



THE HARRY POTTER ALLIANCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Advisory

Harry Potter Alliance Announces Equality FTW

Yearlong campaign to fight inequalities in education, immigration reform, and marriage equality

Chicago, IL - On Friday, August 10, the Harry Potter Alliance (HPA) will hold a press conference at LeakyCon 2012 with Executive Director Andrew Slack, HPA video blogger Julian Gomez, and Jose Antonio Vargas, Founder of Define American, which seeks to elevate our country's immigration conversation. At the press conference, the HPA will officially announce Equality FTW, a yearlong campaign to fight inequalities in education, immigration reform, and marriage equality. They will also discuss Julian's recent video blog in which he announced that he, along with his family, is an undocumented American. The video was widely viewed both within and outside the Harry Potter fan community.

"Julian is one of our most dedicated members and brings unrivaled kindness, passion and expertise to our community," said HPA Executive Director Andrew Slack. "We are all so grateful that he is willing to share his story with us and the community around us."

"I met Julian last fall when I spoke at a college journalism conference in Orlando," said Vargas. "He filmed my talk and then told me that he, too, is undocumented. Now he's shared his personal story, which is a part of a vibrant and courageous movement of young undocumented Americans coming out about their immigration status. I am proud to be with him and the Harry Potter community today."

"I am beyond honored that I've been given the opportunity to take something I've had to struggle with and turn it into a positive addition to the immigration dialogue in this country," said Gomez. "I can't think of a better community of people than Harry Potter fans, who are some of the most intellectual, enthusiastic, and moral people I've ever met, to offer a unique perspective and voice to this issue."

WHAT: Press Conference Announcing Equality FTW at LeakyCon 2012

WHERE: Hilton Chicago, Marquette Room

720 S Michigan Avenue

Chicago, IL 60605

WHEN: Friday, August 10, 2012, 1 pm

If you would like to attend please contact press@thehpalliance.org by Friday, August 10, 9 a.m. CDT.

The HP Alliance (www.thehpalliance.org) is a 501c3 nonprofit that engages Harry Potter fans in social activism. With over 70 active chapters and more than 40 volunteer staff, the HPA has donated five cargo planes of supplies to Haiti, 90,000 books, protection for thousands in Darfur, and made huge strides in anti-genocide, LGBT, and media reform advocacy, and more. Covered in hundreds of major publications and praised by JK Rowling, Harry Potter celebrities, Paul Farmer, and a slew of NGO's, the HPA recently came in first place in the Chase Bank Community Giving Contest on Facebook winning \$250,000.

About Define American

Define American (@defineamerican; #defineamerican) is dedicated to changing the conversation about immigrants in America who are an inexorable part of our communities and our society. Founded by award-winning multimedia journalist Jose Antonio Vargas and co-founded by Jake Brewer, Jehmu Greene and Alicia Menendez, Define American harnesses the power of storytelling and social media to bring about greater awareness of and support for immigration reform. To learn more, visit DefineAmerican.com. Define American is a project of the Tides Center.