



# MACT/NY Information Bulletin

Men of All Colors Together/New York, Inc.

P.O. Box 237107, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023-7107

(212) 330-7678 <http://www/mactny.org> [secretary@mactny.org](mailto:secretary@mactny.org)

September 2016

*Striving to build a multi-cultural community.*

## Friday Night Meetings

Meetings are held at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center at 208 West 13<sup>th</sup> St. unless otherwise indicated. During the evening we take up a collection (\$5.00 recommended) for the room rent and organizational expenses. Refreshments are served.

**Friday, September 2: no meeting**

**Friday, September 9 @8:00 PM MACT/NY Board Meeting** at the home of E. Patrick Harding, 238 W. 122<sup>nd</sup> St., Apt. 2A. Take the A or D train to 125<sup>th</sup> St. This meeting is open to MACT members only.

**Friday, September 16 @8:00 PM: MACT Discusses Transgender Rights**

**Friday, September 23: Speakout for Prisoner's Rights** See the lead article for more information.

**Friday, September 30: no meeting.**

*September 23<sup>rd</sup> Speakout for Prisoners' Rights:*

## HALT! Solitary Confinement is Torture.

MACT/NY is lending its support to the Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement. The proposed Humane Alternatives to Long-Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act would end the torture of solitary confinement in New York State and create more humane and effective alternatives. Currently, there are 44 Assembly members and 15 senators who are sponsoring the HALT Bill.

Solitary confinement and other forms of isolated confinement are inhumane, counterproductive, and unsafe. Despite this, New York still uses this torturous

practice at a rate nearly double the national average. It is time for New York State to lead the country and eliminate the torture of solitary confinement.

The Supreme Court, Pope Francis, and President Obama all have spoken out against solitary confinement. According to the Mandela Rules – voted for by the U.S. government and passed by the



entire United Nations General Assembly in 2015 – holding a person in isolation beyond 15 days amounts to torture.

The proposed Bill, the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act (A.4401/S2659), would create humane and effective alternatives to isolated confinement, would end long-term isolated confinement, restrict criteria for placement in isolated confinement, and ban special populations from isolated confinement, including any person 21 years of age or younger, 55 years of age or older, persons with physical, mental,

*(continued on page 2)*

## HALT! Solitary Confinement is Torture.

*(continued from page 1)*

or medical disability, pregnant women, and those who are perceived to be LGBT.

In addition, the HALT Solitary Confinement Act also provides the following key procedural and other protections:

- Enhances due process protections before placement in isolate confinement;
- Creates mechanisms for return to the general population;
- Covers all categories of people who currently face isolated confinement;
- Mandates training, reporting, and outside oversight. Currently in New York State, people are regularly held in isolation for periods of time that amount to torture; there are far too many people in isolation, including disproportionate numbers of people of color. Processes are arbitrary and unfair, with insufficiently trained staff and little accountability.

Every day in New York prisons and jails, there are more than 5,000 people in solitary confinement who spend 23 or more hours a day locked in a cell. In these torturous conditions, people experience intense suffering, and often, severe psychological and physical damage.

Actions are held on the 23rd of every month, to recognize the 23 hours each day that people in solitary confinement are isolated.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, members of MACT/NY will join with the Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement in a speakout to demonstrate against the practice of solitary confinement and in support of the HALT. Bill. Rally with us on September 23<sup>rd</sup> against torture! We'll meet on Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. at Washington Heights Collegiate Church at the corner of 181st Street and Fort Washington Avenue.

---

*September 16 Discussion:*

## MACT Looks at Transgender Rights

In recent years, transgender rights have moved to the forefront in the LGBT community. It's time MACT/NY took a look at the issues.

Transgender people face extraordinary levels of physical and sexual violence, whether on the streets, at school or work, at home, or at the hands of government officials. More than one in four trans people has faced bias-driven assault, and rates are higher for trans women and trans people of color. Public education, policy change and community efforts are needed to address the complex causes of anti-trans violence and ensure victims can receive support.

In 2011, the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National LGBTQ Task Force released the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. Interviews with over 6,400 transgender and gender non-conforming people make it the largest such study ever conducted. The study has been a game changer—both for our policy work and for cultural change. For the first time, we were able to quantify the discrimination and violence transgender people face.

*(continued on page 4)*

# GAYDAR INTERNATIONAL

by Sean Ledden

## An Ideal Husband

England has come a long way from the trial of Oscar Wilde. Gay Star News reports that 12



Anglican ministers are defying the Church of England's ban on gay married clergy. While

gay marriage is now legal in England and Wales, the Church has issued rules forbidding gay clergy from tying the knot. But six couples went ahead and got married anyway, and next month they will be presenting the Church with an open letter asking it to change its policy in a large general synod to be held next February.

Church spokesman Steve Jenkins tried to put a pleasant spin on this development, and mentioned that more than 1,300 church members have "shared conversations" about gay married clergy. "Through those conversations, deep convictions have been shared and profound differences better understood." – Mr. Jenkins, I don't think I need to hear those conversations to understand the differences. (Sad trombone sound.)

## U Gotta Be Kidding Uganda

On the other end of the scale, former priest and current Ugandan Minister of Ethics and Integrity Simon Lokodo is working on "fresh tactics" to tackle homosexuality. The Rainbow Gazette quotes Lokodo as saying, "One of them is a censor [sic] gadget or machine. We are going to procure this machine and it will detect homos and porn actors...The South Koreans are

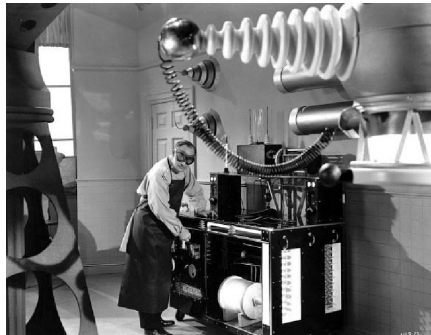
programming it." That's quite some sensor gadget! Or machine. And this quote raises all sorts of interesting questions. Like, how big is it? How long is its range? Will they have to put it in a truck and drive around the country looking for secret homosexuals and porn actors? Or will they command everyone to visit a government office where the device is installed? – If they use this option, will everyone have to walk through a kind of metal detector, like we do at a TSA checkpoint? Also, since the machine is being programmed by South Koreans, will the operators be South Korean as well? If so, I hope they wear white lab coats,

because that would look neat, in a sinister sort of way.

And to think this wonderful gadget will only cost the government of Uganda \$771,000!

When not looking forward to the delivery of his sensor gadget, Lokodo free-associates about a certain headmaster in a school, soon to be closed, who keeps the sperm of students he has masturbated in test tubes.

*Ba-ba-buuuum!*



*Early prototype of Homosexual/Porn Star Sensor Gadget. Before development was moved to South Korea.*



*One of the stars of the "real" Manbang*

## Big Bang in North Korea

Not to be outdone by their southern rivals when it comes to cutting-edge technology, North Korea is launching its own state-run version of Netflix. And it's called . . . drumroll . . . Manbang! OK, this isn't really a gay news story, but I couldn't help myself. Manbang will be a dreary service that delivers government approved video product to customers, and which will allow

the government to monitor what they watch. Ick. But we all know that the "real" Manbang is Asia's premiere gay porn channel!

# MACT Looks at Transgender Rights

*(continued from page 2)*

- Transgender people are four times more likely to have a household income of less than \$10,000/year compared to the general population.
- Those who expressed a transgender identity while in grades K-12 reported alarming rates of harassment (78%), physical assault (35%) and sexual violence (12%); harassment was so severe that it led almost one-sixth (15%) to leave school or college.
- Survey respondents experienced unemployment at twice the rate of the general population at the time of the survey, with rates for Black transgender people being four times the national rate, and other trans people of color at elevated rates.
- Ninety percent (90%) of those surveyed reported experiencing harassment, mistreatment or discrimination on the job or took actions like hiding who they are to avoid it. Over one-quarter (26%) reported that they had lost a job due to being transgender or gender non-conforming and 50% were harassed. Sixteen percent (16%) said they had to work in the underground economy for income such as doing sex work or selling drugs.
- 19% reported having been refused a home or apartment because of their gender identity/expression. 11% reported being evicted because of their gender identity/expression. One-fifth (19%) reported experiencing homelessness at some point in their lives because they were transgender. The majority of those trying to access a homeless shelter were harassed by shelter staff or residents (55%), 29% were turned away altogether, and 22% were sexually assaulted by residents or staff.
- Fifty-three percent (53%) of respondents reported being verbally harassed or disrespected in a place of public accommodation, including hotels,

restaurants, buses, airports and government agencies.

- A staggering 41% of respondents reported attempting suicide, compared to 1.6% of the general population.
- Of those who have transitioned gender, only one-fifth (21%) have been able to update all of their IDs and records with their new gender.
- One-fifth (22%) of respondents who have interacted with police reported harassment by police, with much higher rates reported by people of color.
- 16% of respondents who had been to jail or prison reported being physically assaulted and 15% reported being sexually assaulted.
- Nineteen percent (19%) of the sample reported being refused medical care due to their transgender status, with even higher numbers among people of color in the survey.

On September 16<sup>th</sup> MACT/NY will examine the issues and speak with our allies in the struggle for human rights. Join us!

**Editor:** Ted Freed;  
**Contributors:** Ted Freed,  
Sean Ledden.

To submit material for publication,  
contact the editor at  
[secretary@mactny.org](mailto:secretary@mactny.org).

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
Bill Burns, E. Patrick Harding –  
Co-Chairs  
Arthur McLean – Treasurer  
Ted Freed – Secretary