

Remarks following the shootings of two transgender women of color in Birmingham, Oct 2016

The LGBTQ movement and the Black Lives Matter movement, are the two greatest sources of love flowing through our land today. Have you ever noticed that it is the family member who loves the family the most, who is willing to go out on a limb to try to talk about the difficult, hidden family issues, who is accused of trying to destroy the family?

That same thing happens toward the LGBTQ community and toward Black Lives Matter. Both these movements were born of NOTHING BUT LOVE! Love for life, love for beauty, love for the variety of people that God has given us as brothers and sisters, and love for this country which is supposed to stand for liberty and justice for all!

Of all her citizens, the LGBTQ community and BLM love the idea of America the most, are sacrificing the most, and are working the hardest, to bring the American dream into reality.

What is the link between police violence toward the black community, and hate crimes against transgender people, particularly transgender women of color? What underlies the two of them together?

I believe it is this: exclusion, unequal power relationships, and the rejection of the very core value that this nation espouses as its founding principle — equality! The rejection of the American ideal of equality in favor of exclusivism, and the objectification and dehumanization of people unlike ourselves, lies underneath both these forms of violence.

For white people, it's time to come out! There is great power, great beauty, and great sacrifice involved in coming out! We must all come out! Come out as who we really are — people who believe in equality, people who believe in justice, people who will stand up and insist on an end to violence!

All people want and need the same things. All individuals, families and communities of all colors need to feel safe, need ample income, and need to know their rights are respected and protected. We all need quality healthcare, quality education, quality transportation.

As Anne Braden continually preached, when those who've been kept at the bottom make gains, white people always gain even more. Always.

It is in our economic self-interest — as well as in the best interest of our moral consciences and our souls— that we join the movement for an end to all forms of discrimination and violence.

Come out and say not in my name! No violence against gay and transgender persons in my name! No violence against people of color by police in my name! No war in my name! No death penalty in my name! No one allowed to languish in poverty in my name!

Come out! Follow the leadership of the LGBTQ community. Follow the leadership of Black Lives Matter. Come out. Show your true colors — and say NEVER AGAIN IN MY NAME!

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