



STORYCORPS LAUNCHES “STONEWALL OUTLOUD” TO RECORD THE STORIES OF LGBTQ ELDERS FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STONEWALL RIOTS

**Initiative Is a National Effort to Document and Preserve
the Experiences of Everyday LGBTQ People Who Lived in the Era Before
the 1969 Uprising Before They Are Lost to History**

**Storied Material to serve as Basis For New YouTube Original Documentary *Stonewall OutLoud*
Premiering June**

StoryCorps, the groundbreaking effort to document the American story, which has given 500,000 Americans across all 50 states the chance to record conversations about their lives and preserve them for future generations, is preparing to launch **Stonewall OutLoud**, a participatory initiative to gather the stories of LGBTQ elders before they are lost to history.

In June 1969, a series of protests and clashes with law enforcement broke out in and around New York City’s Stonewall Inn, after a violent police-raid on the gay club sparked retaliation among the bar’s patrons and neighborhood residents. The events served as a catalyst to the national LGBTQ rights movement. This June, in honor of the 50th anniversary of what became known as the Stonewall Riots, StoryCorps will ask people across the country to use the free StoryCorps mobile App to record the stories of people within the LGBTQ community who were born before the events of Stonewall. Each of these interviews will become a permanent part of American history at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Stonewall OutLoud will reach deep into LGBTQ communities across the country to ensure that as wide a collection of voices as possible are recorded and preserved. With special emphasis given to rural communities, communities of color, and transgender elders, the initiative seeks to connect older and younger generations through the powerful StoryCorps interview experience, preserve these stories for the future, and share the voices of the LGBTQ community with a broad general audience through educational and broadcast partnerships. Individuals and organizations can pledge to take part at storycorps.org/outloud

StoryCorps joins a coalition of partners on this project, including [SAGE](#), the [National LGBTQ Task Force](#), [Griot Circle](#), and [GLSEN](#), with other partners.

SAGE, the organization dedicated to advocacy and services for LGBT elders, [reports](#) that there are currently

around 3 million LGBTQ adults over age 50, a figure that is expected to rise to nearly 7 million by 2030. Of them, nearly 60 percent report feeling a lack of companionship, half feel a sense of isolation from others, and two in five feel disconnected or even unwelcome by the younger LGBTQ community. The anniversary of Stonewall provides a singular opportunity for young people to honor the lives of elders in this community, and to document and preserve the experiences and insights of this generation.

Dave Isay, President and Founder of StoryCorps said: “We’re thrilled to be working with our partners over the month of June to ask the country to honor an LGBTQ elder with an interview and preserve this part of our history about which so little information exists. In the spirit of the Shoah project, which documented the stories of every living Holocaust survivor, and Maya Angelou’s stirring words, ‘History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again,’ we hope that Stonewall OutLoud will be a beautiful, loving celebration of LGBTQ elders on this historic anniversary.”

Stonewall OutLoud builds upon StoryCorps’ long-standing commitment to record the powerful, varied experiences of LGBTQ people. Isay’s first documentary for public radio, 15 years before he founded StoryCorps, was *Remembering Stonewall*. Broadcast on NPR in 1989, the project was the first-ever documentary on the seminal 1969 events. *Remembering Stonewall* wove together in audio first-person accounts of those who fought during the uprising—and seeded the foundational ideas behind StoryCorps: the beauty, courage, and poetry we can find in the voices of everyday people when we take the time to listen, and the importance of honoring the stories of those who may feel least heard.

This audio documentary forms the basis for a new YouTube Original, also called *Stonewall OutLoud*. In collaboration with *World of Wonder*, YouTube Originals is bringing the original audio recording to life with contemporary voices in the LGBTQ community that will feature YouTube creators and LGBTQ celebrities. Guests will be announced at a later date. The *Stonewall OutLoud* documentary will premiere this June exclusively on YouTube.

Major support of StoryCorps and Stonewall OutLoud is provided by Lyft and YouTube Originals.

The StoryCorps App enables anyone, anywhere to record conversations with another person for archiving at the Library of Congress. The app guides users through the interview experience, from recording to archiving to sharing their stories with the world. It provides easy-to-use tools to help people prepare interview questions; record high-quality conversations on their mobile devices; and upload the audio to the archive.storycorps.org website which serves as a home for these recordings and also provides interview and editing resources.

About StoryCorps

Founded in 2003, StoryCorps has given people of all backgrounds and beliefs, in thousands of towns and cities in all 50 states—the chance to record interviews about their lives. The organization preserves the recordings in its special StoryCorps archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered, and shares select stories with the public through StoryCorps’ podcast, NPR broadcasts, animated shorts, digital platforms, and best-selling books. These powerful human stories reflect the vast range of American experiences, wisdom and values; engender empathy and connection; and remind us how much more we have in common than divides us.

StoryCorps is working to grow into an enduring national institution that fosters a culture of listening in the United States; celebrates the dignity, power and grace that can be heard in the stories we find all around us;

and helps us recognize that every life and every story matter equally. In the coming years StoryCorps hopes to touch the lives of every American family.

About SAGE

SAGE is the world's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older people. Founded in 1978 and headquartered in New York City, SAGE is a national organization that offers supportive services and consumer resources to LGBT older people and their caregivers. SAGE also advocates for public policy changes that address the needs of LGBT elders, provides education and technical assistance for aging providers and LGBT community organizations through its National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, and cultural competency training through SAGECare. With staff located across the country, SAGE also coordinates SAGENet, a growing network of affiliates in the United States. Learn more at sageusa.org.

About National LGBTQ Task Force

The National LGBTQ Task Force advances full freedom, justice, and equality for LGBTQ people. We're building a future where everyone is free to be themselves in every aspect of their lives. Today, despite all the progress we've made to end discrimination, millions of LGBTQ people face barriers in every aspect of their lives: in housing, employment, healthcare, retirement, and basic human rights. These barriers must go. That's why the Task Force is training and mobilizing millions of activists across our nation to deliver a world where you can be you.

About Griot Circle

GRIOT Circle is an advocacy and service organization committed to the dignity, well-being, and quality of life of LGBTQ people of color as we age. GRIOT is committed to honoring and preserving our histories and traditions while reuniting those parts of ourselves that have been fragmented by racism and homophobia.

About GLSEN

GLSEN works to create safe and inclusive schools for all. We envision a world in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression. Each year, GLSEN programs and resources reach millions of students and educators in K-12 schools, via action at the national, state, and local level. Over nearly three decades of work, GLSEN has improved conditions for LGBTQ students across the United States and launched an international movement to address LGBTQ issues in education and promote respect for all in schools. Find more information on GLSEN's policy advocacy, student leadership initiatives, school-based programs, research, and professional development for educators at www.glsen.org.

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