

A pair of hands, one light-skinned and one dark-skinned, are shown holding a small globe of the Earth. The globe is centered on the Americas, with North America in yellow and orange, South America in green, and the oceans in blue and purple. The SPLC logo is prominently displayed in the upper center, with the letters in a bold, red, sans-serif font with a white outline. Below the logo, the full name of the organization is written in white capital letters on a dark grey rectangular background.

SPLC

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

**Immigration
Justice**

**Child
Rights**

Teaching Tolerance

WHAT WE DO

The Southern Poverty Law Center is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society.

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SUICIDES AND GAY-BASHINGS: MORE VIOLENCE FOR LGBT PEOPLE



Suicides and Gay-Bashings

The violence never seems to end. This past month has been downright horrifying, with at least five teenagers nationwide committing suicide as a result of anti-gay bullying. There were also two attacks against gay victims in New York City communities normally considered LGBT-friendly.

A patron was gay-bashed in the restroom of Manhattan's

legendary Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village – a site considered the very birthplace of the gay-rights movement – on October 3. Police say Matthew Francis, 21, and Christopher Orlando, 17, both of Staten Island, accosted Ben Carver, 34, in the restroom of the Stonewall about 2:30 that morning. According to Carver's account – which he posted on his blog – Francis asked him if he was gay. Thinking Francis was joking,

Carver responded, "Where are you, buddy?" Francis answered by saying "In a gay bar. Don't pee next to me, faggot." The men then demanded money, but Carver refused. Francis subsequently punched Carver in the face and Orlando tackled him and pinned his arms, Carver



said. Carver, however, fought back, freeing an arm and striking one attacker several times with his elbow. "It was a pretty intense fight," Carver told the New York Post.

Francis and Orlando fled, but were pursued by bar employees and patrons. The suspects were quickly caught by police and arrested.

EARLIER THE SAME WEEKEND, A GROUP OF GAY MEN WERE CONFRONTED AND ASSAULTED IN THE NEARBY CHELSEA NEIGHBORHOOD. SIX MEN ALLEGEDLY CONFRONTED THE GROUP USING ANTI-GAY EPITHETS, AND ONE – LATER IDENTIFIED AS ANDREW JACKSON, 20 – ALLEGEDLY THREW A TRASHCAN INTO ONE VICTIM'S HEAD. JACKSON WAS ARRESTED; THE FIVE SUSPECTS REMAIN AT LARGE.

THESE INCIDENTS HIGHLIGHT A DISTRESSING, ON-GOING PROBLEM OF VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST THE LGBT COMMUNITY. TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE, THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER'S TEACHING TOLERANCE PROGRAM HAS JUST RELEASED A NEW FILM, *BULLIED: A STUDENT, A SCHOOL AND A CASE THAT MADE HISTORY*, THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER AND THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF ANTI-GAY BULLYING.

THE IRONY OF THE GREENWICH VILLAGE ATTACK WAS NOT LOST ON THE MEDIA AND THE BLOGOSPHERE. THE STONEWALL INN BECAME THE FLASHPOINT FOR THE MODERN GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT ON JUNE 28, 1969, WHEN A POLICE RAID TRIGGERED AN UPRISING IN AN ERA WHEN GAY MEN AND WOMEN GENERALLY STAYED DEEPLY CLOSETED. THAT NIGHT, STONEWALL PATRONS FOUGHT WITH OFFICERS AND SEVERAL DAYS

OF DEMONSTRATIONS FOLLOWED, CREATING THE IMPETUS FOR A NEW MOVEMENT.

LAST WEEKEND'S ATTACKS CAME AT THE END OF PERIOD DURING WHICH AT LEAST FIVE TEENAGERS NATIONWIDE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER BEING BULLIED OR TAUNTED AS BEING HOMOSEXUAL. TWO YOUTHS, 13-YEAR-OLD SETH WALSH OF TEHACHAPI, CALIF., AND 15-YEAR-OLD BILLY LUCAS OF GREENSBURG, IND., HANGED THEMSELVES AFTER CRUEL AND RELENTLESS ANTI-GAY HARASSMENT. THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD ASHER BROWN OF HOUSTON FATALLY SHOT HIMSELF AFTER SIMILAR TREATMENT. RUTGERS UNIVERSITY STUDENT TYLER CLEMENTI, 18, LEAPED OFF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE TO HIS DEATH AFTER HIS ROOMMATE ALLEGEDLY POSTED VIDEO ON THE INTERNET OF HIM HAVING SEX WITH ANOTHER MAN. AND IN PROVIDENCE, R.I., OPENLY GAY JOHNSON AND WALES UNI-



CHILD RIGHTS



We're working to ensure that vulnerable children in the Deep South have equal opportunities to reach their full potential.

Many vulnerable children across the Deep South are being denied access to a quality public education and the mental health services they need. At the same time, thousands are being pushed out of the classroom and into the juvenile justice system because of discipline policies that punish them severely for minor misbehavior.

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana all rank at or near the bottom of the country in terms of poverty, education, health care and other indicators of children's well-being.

Children of color and those with disabilities or mental health conditions are the ones who are harmed the most by these failures — particularly as states slash funding for education and social services.”

We must do better.

That's why we're working across the region — using litigation, grassroots organizing and advocacy — to ensure that every child has an equal opportunity. Currently, we're focusing on three priorities:

- Stopping the “school-to-prison pipeline”

We're working to eliminate ex-

clusionary policies — unnecessary suspensions, expulsions and school-based arrests of children — that cut short a child's education and increase the likelihood of incarceration.

- Ensuring equal access to education

We're working to ensure educational equity for children in poverty and those with disabilities — particularly as states transform the educational landscape by allowing charter schools and by shifting public resources to private schools.

- Ensuring access to mental health service

We're working to improve access to effective, community-based mental health services and to reduce the overreliance on institutionalized care that warehouses children without providing the services they need.

We've had many successes in recent years. In Mobile, Alabama, for example, our lawsuit against the school district has resulted in a 75 percent reduction in school days lost to suspension. In New Orleans, we reached a landmark agreement to ensure that children with disabilities have access and proper services in the city's system of charter schools. In Meridian, Mississippi, our investigation sparked

a Department of Justice lawsuit that stopped the routine arrest and jailing of children — disproportionately African American — for minor, noncriminal school infractions.

Despite the progress, there is much work still — and we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring equality, fairness and opportunity for all children.

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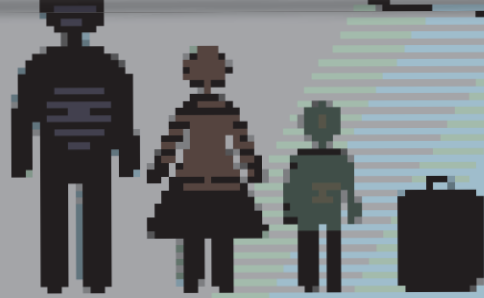


Immigrants Justice

Immigrants perform some of the hardest, most dangerous jobs in our economy – for the least amount of pay. But they are routinely cheated out of their wages and denied basic protections in the workplace. In their communities, they are subjected to racial profiling and harassment by law enforcement – and frequently forced to prove themselves innocent of immigration violations, regardless of their legal status. And they are, increasingly, targeted for violent hate crimes.

Politicians and media figures have only encouraged this environment by spreading false propaganda that scapegoats immigrants for our nation's problems and foments resentment and hate against them. This discrimination against immigrants – primarily those from Latin America – constitutes a civil rights crisis.

The Southern Poverty Law Center is working to stop workplace exploitation and other human rights abuses – filing strategic lawsuits, exposing civil rights violations, educating the public and the media, and pressing the federal government to act.



FAMILY

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20%



35%



45%



26% CHILDREN



39% MEN



35% WOMEN

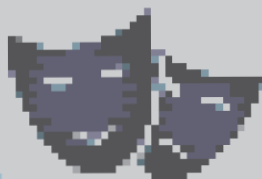
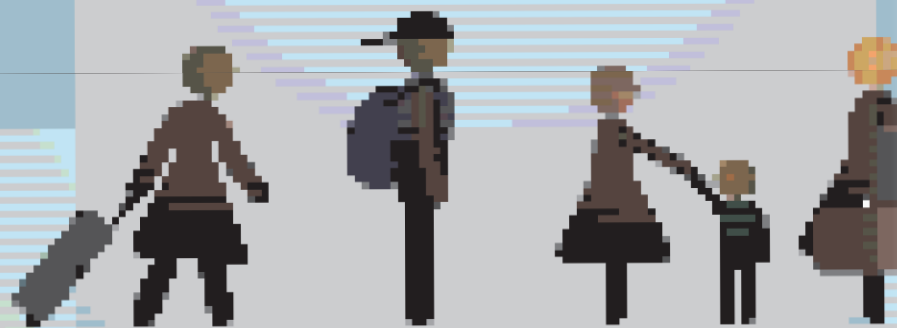
DEMOGRAPHY

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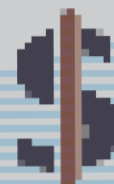
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PASSPORT CONTROL

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CULTURE



MONEY



LGBT Rights

Our work on LGBT issues spans decades – from an early case challenging the military’s anti-gay policy, *Hoffburg v. Alexander*, to the monitoring of anti-gay hate and extremist groups today. The SPLC is dedicated to defending the rights of the LGBT community. Our current work has a national reach but is primarily focused on the Southeast where relatively few organizations advocate for this community.

Ensuring safe schools is a particular concern. The bullying of LGBT students is a severe, nationwide problem – one made more difficult by the reluctance of many school districts to take strong steps to prevent it. Nearly nine out of 10 LGBT students have experienced harassment, a survey by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) found. Also, a Southern Poverty Law Center analysis of FBI hate crime data found that LGBT people are far more likely to be victims of a violent hate crime than any other minority group in the United States.

The SPLC has worked to ensure safe schools for all students – including LGBT students – through educational campaigns and legal action. Our Teaching Tolerance program released the anti-bullying documentary *Bullied* in 2010. The free documentary and teaching kit, designed for both classroom use and professional development for educators, tells the story of one student’s

landmark effort to stand up to his anti-gay tormentors.

More than 50,000 copies of the film have been distributed across the country – making *Bullied* the most successful film ever produced by Teaching Tolerance at that time and helping to raise awareness of this serious issue facing LGBT youth.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has also taken legal action to protect LGBT students. This includes litigation against school policy that creates an atmosphere hostile to LGBT students or otherwise isolates these students for harassment. Anti-gay policies and actions that infringe on the free expression and privacy rights of LGBT students are another focus of this work. Outside the classroom, the Southern Poverty Law Center focuses on the treatment of LGBT youth in juvenile and foster care facilities. Other efforts focus on the rights of LGBT adults, including issues involving parenting rights and the treatment of LGBT seniors in nursing homes and other facilities.

Teaching Tolerance

Our Teaching Tolerance program is working to foster school environments that are inclusive and nurturing – classrooms where equality and justice are not just taught, but lived. The program points to the future, helping teachers prepare a new generation to live in a diverse world.

As one of the nation's leading providers of anti-bias education resources, we reach hundreds of thousands of educators and millions of students annually through our award-winning Teaching Tolerance magazine, multimedia teaching kits, online curricula, professional development resources like our Teaching Diverse Students Initiative and special projects like Mix It Up at Lunch Day. These materials are provided

to educators at no cost.

Teaching Tolerance has produced award-winning documentary films about the civil rights movement and the struggle for social justice, bringing history to life on the screen and teaching students that they can make a difference in the world around them. Two of these films – *Mighty Times: The Children's March* and *A Time for Justice* – have won Academy Awards in the short documentary category.

Teaching Tolerance magazine reaches more than 400,000 educators across the country. Published twice a year and provided free to educators, the magazine was the first national forum where K-12 educators could exchange fresh ideas for teaching about diversity.

Teaching Diverse Students Initiative

The Teaching Diverse Students Initiative, launched in 2009, is an online project designed to improve the quality of instruction experienced by racially and ethnically diverse students.

Developed in conjunction with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the National Education Association, prominent education scholars and expert teachers, it offers tools to help educators identify and address their own perceptions and practices that may inhibit the success of students of color in the classroom.



