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**To:** Christian Sacdalan  
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## June 2023 Edition

### June Pride Month: Inclusion Means Everyone

#### Prejudice: Have Some Pride

For the first time in its more than 40-year history, the [Human Rights Campaign](#) issued a state of emergency for LGBTQIA+ individuals because of laws targeting the community, many of which have passed in states across the U.S. Political campaigns, parliamentary debates, and public exhibitions reveal social prejudice and misconceptions about the nature and moral character of LGBTQIA+ persons around the world.



Ultraconservative and ultranationalist groups are also on the rise, leading to outright prejudice and legislative actions against sexual and gender minorities, challenging advances made by the community, and preventing the development of laws and policies inclusive of LGBTQIA+ people.

As allies, it is particularly important that we remember every person, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, deserves equal access to opportunities and services, and their safety should be protected.

One of the ways allies can support LGBTQIA+ individuals on a daily basis is to acknowledge chosen pronouns and identities. In our recent DE&I training and discussion den, this issue was discussed. Using chosen pronouns is a form of inclusion and allyship, recognizing the unique identity individuals have chosen for themselves. It is our visible and invisible uniqueness that brings value to the world, and inclusion is the key to unleash the power of our rich diversity. Happy Pride to all AMGA employees who celebrate and know you are supported!

### Juneteenth: Progress Can Be a Slow Process

For the past two years, Juneteenth has been observed as a federal holiday. While the holiday originated in Texas, it has grown into a broad celebration of Black American culture. This year, the African-American community is still struggling with their civil rights being violated and police violence. Deep-rooted, unequal power structures—largely based on racism, white supremacy, and economic inequality—are barriers to meaningful change.



This month, stand shoulder to shoulder with those who challenge racism every day. Commit yourself to developing the skills to dismantle racism and work within your sphere of influence to create meaningful change. Then, join us in some [red velvet cake](#)!

### Reflections

When you think of a family, what picture comes to mind? Are there any unconscious biases within your viewpoint of a family? Do you feel comfortable being your authentic self at work? How does your heritage contribute to the person you are today?

We invite you to bring your perspective to the Discussion Den taking place **August 11, 2023, 12 - 1 pm ET** as we explore these

### Video Resources:

[The Stonewall You Know Is a Myth. And That's O.K.](#)

[A Short History of Trans People's Long Fight for Equality](#)

[Over 400 Anti-LGBTQ Bills Proposed in 2023](#)

[The History Behind Juneteenth and Why It Resonates Today](#)

questions. If you can't make it for any reason, please feel to reach out to us, and we'd be happy to involve your thoughts in the conversation.

[Henry Louis Gates Jr. on the Significance and History of Juneteenth](#)



#### **DE&I Committee May Picks:**

[2023 Anti-Trans Bills Tracker](#)

[Wave of Anti-Transgender Bills in Republican-Led States Divides U.S. Faith Leaders](#), *PBS*, May 2023

[A Brief History Of Drag Queen Story Hour](#), *HuffPost*, March 2023

[What Does 'Woke' Even Mean? How A Decades-Old Racial Justice Term Became Co-Opted By Politics](#), *Forbes*, June 2023

[Juneteenth: The History of a Holiday](#), *The New York Times*, 2023

#### **Staff June Picks:**

[The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism](#), The White House, May 2023

[Antisemitic Incidents Are at an All-Time High, the ADL Reports](#), *NPR*, March 2023

Do you have a topic you want to see in the next edition of *DE&I Digest*? Do you want us to tell your story? Send topics or your story to [DEICommittee@amga.org](mailto:DEICommittee@amga.org) for review by



#### **Did You Know?**

Are you aware that certain states have outlawed drag shows? They claim that drag corrupts American ideals. For centuries, drag has been a part of American popular culture. Drag is a way of expressing oneself that might involve cross-dressing, dancing, singing, and lip-syncing. Additionally, as shown in theater and on the big screen, the heterosexual community has always participated in drag, so it is not just the LGBTQ+ population who have performed in drag. For instance, well-known movies such as *Some Like It Hot*, *To Wong Foo*, *Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Victor/Victoria*, and *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* feature heterosexual actors dressed in drag. Drag is a vital form of human expression and as American as apple pie!

#### **June Events in Washington, DC**

[Capital Pride Events That You Don't Want to Miss This June in Washington, DC](#)

the DE&I Committee. Please ensure resources submitted are from reputable sources.

[The D.C. Area's Best Family-Friendly LGBTQ+ Pride Events](#)

[10 Ways to Celebrate Juneteenth Around DC](#)

[The 15 Best Ways to Celebrate Juneteenth in the D.C. Area](#)

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? We'd love to hear from you! Email the DE&I Committee at [DEICommittee@amga.org](mailto:DEICommittee@amga.org)

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