



THE HARRY POTTER ALLIANCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2011

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Harry Potter Alliance Makes over 6000 Phone Calls for Marriage Equality

Works to gain passage of same-sex marriage bill in partnership with Marriage Equality Rhode Island

Boston, MA – The Harry Potter Alliance (HPA) continued its fight against the Bullying Horcrux on Saturday with Wrock 4 Equality 2. The HPA worked with Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI) to encourage the passage of a bill in the Rhode Island state legislature that would allow same-sex marriage. The HPA hosted a six-hour Livestream event where staff and wizard rock performers encouraged members to make phone calls across the state. The event resulted in almost 5,500 phone calls for MERI in only four hours. By Tuesday, the HPA made just over 6000 calls. Both of these numbers were records for MERI and underscored the importance of the efforts to both organizations.

“Harry Potter's eleven years living in a cupboard for his identity as a wizard reminds us that no one should have to live inside of a closet for their identity,” said Executive Director Andrew Slack during the Livestream. “In the HPA we are working to create an environment where those living both in and out of the closet because of their sexual orientation will not be legally subjected to existential intolerance and irrational prejudice.”

The staff of MERI was excited by the record number of calls made by HPA members and noted the importance of what the HPA was doing. The calls made were records across the board. In the first half hour, HPA members were able to make as many calls as are usually made in one four hour period. Additionally, the 5500 calls in four hours were more than any month in 2010. Further, the calls not only broke records but also were an important step in a fight that MERI has been working toward for many years, as Kim Bright, Field Director of MERI noted. “The time is now for Rhode Island, we've waited too long,” said Bright.

Wrock 4 Equality 2 featured wizard rockers who discussed the need for marriage equality while also providing entertainment and encouragement to listeners. The Livestream provided a discussion of the importance of marriage equality in today's world and related it to the Harry Potter novels. Additionally, the event was an HPA House Cup competition, putting Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff, Slytherin, and the HPA created House of Awesome in a contest to make the most calls during the Livestream.

This is the second Wrock 4 Equality event hosted by the HPA. The first was in 2009 in partnership with Massachusetts Equality. The event, which was in opposition to Proposition One in Maine, began with a wizard rock concert and ended with more than 3500 phone calls being made in one day, a 1200% increase for Massachusetts Equality. Members also canvassed the streets of Portland and collected absentee ballots in hopes of getting voters to the polls early.

Wrock 4 Equality 2 was the largest event of the Bullying Horcrux, a month long campaign that included blogging, Make it Better member videos, and the creation of Fans for Equality, a place for fans of movies, television shows, games, and books from across the spectrum to join together in the fight for equality. Fans for Equality will continue to grow in the coming months to give fans a way to make a difference with their individual passions.

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*The HP Alliance (www.thehpalliance.org) is a 501c3 nonprofit that engages Harry Potter fans in social activism. With over **70 active chapters and 40 volunteer staff**, the HPA has donated five cargo planes of supplies to Haiti, 55,000 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.*