



Elizabeth Rhea <erhea@cluela.org>

CLUE Statement on LGBTQI Rights: Not Waiting for Another EO (Just and Sacred Vol.2 #3)

CLUE Board and Rabbi Klein <jklein@cluejustice.org>
To: Elizabeth Rhea <erhea@cluejustice.org>

Tue, Feb 7, 2017 at 1:33 PM



"Whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

εἰδότες καλὸν ποιεῖν καὶ μὴ ποιοῦντι ἁμαρτία αὐτῶ ἐστίν

- James 4:17

Dear Elizabeth,

The hard work of what is colloquially labeled "intersectional justice," in which the rights, liberation and economic stability of one subgroup cannot advance without assuring the rights, liberation and economic stability of other subgroups, has been at times a challenging goal for justice advocates, as there are issues that have been used by opponents of progress to pit sectors of our community against one another: Abortion, Israel/Palestine, Same-sex marriage, workers in different sectors, even the role of women in religion....all of these issues have made the work of CLUE and our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of all people much more challenging than might be obvious at first glance.



CLUE's board and staff are committed to rising above the tide of divisiveness and standing strongly and proudly with all human beings, simultaneously recognizing our own internal diversity of views. Some of us are passionate supporters of reproductive rights while others oppose abortion. Some within our ranks support same-sex marriage and others have publicly opposed it. Some of us even belong to religious denominations that do not ordain women, while others of us are associated with denominations that are led by women.

Nevertheless, all of us recognize that working people need all of us, and so we will not let our interfaith squabbles and our principled theological divisions be used to hurt workers and their families. As a faith-based organization focused on human rights, we stand united in our

opposition to anyone's rights being taken away.

That does not mean that we are unanimous on every statement we issue. The following statement on LGBTQI rights had one dissenting vote. Regardless, even the dissenter agrees that we must be unequivocal in our commitment to the rights of all people, including the hard-won rights of the LGBTQI community. I am grateful for this board member's willingness to go along with the vast majority of our leaders, including one whose denomination even opposes same-sex marriage. We need one another.

As the Trump Administration--I believe largely led by a white supremacist misogynist Chief Strategist Steve Bannon--shows its ungodly, morally corrupt approach to governance, focusing on taking away rights, scapegoating imaginary demons, and fabricating deadly untruths, CLUE stands unfailingly with "the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free " in short, all those whose rights are threatened by mean-spirited executive orders. The LGBTQI community is no exception.

Thank you for sharing your commitment to the humanity of all God's Children. We couldn't do this work without knowing that your love is greater than their hate.

With Blessings of Sacred Resistance,



Rabbi Jonathan Klein
Executive Director

CLUE Opposes Discrimination Toward LGBTQI People

(Ratified by CLUE Board, 2/3/17)

Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), called to the task of sacred resistance to inhumane policies that serve to divide our communities, reiterates our commitment to a religious foundational principle that all human beings are imbued with what many consider divine attributes and thus of infinite worth and dignity. If any specific set of people are attacked then this diminishes what many of our faiths view as the image of God. At this challenging time, we are called to proclaim that we stand with LGBTQI people and their allies. Any denial of their human rights is an attack against the image of God in all of us.

While the current administration attempts to roll back the protection and the rights that the LGBTQI community has won over the past decades, CLUE will stand in its way, engaging in sacred resistance and demanding not only that current law be observed—that LGBTQI persons not be discriminated against in housing, employment, public accommodations, government services—but we will continue to demand that the law be as expansive as possible so that LGBTQI people and their unique gifts be completely honored as a sacred part of the human fabric that they inherently are.

The Hebrew Bible teaches that the original person, created out of the earth/*adamah* (אדמה), was created in the image of God and called *Adam* (אדם). This original being, by Divine ordinance, is the source of all humanity, reflecting as humanity grew the infinite facets of God's image. All of us are descendants of the original being, and thus we celebrate all these facets. "For You are the source of life, by Your light do we see light." (Psalms 36:10)

[>> View & Share on Our Blog >>](#)

Action Checklist for #SacredResistance

- **Come to Long Beach City Council TODAY at 4pm** to support Long Beach becoming a Sanctuary City (**See Below**)
- **Support the CA Values Act** to refuse California resources for federal deportation efforts
- **SIGN THE PETITION**
- **Share the CAIR Reporting Page** with your Muslim/AMEMSA friends on Social Media
- **GO TO THE FORM**
- **Share the Yes on H video** with friends and groups based in LA County on Facebook
- **WATCH THE VIDEO**
- **Volunteer for No on S** to stop a the shutdown of development throughouth Los Angeles
- **CANVAS** or **PHONE BANK**
- **Read a Book with Us** and talk real change at the UCLA Labor Center on **February 16th** - **RSVP ON FB**
- **Celebrate our Victories** at our annual Orange County Architects of Justice Dinner, **February 22nd at 6pm** - **BUY TICKETS**
- **Empower our initiatives** to organize for the protection of our immigrant and AMEMSA neighbors - **DONATE TODAY**

Share this list by linking to our blog.

Long Beach Moves Toward Sanctuary

SANCTUARY CITY NOW



#SANCTUARYLB

CLUE's Long Beach committee is taking strides toward ensuring sanctuary protections for residents of their city. At **tonight's city council meeting (2/7, 4pm)**, Council will vote on whether to support the California Values Act. This will be a major opportunity to ask for more-- a sanctuary designation for the city of Long Beach!

>> Read More>>

Latin@-AMEMSA Unity Makes Headlines in Orange County



Just weeks after an [Inauguration Day Latin@-Muslim press conference](#), CLUE organizer Irene Arellano helped to organize #IStandWithHijabis, a successful event commemorating World Hijab Day last Wednesday.

[>> Read The OC Weekly Article >>](#)

Rabbi Jonathan Klein, CLUE

<http://www.cluejustice.org/>



*Clergy & Laity United
For Economic Justice*

CLUE: Building a Just and Sacred Society · 464 Lucas Ave, Suite 202, Los Angeles, CA 90017, United States

This email was sent to erhea@cluejustice.org. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

You can also keep up with Rabbi Jonathan Klein, CLUE on [Twitter](#).