



NATIONAL

# Activists mark Bisexual Awareness Week

Celebrate Bisexuality Day event to take place at HRC on Saturday

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By **Cal Benn**



Helen Parshall (Photo courtesy of Helen Parshall)

Bisexual activists during this year's Bisexual Awareness Week are reflecting on progress made and the work that still needs to be done.

[Robyn Ochs](#), a bisexual activist and editor of [Bi Women Quarterly](#), told the Washington Blade that Bisexual Awareness Week "is an important opportunity to shed light on the joys, challenges and experiences of identifying as bisexual."



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Ochs this year will be visiting Sweden for 10 days, speaking about bisexual issues in three cities and attending a gathering of bisexual people from all Nordic countries.

“I’m so excited to be a witness to history,” Ochs said.

“We are so intersectional,” added Fiona Dawson, co-founder of BiPlus Organizing US and author of “Are Bisexuals Just Greedy?”

Dawson said that because “most transgender people identify as bisexual” and because people of color are “more likely to be bisexual than any other community,” bisexual needs must be addressed when addressing the needs of other minority communities.

BiPlus Organizing US is hosting an event on Celebrate Bisexuality Day, Sept. 23, in D.C., with support from the Human Rights Campaign, the Bisexual Resource Center, the D.C. Center for the LGBT Community, PFLAG and #StillBisexual.

Adrien Shanker, senior advisor for LGBTQI+ health equity in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, is scheduled to speak at the event. Sara Mitchell, Rebecca Hershey and Mackenzie Harte are also expected to participate.



*The Human Rights Campaign will host a Celebrate Bisexuality Day event on Sept. 23, 2023.*

Lambda Legal Digital Director Helen Parshall, who is a member of the Bisexual Resource Center board of director, said that while Bisexual Awareness Week is good for the community, the need to continue talking about bisexual issues remains important, regardless of the date.

“If we’re only talking about bi identities for one week in September ... we’re really missing a lot of the important times where it really matters to show up for bi plus people,” said Parshall.

The Bisexual Resource Center is holding a “Bi+ Joy Picnic” picnic in Malden, Mass., on Sept. 24.

Statistics note 58.2 percent of the LGBTQ community identifies as bisexual. People who identify as bisexual also have [higher rates](#) of substance abuse than straight people and struggle with mental illness [more often](#) than gay and lesbian individuals.

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Ochs said that good ways to support bisexuals and destigmatize bisexuality are to “bring up the topic,” and to visit the [Bisexual Resource Center](#) for what she calls, “a good dose of vitamin B+.”

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