



## Tell Three for Equality

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The anti-Prop 8 activist organization, Join the Impact, has now partnered with other national LGBT groups to develop a web-based public education campaign, [tell-three.org](http://tell-three.org), to encourage queers and their supporters to have three conversations with friends and family to help build support for LGBT equality.

"The passage of Prop 8 in California has motivated LGBT people and their supporters like never before," said Amy Balliett of Join the Impact, a grass roots organization with more than 15,000 members that has helped to organize massive demonstrations throughout the U.S. since the November elections. "Now that we've had some time to get over our anger and sadness, we're ready to act." She concluded, "And the single most important thing we can do to guarantee we don't find ourselves on the losing side of another political campaign is to have conversations with our friends and family about what it means to be LGBT."

Additional organizations - including the American Civil Liberties Union; Equality California; the Equality Federation; Freedom to Marry; The **National Lesbian and Gay Task Force**; the National Center for Lesbian Rights; and Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - will be rolling out their own versions of the campaign on their individual websites. The goal of the campaign is for all queer groups and individuals to seize upon the momentum that has been generated since the passage of Prop 8 in November and to work together by telling their stories to build support for all of the issues affecting LGBT citizens.

"We know that sharing personal stories and engaging in open dialogue with friends, family, and co-workers has a powerful impact and goes a long way in breaking down barriers," said Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California. "Generating conversations is a crucial step in ultimately creating a climate where all Californians are accepted and valued."

Visitors to [tell-three.org](http://tell-three.org) can find additional information on who to talk with and how to start these important conversations. There are also resources for those who want to learn more about the issues affecting queers. But, as the website notes, the most important step is for people to have personal conversations. The website encourages LGBT people to talk about their relationships, about growing up, and about how being LGBT has made them feel different from others in some respects, and the same in others. Straight allies are encouraged to talk about their relationships with LGBT people and to speak up when they hear others make homophobic or trans-phobic comments.

The groups are encouraging everyone – members of national and local LGBT groups, individuals, couples-supportive moms and dads, allied friends, and colleagues – to join the campaign and get people talking. The site makes it easy to spread the word to others to send an email to their friends. Eventually there will also be opportunities for activists to share their experiences on the site.

The campaign is also calling on bloggers and videographers to help spread the word by sharing their experiences of having these important conversations. "After Prop 8 passed, we spoke through demonstrations and we made ourselves heard," said Balliett. "We need to take our voices beyond the streets into every home in America, and to do that we need to use every avenue available to sparking conversations!"