

A Year in the Life of the Human Right Scampaign

By Kat

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Abstract

Then-HRC head Elizabeth Birch, August 1998 (in an interview with OutSmart magazine (Houston)):
Then-HRC head Elizabeth Birch, September 1, 1999 (in Outlines(Chicago)): Outlines: The concept of trans issues ... are they in partnership just like with Black issues might be, or are they integral to the agency? ENDA is just one example of how that manifests itself. [...]

Article

Then-HRC head Elizabeth Birch, August 1998 (in an interview with OutSmart magazine (Houston)):

You have specifically referred to working on behalf of gay and lesbian issues. But you have not mentioned transgenders or transsexuals. Does HRC work on behalf of transgenders/transsexuals?

While much of our work benefits transgenders and transsexuals, they are not part of our mission statement. A lot of other organizations and lobbies have amended their mission statements to include them but are not focusing on them. We have not. That's because when we do, we want to be honest, to have honestly committed to focusing on issues that directly affect transgenders and transsexuals. Now our focus is on gays and lesbians. And it will remain that way until we amend our mission statement, and mean to focus more directly on transsexual/transgender issues.

Figure 1. BirchOutSmart98

Then-HRC head Elizabeth Birch, September 1, 1999 (in Outlines(Chicago)):

Outlines: The concept of trans issues ... are they in partnership just like with Black issues might be, or are they integral to the agency? ENDA is just one example of how that manifests itself.

Birch: I think that the Human Rights Campaign has done as much if not more on transgender issues than most other national [gay and lesbian] organizations. If you really look at the actual work. I hope we can get beyond lip service ... which is what I think some of the other organizations tend to broker in. We have put a lot of muscle and time and effort to both educate on Capitol Hill, as well formulate realistic, tangible courses of action that might deliver some results down the road.

So...

If the second one is as “honestly” “honest” as the first one purports HRC to be, then what does that say about the entirety of Gay, Inc. - including HRC - circa 1998?

If the second one is not honest, then, well....



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Figure 2. hrc

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