



The Latest from Loretta...

During my undergrad years, and into my early 20's, my little green hatchback was adorned with bumper stickers announcing my position on various issues. (Now I use car magnets, including those tooting my parental pride, and of course a [B Stigma-Free magnet](#) too.) My favorite from my younger days said, "Silence is Compliance". This rings so true.

My 13 year old son recently asked why I complain so much. He didn't mean that I whine about my aching bones (though I could do that!). It was that I spoke up when I saw something that wasn't quite right. During a recent hotel stay, I shared my disappointment with the hotel's manager when we observed no recycling receptacles and, compounding that lapse, almost all plates and utensils were disposable and recyclable! She admitted that she was also surprised to note this when she started working at the hotel - and she said that our conversation was motivating her to take action to remedy the problem. Lip service? Maybe. But if enough patrons speak up she *will* change their practices.

We hope to see this on a larger scale in response to North Carolina's House Bill 2 that discriminates against transgender people by dictating that they use the bathroom that corresponds to their gender at birth. Though the Obama administration sued the state in May for civil rights violations, and last month a NC federal judge ruled that the state may not enforce sections of the law, it is a state boycott causing a financial pinch that is causing the governor and legislature to feel the national scorn. Scuttlebutt is that the "bathroom law" may be modified or repealed later this year. That doesn't mean that our work is done. Many other states fail to learn from the national backlash, and they are pursuing similar discriminatory legislation. No matter where the injustice, whether we are referring to the Montgomery bus boycotts, or modern day trans discrimination, our voices need to be heard. Otherwise, *silence is compliance*.

Highlights

- Welcome to our new partner, [National Prevention Science Coalition](#). We are proud to be a part of this group that pursues wellness-based solutions and informs decision makers on how to best nurture positive environments for families and communities.
- We were happy to contribute [a guest blog](#) for our new partner, the National Eating Disorders Association, about overcoming the stigma related to eating disorders.
- GoodCall interviewed us for their article about supporting LGBTQ students after the Orlando shooting. [Read article here.](#)
- We were thrilled when Loretta was one of 300 national social justice leaders invited to participate in Sojourner's *The Summit for Change* in Washington DC in June. This was a stimulating and important event focused on the intersections and implications of race in justice work.
- Did you read our latest blog articles?
 - In [Overcoming Ageism for Everyone's Sake](#) Dr. Gloria Gordon examines how, from a very young age, we look upon getting older negatively - and how this must change.
 - Dawn Shaw's blog about living with a facial difference is empowering: [Go Forth and Live](#)
 - We no longer whisper "the C word". Leslie Jay-Gould contrasts how attitudes about breast cancer have changed over the past 40 years in [We've Come a Long Way](#)

Spotlight

We are honored that [Dr. Sonia M. Ospina](#) has joined B Stigma-Free's Advisory Council. She is a professor of public management and policy at New York University's Wagner School of Public Service. A sociologist by training, her interests are in the participatory, inclusive and collaborative dynamics of governance.

Having Dr. Ospina's expertise in change leadership to inform our collaborative methodology is exciting! Read more about Dr. Ospina and our other Advisory Council members [here](#).

On the Horizon

This November Howard University will be running its 7th annual International Conference on Stigma - and B Stigma-Free was invited to run a panel focused on Cross-Identity Collaboration! The conference theme, *Standing Together Against Fear, Blame and Shame*, promises collaboration and mobilization. We'd love to have you join us! Read more about the conference [here](#).



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