

Title: **Sisterhood, Leadership and the Rainbow: What does it mean to be in *Sisterhood*?**

Often self-identified Women of Color who are same gender loving and Trans women live a duality that prevents them from bringing their authentic self into the room, therefore negating their entire identity. This workshop will explore this reality while also discuss homophobia, transphobia and stigmatization within Communities of Color that will highlight life at this intersections, in order to support Lesbian, Bisexual, and Trans Women of Color Leadership.

Introduction:

Name, City, State and what does sisterhood mean to you? (15 mins)

Opening Quote:

Living at the Intersections. As a result of the complex interplay among the intersections of different identities and communities of LGBT People of Color, particular attention and respect must be paid to the multiplicities that exist in people's lives; segmenting ourselves for the comfort of others is unacceptable.

Roundtable discussion: 50 mins

- I. How do you identify yourself? (ex. Are you a WOC Lesbian, a Lesbian who is Latin@/Black/Mixed-Race, or a Latin@/Black/Multi-Racial woman? Are you a Trans WOC? Or a Latin@/Black/Multi-Racial woman?)
- II. Does this identification represent your authentic self (the totality of you)?
- III. Why or Why not?
- IV. What are some of the barriers that prevent you from bringing your authentic self into the various rooms we enter or relationships that we engage in?
- V. How do we as women internalize oppression (homophobia, transphobia, racism, sexism...?)
- VI. How do we hurt each other from the effects of internalized oppression?
- VII. What are ways we can work together to support the Leadership of Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans women of color?
 - a. ***Facilitator Note: Listen for responses that reflect the concepts of homophobia, transphobia and stigma as it relates to race, gender & sexuality.***
 - b. ***Make note that homophobia, transphobia & stigma are major barriers that prevent us from bring the totality of who we are into certain rooms, spaces, and relationships that we engage in.***
 - c. ***pull up on the laptop the [IOOV No More Campaign](#) and solicit responses as to why is it important to address homophobia, transphobia & stigma in communities of color. Tie responses back to the barriers identified by the participants and co-create solutions for Sisterhood and Leadership.***

Closing: 10 mins

Living at the Intersections is based on the understanding that a twenty first century sisterhood and leadership in our many movements must insist on a liberation framework, a human rights framework, an intersectional politics, in the lived world, not as an academic trope. It can no longer be that racism is what Black people deal with or immigration what Latinos deal with or sex what queers deal with or gender identity what Trans people deal with.

It can no longer be that people with disabilities are the only ones fighting to create safe spaces for differently abled bodies. It can no longer be that the professionalized women's, gay, immigration and civil rights movements stay in their damn silos. Poverty, violence, stigma,

racism and hatred are the shared experience of millions of people thrown to the margins not just by the rich, white, heterosexual elite, but by some of our own LGBT people.

The sisterhood we must develop, support and embrace is one that understands the liberated body has to live through many identities and in many movements. The liberated body is free. It is not raped by poverty or racism. It is not denuded, violated or disparaged by bigots. It is not isolated or hidden away from public life because it is old or disabled. It is not denied the right to reproduce or not reproduce. It is not denied the right to change itself through medical intervention or physical presentation. The liberated body is strong. It is proud!