



---Joint Press Release---

2020 - Time to “Vote With Pride”

Belize City - October 22nd, 2020 - LGBT-focused organizations have virtually launched the “Vote With Pride” campaign. The purpose of initiating this campaign is to educate and mobilize lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights supporters in this critical election year. LGBT people, and our families, have a lot on the line when it comes to the 2020 Elections. While we’ve made historic gains — including the appeal of the Section 53 Law and the drafting of the Equal Opportunities Bill — there’s plenty left to do.

Many of our State-enacted programs and interventions are riddled with discrimination, which oftentimes leaves the LGBT community and our families invisible or underrepresented. Through a series of civic-engagement activities, we will be educating LGBT people and our allies on the systemically imposed hurdles we and our families face. In the name of public health safety, voter suppression tactics are already being used to limit our political power; therefore, we must do everything we can to promote voter turnout country-wide.

So, what exactly is on the line in 2020? Plenty. Trans health, comprehensive sexual education, structural violence, family recognition, gender identity recognition, financial independence, and progressive laws and policies are just a few of the issues poised to be voted on Nov. 11.

What to do about it? We’ve got to “Vote With Pride” ... that’s right, make sure the accomplishments we have achieved thus far don’t get reversed or the progress made thus far become stagnated. Vote with pride to keep making gains that deconstruct the discrimination we face as families, as poor people, as people of all ethnicity, as women, as immigrants, as laborers.

No matter how we feel about politics and politicians, the fact is they’re the ones making profound decisions affecting each of us. They decide economic policies that determine how much money we have left each month for education, rent, groceries, and medications. They play a massive role in the lives of LGBT people and whether our families are recognized and treated fairly.

But here’s the key: We, the Belizean public, are the ones who elect the people who are responsible for making these life-altering decisions. Candidates matter, manifestos matter, our votes matter. What happens on Nov. 11 matters. And together we have the power to make sure our community gets heard.

The time is now! #VoteWithPride because #PrideVotesCount!

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Media Contact:

Derricia Castillo - 6236062

Kevin Mendez - 6159782