northern Mexico**, where several trans women have reported receiving death threats, is particularly inhospitable for them. Pricila was gang raped in Mexico.

Other **asylum seekers**, including **LGBT** people, have been forcibly transferred to **Guatemala** — “**among the most dangerous countries in the world,**” according to the **State Department’s own assessment** — under an **Asylum Cooperative Agreement**. In August, a **Salvadoran trans asylum seeker was murdered there** —one of at least **20 LGBT people** murdered in **Guatemala** so far in 2020.

Refugees International and **Human Rights Watch** have exposed how **Guatemala’s** asylum system is unprepared to handle an influx of asylum seekers. Not one of the **939 asylum seekers** transferred to **Guatemala** between **November 2019 and March 2020**, when transfers were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic, **has been granted asylum**.

Since March, **U.S. authorities have used the pretext of Covid-19 to close off land borders to asylum seekers altogether**, and the **Border Patrol** has summarily expelled nearly 150,000 people. No one knows how many were fleeing persecution based on gender identity or sexual orientation because they were never given the chance to ask for protection.

The **Homeland Security** and **Justice** regulation proposed in June **bars all gender-related asylum claims**. It does not define gender, but in addition to dismissing claims from abused women and girls, immigration judges could misconstrue it to bar all gender identity asylum claims.

The rule requires claimants to identify themselves as victims of persecution based on sexual orientation or gender identity the first time they come before an immigration judge or waive their right to do so. Persecution for most forms of political activism, including **LGBT activism in countries where it is outlawed**, would be **insufficient** to constitute **‘persecution on account of political opinion,’** because the rule narrows **‘political opinion’** cases to people seeking **‘regime change.’**

The regulation would **exclude evidence** to support an asylum claim if the adjudicator thought it promoted a **‘cultural stereotype.’** A judge could dismiss evidence of Pricila’s abuse by Salvadoran police if she thought it promoted a machismo stereotype. **The Trump administration seems more concerned not to offend homophobes and misogynists than to protect their victims.**

This week’s newest proposed rule digs the hole even deeper, setting a 15-

day time limit on filing an asylum application and preferencing U.S. government human rights reports over those of reputable nongovernmental organizations. *It would even allow immigration judges to introduce evidence on their own, fundamentally distorting the role of a U.S. immigration judge and opening the door to the introduction of evidence that might reflect judges' own biases, such as anti-LGBT prejudice.*

The recent and proposed asylum policies and regulations that shut out people fleeing persecution should be scrapped. LGBT asylum seekers, like Pricila, have compelling reasons for fleeing their home countries. The United States should provide them a fair asylum process.

Yet another Reason Elections Matter!!

Donald Trump called out for "sham" campaign to help gays in other countries

By Alex Bollinger

Donald Trump is trying to fool LGBTQ voters with his phony campaign to decriminalize homosexuality. Activists say don't fall for it.

The Trump administration has repeatedly rolled back LGBTQ protections, fought court cases against LGBTQ equality, and appointed anti-LGBTQ Christian conservative activists to important administration positions.

Still, Donald Trump's reelection campaign has tried some outreach to LGBTQ voters, and one of the administration's few moves that gets repeatedly brought up is Trump's campaign to end the criminalization of homosexuality worldwide. Now LGBTQ human rights advocates are speaking out about how little that campaign has done, much less accomplished.

In early 2019, out *U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell* announced a *U.S.-led campaign to end the criminalization of homosexuality worldwide*. The campaign was a central feature in a video last week in which Grenell claimed Trump was *"the most pro-gay president in American history."*

"The decriminalization campaign is smoke and mirrors," Graeme Reid, director of the LGBT Rights Program at Human Rights Watch. "The U.S. opposed criminalization long before President Trump took office – and saying people shouldn't be imprisoned for being LGBT is the bare minimum of what the U.S. should be doing, not a bold endeavor."

Other LGBTQ advocates noted that the campaign has really not done much of anything besides a couple meetings.

It was *"nothing more than a series of self-promoting Twitter photos,"* said *Julie Dorf* of the *Council for Global Equality*.

"There has never been any Trump administration decriminalization plan – no new funding to support the local LGBTQ+ activists working in those countries on decriminalization. They are the true heroes on the ground who deserve America's support."

"Ending the criminalization of LGBTQ people is an urgent and a monumental task, but former Ambassador Grenell and the Trump administration have failed to announce actual resources or plans to accomplish," said *GLAAD CEO Sarah Kate Ellis*.

According to the *Human Dignity Trust*, 72 countries and jurisdictions criminalize homosexuality. *Since Grenell's campaign started, two countries – Botswana and Gabon – have decriminalized homosexuality.*

Gabon also criminalized homosexuality in the summer of 2019, after Grenell's campaign started, and *then decriminalized it a year later.*

Botswana's decriminalization in June 2019 was the result of a high court decision from a legal battle that started several years before.

Trump said in 2019 that he didn't know about the campaign to de-

criminalize homosexuality, and his administration has arguably hindered efforts to promote LGBTQ equality worldwide.

For example, the *Trump administration worked to rewrite international human rights law to emphasize "religious freedom" over LGBTQ equality, stacked a human rights committee with anti-LGBTQ activists, made it more difficult for transgender refugees to get asylum in the U.S., sent away LGBTQ people seeking asylum in the U.S. to countries with fewer protections for them, and even banned U.S. embassies from flying the rainbow flag.*

Mike Pompeo and the Global Holy War Against Liberal Democracy

Under the guise of religious liberty, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is pushing repressive ideas about religion that offer cover to authoritarian regimes.

In *Russia*, where *President Vladimir Putin* inserted references to *God and heterosexual marriage into the constitution*, certain forms of *violence against women have been decriminalized*. so long as the violence takes place *within a traditional marriage*. In *Poland*, where *abortion access is already severely restricted*, *President Andrzej Duda* has promised to *sign draft legislation* that would compel women to carry to term *fetuses with severe congenital deformities*, and a *third of municipalities have declared themselves "LGBT-free zones"*, all in order to *"defend Christian values,"* as one leader of the ruling party puts it. In *Turkey*, reports of *gender-based violence* have risen sharply under the auspices of a president who has *derided women's equality* and railed against birth control while claiming to *champion traditional families*.

In the *United States*, we should become increasingly familiar with this *pernicious form of religious nationalism* because, under the banner of *"religious freedom,"* *Secretary of State Mike Pompeo* appears to offer his blessing to these kinds of initiatives. In 2019, *Pompeo* established the *Commission on Unalienable Rights*, a commission ostensibly intended to *reformulate America's commitment to advancing human rights abroad*. But the secretary of state already seems to know which rights may take preference, and at whose expense. *"There are those who would have preferred I didn't do it and are concerned about the answers that our foundational documents will provide,"* *Pompeo* commented last fall at a gathering of the *Concerned Women for America*, a conservative women's group, at the *Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. "I know where those rights came from. They came from the Lord."*

To be clear, at that gathering, *Pompeo* expressed a concern for the *rights of a variety of oppressed religious groups*, from the *Uighurs in China* to the *Yazidis in the Middle East* to persecuted *Christians* in countries like *Iraq*. *Religious persecution* is real and devastating, and it is always good news when national leaders can stand up for the rights of mistreated minorities. But these expressions of support for the genuinely oppressed are far from the only agenda of the commission, which seems to have more to do with *securing the freedom of some governments to impose religious orthodoxy on their own populations*.

Around the world, the formulas of religious authoritarianism are remarkably consistent. The leaders convince their followers that their religion is under threat from a despicable or demonic force. The invisible enemy usually involves some combination of globalism, secularism, liberalism, feminism. In many *Christian-dominated countries*, *"gay ideology"* plays a prominent role; in *Islamic countries*, the *"secular West"* is a popular bogeyman. *The leaders promise to grant followers the "freedom" to direct their hate against these deviants. And then the regime goes on to strip everyone else of their rights, bolster hyper-conservative religious allies with public funds, and consolidate a kleptocracy where religion is too often reduced to organized hypocrisy.*

Women and LGBT people are the canaries in the coal mine of human rights. Wherever their rights start to collapse, you can be sure, the freedom of the press, the freedom from corruption, and the freedom from fear will soon fall, too.

Mike Pompeo and his commission represent the stirrings of this kind of movement in the U.S. Pompeo's declared aim is to make "religious liberty" count as America's "first freedom" and as the central pillar of its international human rights policy. Sounds inspiring, right? Too bad that "religious liberty," in the mouths of so many Cabinet leaders in the Trump administration, really means something like "religious privilege."

For years now, leaders of *America's Religious Right* have been making the spurious claim that the *Constitution* is written in the language of "natural law," and that it *entitles them not only to discriminate against gay people and others of whom they do not approve*, but also to a *steady stream of public money in the form of unique subsidies, exemptions, vouchers, grants, and other means*. They have also *aggressively cultivated the conviction that they themselves are the victims of persecution*.

A glance at *the roster of commissioners* is sufficient to make clear the *purpose of Pompeo's effort*. Seven of the 12 commissioners, according to analysis by *GLAAD*, were already on record expressing *hostility to LGBT rights*. The chair of the commission, *Mary Ann Glendon*, is the former *ambassador to the Vatican* and has *opposed women's reproductive rights* just as vigorously as she has *defended the Catholic Church* against scrutiny. She once suggested that honoring *Boston Globe* reporters for their work in exposing an epidemic of child abuse by Catholic priests would be like awarding the *Nobel Peace Prize to Osama bin Laden*.

Almost immediately after the commission was formed, *hundreds of human rights organizations, foreign policy experts, scholars, faith leaders, and former government officials recommended the body be disbanded*. In *May 2020*, in anticipation of the commission's report, 20 senators challenged the commission for featuring "*a group of largely ideologically uniform scholars, some of whom have expressed views openly hostile to internationally-recognized human rights*." As *Rob Berschinski* and *Andrea Worden* note on the website *Just Security*, "*Pompeo continues to serve as the Commission's cheerleader-in-chief, generally referencing the body's motivating theme in unabashedly religious terms*."

"An issue as important as this should not be put in the hands of people who largely represent one skewed perspective."

One group that is happy with *Pompeo's program*, on the other hand, is the leadership of *America's Christian-nationalist movement*. In a conversation about the commission with *Pompeo* in January 2020, *Family Research Council President Tony Perkins* said, "*When you talk about this, you're essentially saying allow countries to make their own decisions based upon their religious conviction and cultural heritage and not force them through a form of cultural imperialism with our global policies to adhere to something that is an anathema to them*." Which is pretty much what the *Polish right-wingers say* when they set up their "*LGBT-free zones*," so much for "*religious freedom*."

True religious persecution is a terrible scourge, and assisting those who suffer from it will require a broadly coordinated effort. But that is precisely why an issue as important as *this should not be put in the hands of people who largely represent one skewed perspective*. *Pompeo* has also worked hard to *staff the agencies that disperse U.S. funds with ideologues who share his views*. He recently appointed *Merritt Corrigan*, *USAID's new deputy White House liaison*, who wrote, "*Liberal democracy is little more than a front for the war being waged against us by those who fundamentally despise not only our way of life, but life itself*." *Bethany Kozma*, *deputy chief of staff for USAID*, declared that the

"U.S. is a pro-life nation."

Although *the American public* often has trouble accepting what is going on at the highest levels of the *American government*, religious *authoritarians abroad have no such trouble*. They see it, and they like what they see. Over the past several years, alliances between *America's Christian nationalists* and *like-minded religious nationalists* in other countries *have grown in strength*, with links forged through groups, such as the *International Organization for the Family*, that couch their advocacy for regressive social positions as a defense of the "*natural family*."

It is hard to imagine anything worse for the *American national interest* than making the *U.S. a leader of such a regressive agenda*. *Pompeo's* commission and other efforts to promote "*religious freedom*" will not only *undermine the rights of many people around the world*; it will also *promote some authoritarian regimes* at the expense of *democratic movements* and diminish still further *America's credibility as a champion of democracy at home and abroad*.

So why on Earth would any secretary of state pursue such a course of action? The answers are the same in the U.S. as they are in the regimes that *Pompeo's policy will end up assisting*. *President Trump knows that his hopes for political survival depend almost entirely on his base of white Christian-nationalist supporters*, and *Pompeo* has demonstrated that he will stop at nothing to please his boss especially if it might enhance his reputation and career prospects. *If blessing some more LGBT-free zones and spouse abuse-friendly regimes is a way to consolidate authoritarianism at home, he seems happy to make the trade*.



Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

"Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind" -Donne

Recent events have compelled us as the Cleveland Unicorns MC to examine and take action against the multifaceted nature of racism in our local and surrounding areas. Racism is dehumanizing to everyone it touches.

Our club has always held a longstanding value of upholding social justice for all peoples. We are a caring club, welcoming and respecting of diversity. Racism of any form will not be and has never been tolerated. The world as a whole must examine racism beyond the actions of individuals, for it is embedded in the very fabric of our society. But we as individuals do need to start somewhere.

As an anti-racism club we vow to purposefully identify, discuss and challenge issues of race and color and the impact(s) they have on our local and surrounding areas. We also challenge ourselves to understand and correct any inequities we may discover and gain a better understanding of ourselves during this process.

We are resolved to explicitly and publicly affirm our identity as an anti-racist male inclusive gay motorcycle club.

We are resolved that our anti-racism commitment be reflected in the lives of our members and how they live every day.

We resolve to develop and work to implement strategies that dismantle racism within all aspects of our club, community and society as a whole.

The Cleveland Unicorn MC does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

As a gay male inclusive club our members and associates are male and male identified. We encourage female and other identified peoples to support and attend our events as all are welcome. We celebrate diversity and encourage everyone to attend our events and know that our events are a safe space for everyone. It doesn't matter what race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status is. We are family. We are community. You are all safe and welcome.

Important Unicorn Events Calendar

October 31, 2020 ~ Leather Stallion Annual Halloween Party, hosted by L.S.S. & Unicorn MC, 6 PM until 10 PM, \$3 suggested Donation, Benefits Unicorn Charities, Costume Contest Judging at 8 PM

November 3, 2020 ~ U.S.A. General Election Day, National, State, and Local Elections, Polling locations will be open from 6:30am until 7:30pm on Election Day. Voters will still be entitled to vote if they are standing in line when the polls close at 7:30pm.

November 18, 2020 ~ Unicorn Annual Business Meeting & Election of Officers, Leather Stallion Saloon Clubroom, 4:30 PM, All Members, Associates & Alumni are requested to Appear for a Special Presentation to the L.S.S. Ownership, Management, & Staff, and Group Photos during the Social Hour after the Meeting.

December 12, 2020 ~ Annual Unicorn Christmas Party, hosted by Jack Giles & Dennis Sherrill, in their Home, Willowick OH, 3PM, Main Course: Baked Holiday Ham, Soft Drinks, Coffee, Soda & Mixers Provided B.Y.O.B., \$20 Gift Exchange will be held, open to all Members, Associates, & Alumni, R.S.V.P. by December 5th with Jack or Dennis (please let us know what Covered Dish you are providing)



Michael Boron ~ October 29th

Larry Martin ~ November 23rd

Noel Walters ~ December 25th



Published by Unicorn MC, Inc.

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Hard copies can be mailed, if needed by Request, these are also Free, however a donation to cover Postage is Requested. Also available at the Leather Stallion Saloon, Dean Ruffus House of Fun, and A Place for Us.

Submissions for Publication may made be emailed to the Editor, up until the 15th of each month, and will be published by discretion of the Editorial Committee and space available. There will be NO RENUMERATIONS for Unsolicited Articles.

Deadline for inclusion on the Calendar is the 15th of the month, in advance of the event.

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We welcome your Letters, comments, and suggestions for improvement, as well as opposing positions and criticisms.