

Pride Toronto's Board of Directors

Resolution

- Whereas the Board of Directors of Pride Toronto holds the responsibility to ensure good governance, strategic planning, develop organizational policies, financial health and long-term success of the organization and its festival;
- And whereas Pride Toronto recognizes its origins in free speech and the gay and lesbian civil rights movement, and has demonstrated the continual support of this principle through its activities and communications, including public statements in 2009 clarifying its position about welcoming political messaging that do not violate hate crimes and anti-discrimination policies in the parade;
- And whereas Pride Toronto is in compliance with applicable legislations and policies related to human rights, hate activities and discrimination, including the City of Toronto Hate Activity Policy, City of Toronto Human Rights & Anti-Discrimination Policy, Ontario Human Rights Code, Canada Human Rights Code and Criminal Code of Canada: Hate Provision;
- And whereas Pride Toronto does not have a position on the conflict in the Middle East;
- And whereas, based on incidents during last year's Parade and ongoing written and verbal threats to the safety of participants, the potential risk of violence in this year's activities is of heightened concern;
- And, in consideration of the events of the past year, including but not limited to:
 - The City of Toronto's stated opinion that the participation of Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) may contravene the City's own anti-discrimination policies in relation to "place of origin" and that Pride Toronto, as a recipient of City of Toronto funding, is required to adhere to said policies.
 - The Ontario legislature has unanimously passed a resolution declaring "... the term Israel Apartheid Week is condemned as it serves to incite hatred against Israel ...".
 - That the City of Toronto Executive Committee is considering a motion proposed by Councillor G. Mammoliti to revoke Pride Toronto's funding (\$120,000) and support if Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) participate in the 2010 parade.
 - And, that if the Councillor Mammoliti's motion is to pass, it not only jeopardizes funding but also support services provided by City of Toronto that are essential to the on-going viability of the Pride Toronto festival:
 - Loss of City permits for the parade and festival sites.
 - Loss of in-kind services provided by the City of Toronto including police and cleanup (\$100,000).
 - Potential loss of provincial funding from Celebrate Ontario (\$300,000) where the City's endorsement is required to receive said funding.

- Potential loss of funding from Heritage Canada (\$165,000), where the City's endorsement is required in the form of a financial contribution.
 - The loss of the federal funding from Marquee Tourism (\$400,000). Questions from Industry Canada subsequent to the refusal have been related to the participation of Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA).
 - The loss and reluctance of commitment by funders and sponsors about their ability to continue to support the festival due to the potential inclusion of Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA).
 - The loss of parade participants, who have previously showed their support for the LGBTTIQQ2SA communities through their participation in the parade, specifically due to the potential inclusion of Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA). The parade currently is at 40% of its 2009 festival level.
 - The loss of community fair and market place participants specifically due to the participation of Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) in the parade. The community fair and market place currently is at 60% of its 2009 festival level.
 - That the Co-Presidents of InterPride, owners of the WorldPride brand who accepted Pride Toronto's bid to host the 2014 WorldPride that includes a large scale international human rights program amongst other festivities, have written to the Board of Pride Toronto indicating that they would consider the inclusion of Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) "...in our [WorldPride] event inappropriate and somewhat alarming".
- And whereas staff and volunteers have increased concerns with regards to the viability of the 2010 festival and beyond from the above stated events, as well as in some cases personal attacks in this context;
 - And that with less than 6 weeks until the beginning of Pride Week, an immediate decision needs to be made in order to address these concerns for staff, volunteers and external stakeholders so the organization can proceed with the planning and logistics to put on a successful festival in 2010 to achieve its vision of creating a safe space to engage communities in the celebration of their sexuality, and providing a platform for education through a significance public presence.

The Board of Directors of Pride Toronto was tasked with the role of weighing all these elements that have been brought forth, and have come to a motion:

Pride Toronto will not allow the term "Israeli Apartheid" or any combination of such notion in the parade. Any group who wishes to participate and march for Queer Palestinians or are against Israel state activities related to Queer Rights are welcome to do so without the use of the term "Israeli Apartheid". Should the conditions of the above resolution change, Pride Toronto Board of Directors will revisit this motion.

The motion was passed Friday, May 21st, 2010

For: Genevieve D'Iorio, Margaret Ngai, Mark Singh, Daniel Knox

Against: Gaya Arasaratnam, Helen Kennedy, Francisco Alvarez