



Building Our Future Community Campaign  
Open Statement Regarding Hmong LGBTQ+ Lives

Monday, September 14, 2020

Our hearts go out to the recent loss of Paj Ntsais Xyooj, as well as to the many Hmong LGBTQ+ members in our community whose lives have been lost due to suicide, and to those who are still enduring the violence against them. We acknowledge and understand that these tragedies are not isolated events, as they are direct result of the gender-based violence and oppression that stem from the patriarchal structures of traditional gender roles and expectations in the community and the society that we live in. We have to remember that as we were all once youth, we share a responsibility to ensure that everyone, including our Hmong LGBTQ+ siblings, children and daughters, are valued, celebrated and loved in our families and community in order to give them a fighting chance to survive and thrive in their lives.

We recognize the unfortunate reality of suicide rates being higher among LGBTQ+ folx, and we need to have more conversations about this issue with open hearts and minds, because Queerness and children who are LGBTQ+ are not a new phenomenon, nor a westernized influence, within our Hmong community. They have always been in our families throughout generations and contributing members of our society. It is long overdue for our community to realize that accepting LGBTQ+ folx as who they are and how they identify, contributes greatly to their mental wellness, survival and reaching their full potential.

To our Hmong LGBTQ+ siblings and youth, know that there is a national network of us who are allies, parents of LGBTQ+ children, Queer and Trans folx in the Building Our Future campaign, who deeply love and care about you, and we are committed to challenging oppressive gender and sexual norms to end homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, heterosexism and misogyny. We also encourage everyone to take mental health and suicide ideation seriously, to check-in, pay close attention to, and provide supportive care for those who are struggling with depression, as well as to reach out for help without being stigmatized.

The responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of Hmong LGBTQ+ folx is a family and community effort, and we would like to cordially invite anyone who is also concern



about this issue, may have questions or be experiencing something similar, to join us in a virtual community dialogue within two weeks. We hope to host ongoing discussions to further bring awareness and visibility of this issue, and how we can move collectively to invest and pour resources into securing safe housing, economic assistance, medical prescription/treatment, advocacy and additional culturally-responsive services for our Hmong LGBTQ+ siblings and children.

The undersigned are a list of organizations who stand in solidarity with Hmong LGBTQ+ groups.

With much love and light,

Building Our Future, Community Campaign  
Freedom, Inc.

Transforming Generations

Hmong American Women Association

ManForward

CHAN-BOF for Peace Collaborative

Hmong Innovating Politics

Hmong Queer Suab

Cia Siab, Inc.

Black and Brown Womyn Power Coalition, Inc.

Hmong Family Strengthening Helpline

Queer Hmong Intersectional Pride

Violence Free Minnesota

**Commented [1]:** Need to create google form for people to register. I can create the Zoom meeting too.

*Building Our Future is a global network of survivors, change agents, movement-builders, advocates and organizers who are committed to creating cultural change strategies that*



*build strong and healthy Hmong families, free of violence, and that thrive from generation to generation.*