

7th Annual Transgender
Day of Remembrance
November 20th, 2005

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CONNECTICUT'S TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE SET FOR NOVEMBER 20, 2005

Year called "pivotal" for transgender people

HARTFORD, Connecticut, November 11, 2005 – The seventh annual Transgender Day of Remembrance will take place on November 20th, 2005, remembering twenty-seven individuals killed due to anti-transgender violence over the previous twelve months. A number of Vigils will be held in Connecticut cities colleges and high schools. The Hartford vigil draws a large attendance each year from the Trans and ally communities throughout the state and is being held at the MCC/Hartford Chapel [1841 Broad Street] at 6 PM on November 20, 2005 and is open to the public.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder on November 28th, 1998, was a primary impetus behind the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Rita Hester's murder — like most anti-transgender murder cases — has yet to be solved. Such Transphobic hate crimes are not just against transgender people, but anyone who transgresses the so-called acceptable masculine/feminine norms of our society. These could be your children, your brothers, your sisters, your parents, your friends, your co-workers, your neighbors, you!

Tragic murders of those individuals who visibly transgress the gender binaries of male/female [Transgender] are occurring nationally at a rate of over one person a month. And each year the number of these murders is increasing, with very few being solved, most sensationalized by the press and many ignored by the police or plea bargained by the prosecutor. And each murder is horrific in nature, with many against our youth [ages 17, 18, 19, ...].

"This is a pivotal year when it comes to anti-transgender violence, with the mixed verdict in the Gwen Araujo case, coupled with light sentences in other, similar cases," said event founder, Gwen Smith. "We've also seen the first Federal legislative victory in the United States, involving hate crimes."

Last year's Transgender Day of Remembrance was honored with events in over 212 locations in 8 countries. This year's event is expected to surpass the 2004 event, with vigils occurring not only in many US Cities, but around the globe as well.

The Ct TransAdvocacy Coalition and the Metropolitan Community Church of Hartford [1841 Broad Street, Hartford] are again the host of a Vigil this year along with People of Faith for Gay Civil Rights.

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Connecticut's Day of Remembrance is being co-sponsored by the following organizations:

City of Hartford Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV)

Connecticut National Organization for Women (CT NOW)

Connecticut Outreach Society

Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS)

Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition (CTAC)

Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)

Featuring All Colors and Ethnicities (FACE)

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) Connecticut

Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective (HGLHC)

Love Makes a Family (LMF)

Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Hartford

New Haven Gay and Lesbian Community Center (NHGLCC)

Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of Hartford

People of Faith for Gay Civil Rights (PFGCR)

Peter Goselin, CT Chapter, National Lawyers Guild

The Rainbow Center, University of Connecticut, Storrs

True Colors Sexual Minority Youth and Family Services of CT

Media welcome. No cameras allowed in church. Interviews available upon arrangement pre/post event. For more information on the Hartford vigil, visit www.transadvocacy.com or www.mcchartford.com, or call (860) 983-8139 or email dor@transadvocacy.com. For an international perspective visit The Remembering Our Dead project website [www.rememberingourdead.org] which remembers those individuals murdered as a result of anti-transgender hatred and prejudice.

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