

## Bi+ Organizers for September 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Administration Officials

**Khafre Kujichagulia Abif, MLS** (he/him) is an Atlanta-based HIV/AIDS, Bisexual, and Social Justice activist, writer, editor, blogger and artist who has been thriving with HIV for 33 years. Khafre is a founding member of Bi+ Georgia where we are building a safe community for bi+ people in Georgia through visibility, education, and advocacy. Khafre has been honored to be selected as *HIV Plus* Magazine one of 75 Most Amazing People Living with HIV in 2016 and by *POZ* Magazine as one of 2015's POZ 100. Khafre participated in the Bisexual Briefings at the White House in 2015 and 2016. He is the editor of the anthology, *Cornbread, Fish and Collard Greens: Prayers, Poem & Affirmations for People Living with HIV/AIDS*. Khafre also served as a member of the Georgia State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Office of Civil Rights.

**Diana Adams, Esq** (they/them) is an international queer legal activist and policy analyst based in New York City who speaks out about being nonbinary, bisexual+, and polyamorous. They co-founded BiLaw, the bisexual lawyers community. Diana is founder and Executive Director of Chosen Family Law Center, Inc., the first legal services and legislative advocacy nonprofit to center not just same-sex couples but also non-nuclear families, polyamorous families, and other emerging family forms. Diana founded their boutique LGBTQIA family law & mediation firm Diana Adams Law & Mediation, PLLC in 2007. You can find them on Twitter and Facebook @DianaAdamsEsq.

**Lauren B. Beach, JD/PhD** (she/they) is a Research Assistant Professor within the Department of Medical Social Sciences and Department of Preventive Medicine in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University. They are also the Interim Director of the Evaluation, Data Integration, and Technical Assistance (EDIT) Program within Northwestern's Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing (ISGMH). Dr. Beach investigates the epidemiology of chronic physical health conditions over the life course among diverse SGM populations and people with HIV. She also studies how multilevel health and identity related stigmas affect chronic condition management and health outcomes of minoritized populations. They are PI of a R01 in the CARDIA cohort to characterize the cardiovascular disease epidemiology and health disparities impacting SGM populations in the CARDIA cohort study (R01HL149866). They are also a PI for Project Recognize – a project to develop novel and standardized measures of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity (R01AA029076). Dr. Beach is also active in community engaged, evidence informed advocacy efforts to improve the health of bi+ populations. She is a founding Steering Committee Co-Chair of the Chicago Bisexual Health Task Force (CBHTF). She is also nationally active in bisexual health policy leadership circles and has spoken at the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to present recommendations for improving bisexual health outcomes and bisexual data collection methods. You can follow them on Twitter @laurenbbeach.

**Fiona Dawson** (she/her) Fiona Dawson is an Emmy®-nominated and award-winning filmmaker. She is a proud bisexual, cisgender, immigrant woman from the LGBTQ+ community who uses media to advocate for equity. Following her Emmy®-nominated short New York Times op-doc "*Transgender, at War and in Love*," Fiona was honored by President Obama as an LGBT Artist Champion of Change and her feature documentary, "*TransMilitary*," premiered at SXSW 2018 winning the Audience Award. Fiona's company, Free Lion Productions, produces "NOW with Fiona" multimedia content all centered on sharing positive LGBTQ+ stories of kindness and courage in the face of adversity. Fiona loves to build, speak, and produce to make good things happen.

**Heron Greenesmith, Esq.** (they/them) is a policy attorney with over a decade of LGBTQ advocacy experience. Currently monitoring anti-LGBTQ rhetoric, movements, and leaders at Political Research Associates, Greenesmith is also adjunct faculty at Boston University School

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of Law, a cofounder of BiLaw and the Polyamoy Legal Advocacy Coalition, and an Editorial Board Member at the Bulletin of Applied Trans Studies. Greenesmith has written extensively on the disparities facing bisexual and pansexual people and how to remedy them through public policy advocacy, including authoring the report Invisible Majority, which incorporated the findings and recommendations of the first Bisexual Community Meetings at the Obama White House, and a chapter on public policy remedies for the disparities facing bisexual people in the Routledge Handbook of LGBTQIA Administration and Policy. Find Greenesmith on Twitter at @herong.

**Dr. Mimi Hoang** (she/her) is an internationally-recognized psychologist, educator, author, and grassroots activist specializing in the LGBTQ+ and Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities. Since the 1990s, she has co-founded three organizations in Los Angeles for bisexual, pansexual, fluid, and other nonmonosexual (AKA "bi+") individuals, and authored multiple publications. Dr. Mimi earned a seat at the landmark 2013 White House Bisexual Community Roundtable to discuss bi+ health disparities and since then has been promoting bi+ health awareness by creating courses on bi-affirmative psychotherapy for mental health professionals and a bi-affirmative therapist referral list. Dr. Mimi's steadfast leadership has earned her multiple awards, a feature in Jan Dee Gordon's LGBTQ of Steel photography book and being named "One of the Most Significant Women in the Bisexual Movement." She currently works as the Interim Coordinator of Training at Loyola Marymount University (LMU), Clinical Supervisor of the LGBTQIA+ Affirmative Therapy Center at Airport Marina Counseling Services, and is the creator of the "Bi on Life" self-empowerment series and Bi+ Women's Space, a virtual support group for bi+ women in Los Angeles. Licensed as a psychologist in California since 2008, Dr. Mimi has worked primarily in community mental health and university counseling center settings due to her passion to serve the young and underserved. Outside the office, Dr. Mimi's LGBTQ+ community leadership spans over two decades, including co-founding the Los Angeles Bi Task Force (LABTF) in 2008, amBi (LA's Bisexual Social Community) in 2006, and Fluid at UCLA in 1999. Through her work with LABTF, she spearheaded a Greater Los Angeles bi+ community needs assessment in 2014 and her mental health policy recommendations were documented in the 2016 "Invisible Majority: Disparities Facing Bisexual People and How to Remedy Them" report.

**Nicole Holmes** (she/they) is a Manager of Health Equity for a national HIV nonprofit, supporting the work of Health Department's HIV/Viral Hepatitis programs. Prior to their current role, Nicole worked for Center on Halsted, the Midwest's largest and most comprehensive LGBTQ+ community center. In her role as an HIV, STD HUB/Hotline Resources Manager, they trained an HIV supportive services team and served as a Bi+ representative presenting at national conferences and on webinars about bisexual health. During her time at Center on Halsted, Nicole co-authored a manuscript about Bi people's utilization of health services. Nicole has presented about Bi health and community resources for the LGBTQ+ organization, GLMA. Nicole has been featured in USA Today sharing her dating experiences as a Bi person and the Consent Guidebook written by Erin Tillman.

**Blair Imani** (she/her) is the creator of the viral web series Smarter in Seconds. She is the LA Times Bestselling author of Read This to Get Smarter and Head of Education at Feminist for All. She is also the author of Making Our Way Home and Modern HERstory. Her scholarship spans intersectionality, gender studies, race and racism, sociology, and United States history. As a public speaker, Blair Imani has presented at universities including Oxford and Harvard. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Tegan and Sara Foundation. The New York Times praises Blair Imani's unique ability to create "progressive lessons with vibrant visuals and a perky, quirky delivery." She lives in Los Angeles, California. Her work centers women and girls,

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global Black communities, and the LGBTQ+ community. As an educator, influencer, and semi-retired organizer, Blair Imani is dedicated to making the world less terrible and amplifying the voices and work of those fighting the good fight. Learn more about Blair Imani by visiting [blairimani.com](http://blairimani.com) and joining her on social media [@blairimani](https://twitter.com/blairimani).

**Tania Israel, Ph.D.** (she/her) is a Professor of Counseling Psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara who conducts research relevant to scholarship, policy, and practice with sexual and gender minorities. Her expertise has been solicited by the White House, Congress, the National Institutes of Health, and the Institute of Medicine. Dr. Israel has received honors for her research and advocacy from Congress, the American Psychological Association, the California Asian & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, and her local LGBT community. As Director of UCSB's Project RISE, Dr. Israel leads a research team that develops and studies interventions to support the psychological health of LGBTQ individuals and communities. Her contributions on bisexuality include a TEDx Talk (viewed over 100,000 times), journal editorships for special issues on bisexuality, development of psychological interventions and measures related to internalized binegativity, and co-founding Biologue (a bisexual discussion group in Santa Barbara, CA). In addition to numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, Dr. Israel authored the award-winning book, *Beyond Your Bubble: How to Connect Across the Political Divide, Skills and Strategies for Conversations That Work* (APA, 2020), and she tweets bisexual haiku (#biku). To learn more, visit [taniaisrael.com](http://taniaisrael.com) or follow her [@drtaniaisrael](https://twitter.com/drtaniaisrael).

Executive Director **Kierra Johnson**, (she/her) joined the National LGBTQ Task Force in 2018 as Deputy Executive Director but was already engaged with the organization, previously serving on the National LGBTQ Task Force's board of directors and its National Action Council. Johnson came to the Task Force after serving as (Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity) URGE's Executive Director with a wealth of experience in organizational leadership and management, program development, youth leadership and reproductive justice. As a bisexual Black woman, Johnson is one of few out bi+-identified women of color at the helm of a national LGBTQ organization. She is recognized as a national expert on queer and reproductive rights issues and has testified in front of the U.S. House of Representatives and has appeared in Newsweek, The New York Times, Fox News, Feministing.com and National Public Radio. Johnson also serves on the board of directors of the Groundswell Fund and steering committee of All Above All. Kierra currently resides in Washington DC.

**Robyn Ochs** (she/they) is an educator, speaker, grassroots activist, and the editor of Bi Women Quarterly and two anthologies: *Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World* and *RECOGNIZE: The Voices of Bisexual Men*. An advocate for the rights of people of ALL orientations and genders to live safely, openly and with full access and opportunity, Robyn has been engaged in bi+ and LGBTQ+ advocacy work for 40 years. Her work focuses on increasing awareness and understanding of complex identities and mobilizing people to be powerful allies to one another within and across identities and social movements, with special interest in bi+ health, the experiences of bi+ people in the workplace, and bi and LGBTQIA+ youth. In her own community of Boston, MA, she has served over the years on the boards of MassEquality, Bi Women Quarterly, the Bisexual Resource Center, and SpeakOUT, as well as numerous advisory boards, and she served for three years on the Massachusetts Commission for LGBTQ Youth. Robyn was named by Teen Vogue as one of "9 Bisexual Women Who are Making History." She is on social media [@robynochs](https://twitter.com/robynochs).

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**Belle Haggett Silverman** (she/her) is a bisexual nonprofit professional driven by a desire to leave communities more vibrant than she found them. She has experience working in nonprofit management across a broad range of sizes and missions ranging in youth development, ecology, and bi+ issues. She is currently the President of the Board of Directors at the Bisexual Resource Center and a founding member of the bi+ philanthropy Visibility Impact Fund.

**Ellyn Ruthstrom** (she/her) is the Executive Director of SpeakOUT Boston, the oldest LGBTQ+ speakers bureau in the U.S. Ellyn was the president of the Bisexual Resource Center for ten years and co-organized the first White House Roundtable on Bisexual Issues in 2013 and participated in the subsequent meetings in 2015 and 2016. As a long-time member of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network, Ellyn was the editor of the *Bi Women* newsletter for many years and is on the board of *Bi Women Quarterly*, its current incarnation. In 2022, she received the Brenda Howard Award from PFLAG Queens for her long service to the bi+ community. You can reach her at ellynruth on Instagram or @ellynruthstrom on Twitter.

**Ezra Young** (he/him) is a legal scholar and civil rights attorney based in New York. He is currently a visiting assistant professor of law at Cornell Law School where he teaches Constitutional Law, Critical Race Theory, and Transgender People and the Law. Ezra's scholarly work appears or is forthcoming in books and articles published by Routledge, Oxford University Press, the New Press, *American Psychologist*, *California Law Review Online*, *Cleveland State Law Review*, *Jotwell*, *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, and the *University of Chicago Legal Forum*. On the side, Ezra maintains a boutique private practice centered on transgender rights impact litigation. Ezra currently serves as Vice President of the Jim Collins Foundation, which awards needs-based surgery grants to transgender persons, and on the board of the African American Policy Forum, a racial and gender justice think tank. Ezra is a proud and active member of BiLaw, the bisexual lawyers' community. He is also a founding board member and past co-chair of the National Trans Bar Association. Ezra previously served as legal director of the African American Policy Forum, research director of the Columbia Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies, and director of impact litigation of the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. Ezra's work and commentary has been featured in the articles published by the Associated Press and Reuters as well as *BuzzFeed News*, *The Guardian*, [MSNBC.com](https://www.msnbc.com), MTV News, *The National Law Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *Politico*, among other outlets. You can learn more about Ezra's work at [ezrayoung.com](https://ezrayoung.com) and keep up with him on Twitter @ezraiyoung.