



Resolution for the 50th Anniversary of the Rainbow Round Table

Whereas firing and discrimination of librarians for being suspected of or confirmed to be LGBTQIA+ was one of the impetuses of the founding of the Gay Task Force under the umbrella of the Social Responsibilities Task Force, in 1970;

Whereas the recent SCOTUS ruling to protect national employment for all workers for being suspected of or confirmed to be LGBTQIA+ was just decided on June 15, 2020;

Whereas the founders of the Task Force had to set up a Kissing Booth during the 1971 ALA Annual Conference to create conversation in the exhibit hall in Dallas, Texas in an otherwise, unsafe, and unwelcoming organization that has since made attempts at reconciliation for this exclusionary treatment;

Whereas the ALA Membership has advocated for subject headings, published bibliographies, and sponsored programs to increase awareness, and provide librarians with material for patrons and library programs;

Whereas Intellectual Freedoms are challenged daily with eight of the top ten most-frequently banned books of 2019 having content related to LGBTQIA+ stories. And many of those defenders of full representation in our collections have been met with the hateful responses and have endured anyways to stop the pattern of removing materials from libraries and that, as a result of this inclusive material, many youth are able to find their way to identity through exploring such vast and representative library collections; and

Whereas the Rainbow Round Table has evolved into an understanding of nomenclature as an expression of inclusion and visibility evolving from the Task Force on Gay Liberation to the Gay Task Force to Gay and Lesbian Task Force to the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Round Table to the Rainbow Round Table, with Rainbow acting as an all-inclusive term recently affirmed in the ALA Annual Elections, and the accompanying logo with the updated Freedom Flag colors expressing the intersectionality of Black and Brown LGBTQIA+ within a 50 year collaborative process; now, therefore, be it



Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members: will continue work to ensure the full implementation of the recent federal protections against employment discrimination for LGBTQIA+ people in all libraries, and will support the newly renamed Rainbow Round Table, and act in a way that honors our 50th Anniversary, in the persistent pursuit of justice, equity, diversity, intersectionality and inclusion until material challenges and equal rights violations are no longer pervasive, not just in the field of librarianship, but as part of all library services, worldwide.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Saturday, June 27, 2020, ALA Virtual Council Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Tracie Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director and
Secretary of the ALA Council