

Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Further Information

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PFLAG Austin Board Members To Speak at Transgender Day of Remembrance

Memorializing transgender people who have been murdered.

Austin, November 18, 2016 --- On November 20, at 6:30 pm, PFLAG Austin Board members will speak at the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) event on the steps of Austin's City Hall. The Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT) once again sponsors this annual vigil to memorialize transgender people, throughout the world, who have been killed as a result of their perceived gender diversity. This year, Austin's TDOR will focus on challenges facing transgender women of color. As a community partner serving the LGBTQ community and their friends and family, PFLAG Austin will offer the perspective of parents of LGBTQ children.

"As the parent of a transgender child, this event is a safe space for my family to gather with the larger community to mourn loved ones lost, and give comfort and hope to those who must survive in the aftermath of these tragic deaths as a result of transphobia and fear," says Ms. Lisa Maudlin, PFLAG Austin's Director of Membership. "My entire family –especially my transgender and cisgender children - benefits from witnessing the outpouring of love and support on this night of mourning."

PFLAG Austin will also acknowledge the role that the annual TDOR event has in offering education and outreach to better support the transgender community. PFLAG Austin's Vice President of Membership, Melita Noël, will address fears around so-called "bathroom bills" and the #PeelInPeace project sponsored by PFLAG Austin.

Ms. Noël says, "PFLAG Austin is well positioned to not only offer a safe and supportive group environment – at no cost - to many Central Texans, but also advocate for transgender rights for youth and adults alike right from the heart of Texas with projects such as #PeelInPeace. This grassroots outreach, in the form of a simple sign, informs the community about Austin's ordinance for public, single stall, lockable restrooms to be labeled with gender neutral signage."

PFLAG Austin is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and approved chapter of PFLAG National. Their mission is to support Central Texas LGBTQ people, as well as the parents, families, and friends of LGBTQ people, by offering free monthly support groups. PFLAG also provides education and outreach at public events such as TDOR and Austin's LGBTQ Pride events.

For more information, please visit www.pflagaustin.org.

Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the original family and ally organization. Made up of parents, families, friends, straight allies, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, PFLAG is committed to advancing equality through its mission of support, education, and advocacy. Now in its 41st year, PFLAG has more than 350 chapters and 200,000 supporters crossing multiple generations of American families in all 50 states and numerous countries worldwide. To learn more, visit <http://www.pflagaustin.org/>.