

Statement by  
**The Ad hoc Coalition of Former BiNet USA Leaders**

May 22, 2020

In light of recent events surrounding the Bi Pride Flag and BiNet USA, as bisexual/bi+ leaders, we felt it necessary and important for us to make a public statement about this unacceptable and unfortunate situation. Most immediately, we wish to affirm that the Bi Pride Flag is in the public domain. We are troubled by actions taken by the leadership of BiNet USA that have hurt members of our community, and we remain committed to a truly inclusive movement that brings us together, instead of dividing us.

First, we raise our collective voice to affirm that the Bi Pride Flag is in the public domain and always will be. No person or organization can claim ownership of it. The Bi Pride Flag belongs to all Bi+ people in all countries. We fully endorse the eloquent statement by the Board of Directors of the [Bi Organizing Project](#) (BOP), which said, in part:

**“While we understand and affirm concerns about our community’s icons and symbols being co-opted and inappropriately used, we condemn any unilateral action that seeks to give control of those symbols to any single small group or individual. **We believe our flag has become a fundamental component of our community’s collective sense of identity and visibility, and we support the #ourbiflag movement in maintaining free access to the flag as intended by its creator Michael Page.**”**

(Full Statement: <http://www.bisexualorganizingproject.org/whats-up/a-statement-to-our-community>)

We also fully endorse the [statement by Bis of Colour](#). It says in part:

**“We at Bisexuals of Colour would like to make public that we in no way agree, endorse or support this decision. ... We also acknowledge that this will harm Bisexuals who are people of colour, and/or Indigenous, who are some of the most vulnerable out there. We call on BiNetUSA to apologise for the hurt and fear they have generated as a result of this.”**

(Full statement: <https://bisofcolour.home.blog/2020/05/02/the-bisexual-flag-belongs-to-us-all>)

BiNet USA has made valuable contributions to the Bisexual Community and society over almost three decades. We also recognize that BiNet USA has not always successfully lived up to its founding ideals. We remain committed to BiNet USA's original vision of broad inclusion, of intersectionality,

and centering and uplifting the voices of marginalized groups among us including people of color, trans folks, and folks with disabilities.

Second, as former board members of BiNet USA and allied bi+ activists, we are devastated to learn about an ongoing pattern of alienation of community members from BiNet USA. We grieve with individuals who have been hurt and with the community at large. We know that recent actions taken by current BiNet USA leadership only serve to further damage marginalized bisexual groups and individuals.

The recent flag debacle, along with years of harmful actions carried out in BiNet's name, has caused a groundswell of legitimate opposition from within the community. But the unified response opposing this harm, swift support for our targeted community members, and assertion of communal ownership over our identities and symbols gives us tremendous hope for the future—a future, if necessary, beyond BiNet.

Third, we hope that in any new organization or reconstituted BiNet USA, priority will always be placed on treating people with dignity, care, and integrity. We cannot support, collaborate, endorse, or align with BiNet USA with its current leadership.

As a community, our future depends on our ability to speak truthfully, heal collectively, and support one another. To those wanting to help and those seeking to be more involved in Bi+ movements, we recommend that you contact one or more of the many organizations working towards our collective betterment (this list is not exhaustive; there are many other worthy organizations in the U.S. and around the world):

- Bisexual Resource Center: [biresource.org](http://biresource.org)
- Bisexual Organizing Project: [bisexualorganizingproject.org](http://bisexualorganizingproject.org)
- Bis of Colour: [bisofcolour.home.blog](http://bisofcolour.home.blog)
- Still Bisexual: [stillbisexual.com](http://stillbisexual.com)
- New York Area Bisexual Network: [www.nyabn.org](http://www.nyabn.org)
- American Institute of Bisexuality: [americaninstituteofbisexuality.org](http://americaninstituteofbisexuality.org)
- Bay Area Bi+ & Pan Network: [babpn.org](http://babpn.org)
- BiPOL [www.lanikaahumanu.com](http://www.lanikaahumanu.com) [relaunch late summer 2020]
- amBi: [AmBi.org](http://AmBi.org)
- Los Angeles Bi Task Force: <https://labitaskforce.org>
- Bi Brigade [bibrigade.org](http://bibrigade.org)
- Fluid Array: <https://fluidarizona.wixsite.com/bimetrophx>
- BiSocial Network: [bisocialnetwork.com](http://bisocialnetwork.com)

We are thirty past BiNet USA National Coordinators, Board members, Regional Coordinators and adjacent leaders, active from BiNet's founding in 1992 until 2020, supporting this letter.

We are all lovers and celebrators of Bi+ identities and communities.

We are Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Kanaka Maoli, Lakota, Asian, and white.

We are embodied with a variety of abilities and disabilities.

We are living on the continuum of access to resources including education, livelihoods, where we live, health care, and ability to retire as we age.

We are Intersex, Non-Binary, Agender, Cis, and Transgender.

We are Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Pagan, Hindu, Unitarian Universalist, Quaker, Heathen, atheist, and agnostic.

We range in age from mid-20's to over 75.

**Our coalition includes but is not limited to:**

- Michael Beer
- Wendy Curry
- Estraven
- Harrie Farrow
- Seth Fischer
- Stephen Getman
- Alexei Guren
- Loraine Hutchins
- ABilly Jones-Hennin
- K. Miles Joyner
- Lani Ka'ahumanu
- Debra Kolodny
- Gary North
- Gerard Palmieri
- Victor Raymond
- Robin Renée
- Kris Roehling
- Margaret Rood
- Barry Saiff
- Kyle Schickner
- Ann Schranz
- Cianna Stewart
- Mike Szymanski
- Gigi Raven Wilbur

If you are a former BiNet USA National Coordinator, Board member, Regional Coordinator or adjacent leader, and would like to add your name to this list, or if you have a suggestion for the organization list, please contact us at: [FormerBiNetLeaders@protonmail.com](mailto:FormerBiNetLeaders@protonmail.com) - thank you!

If you have questions regarding this statement, please contact us at:  
[FormerBiNetLeaders@protonmail.com](mailto:FormerBiNetLeaders@protonmail.com) - thank you!

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