

Dear Commissioner Kelly

I am writing as a concerned member of Amnesty International in regards to the recent findings of *Stonewalled – still demanding respect. Police abuse and misconduct against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the USA.*

*Stonewalled* documents the persistent and widespread problem of police abuse against LGBT people in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Antonio, and numerous other cities across the U.S. The report confirms that LGBT people continue to be targeted for police abuse and misconduct, sometimes amounting to torture and ill-treatment, based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. The report also found that within the LGBT community, transgender people, members of ethnic or racial minorities, young people, and immigrants experience a heightened risk of police abuse and misconduct.

Despite the positive steps the city of New York has made in recognizing and protecting the human rights of LGBT people since the Stonewall riots 37 years ago, AI's research shows that police abuse and misconduct against LGBT people in NYC remain a serious problem.

Reports to Amnesty International in regards to the NYPD indicate a pattern of police profiling transgender women as sex workers and discriminatory enforcement of "quality of life" ordinances. Specifically, the NYPD has been reported as targeting LGBT youth and transgender, ethnic, and racial minority individuals in the implementation of these ordinances in the West Village.

I urge you to take necessary steps to ensure that "quality of life" enforcement and policing practices are not discriminatory, particularly against young LGBT individuals, racial and ethnic minority LGBT people, and transgender individuals.

I urge you to institute specific policies and procedures regarding police interaction with, strip searches of, and detention of transgender individuals. These policies and procedures should address the reports of transphobic abuse, humiliating strip searches utilized to determine "true genital status", and a blatant disregard of perceived gender identity reported by transgender individuals in *Stonewalled*.

It is extremely important that law enforcement authorities send a clear message that police abuse and misconduct targeting LGBT people will not be tolerated. I sincerely hope that you will consider the issues I have raised and take concrete steps towards ensuring that the human rights of ALL people are respected and protected by the NYPD, including New York City's LGBT residents.

Respectfully yours,