

# Calling for a progressive queer presence at the US Social Forum

Tuesday 23 January 2007, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 17 January 2007).

In 2005 at the World Social Forum, the United States was called to pull together our own social forum, something local that will provide space to build relationships, learn from each other's experiences, share our analysis of the problems our communities face, and bring renewed insight and inspiration. We were challenged to step up and show a mobilized community for broad based social justice and to show a local response to the effect of US policies at home and abroad.

From June 27 to July 1, 2007 our response, the US Social Forum, will be taking place in Atlanta, Georgia. Hundreds and possibly thousands of community organizers, trade unionists, students/youth, elected officials, and social movements are going to gather together to develop leadership and develop consciousness, vision and strategy needed to realize the call: "Another World is Possible."

This year at Creating Change, a group of individuals gathered together to begin planning a queer presence at the US Social Forum. At that gathering, we came up with the following strategies:

- 1) Have a visible presence at the US Social Forum with signage, stickers, hats, some consistent form that visually defines us as queers no matter where we are in the forum.
- 2) Work with the primary forum organizers to include queer speakers in the main plenaries.
- 3) Network to get progressive queer workshops and events taking place and work to get a large queer presence at the forum.

We are currently working together to realize the first and second items on that list. Here is what we are asking you:

First, please spread the word about the US Social Forum and strongly consider coming. The US Social Forum is being held on a weekend that is important to the history of queer organizing: the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. The Stonewall Rebellion was an event led by poor and working class transgender queers of color. Many of them were involved in anti-war and anti-poverty organizing. Our roots are more radical than our current Pride celebrations. The US Social Forum speaks to those roots.

Second, consider running a workshop. This can take any form: consciousness building or dialogue around a multitude of issues including economic

justice, US imperialism, building a sex positive radical movement, regional organizing, etc. These workshops can be opportunities to bring queer analysis into broader progressive movement building or to reach out to LGBT individuals with an analysis of the intersections between race, class, gender, and sexuality. This can also be an opportunity for cultural work, using creativity and pizzazz for building our movement. Most of all, the US Social Forum is an opportunity to look at our work in the United States and to understand it within a global context. Go to [www.ussf2007.org](http://www.ussf2007.org) and submit your proposal.

And for general information on the US Social Forum, visit the same website at [www.ussf2007.org](http://www.ussf2007.org)  
<http://www.ussf2007.org>

Whatever you decide to do, let us know about it. We want to know about queer progressive workshops and cultural work that is going to take place in Atlanta. Keep us in touch and, as broadly as you can, spread the word.