



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release  
December 11, 2009**

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### **LGBTQ Youth of Color to Testify at Public Hearing held by NYC Commission for LGBTQ Runaway and Homeless Youth**

#### **FIERCE members urge Commission to support *Our S.P.O.T. Campaign* for a 24-hour LGBTQ youth center on Pier 40 to meet the urgent needs of youth across the City**

**WHAT:** In October 2009, FIERCE, along with 24 other organizations, was appointed by the Mayor to the NYC Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Runaway and Homeless Youth. The Commission is charged with devising strategies to address the unique needs of LGBTQ youth. As the only youth-led organization on the Commission, FIERCE is dedicated to bringing the voices and experiences of LGBTQ youth of color to the table.

On December 17, FIERCE members will join other organizations and homeless youth to testify to the need for more programs, services and resources to directly support LGBTQ youth, who make up at least 40% of the homeless youth population in New York City. In particular, FIERCE will call for the creation of a comprehensive 24-hour LGBTQ youth center on Pier 40 in the West Village, which has received support from Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Community Board 2.

**WHO:** Testimony will be provided by the following LGBTQ youth members of FIERCE:

- Rane Bo
- Azreal Morales
- Simba Rivera
- Cheyenne Rosado
- David Sosa

Additional interview opportunities:

- Rickke Mananzala, Executive Director, FIERCE
- John Blasco, Organizer, FIERCE

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 17, 2009  
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**WHERE:** Spector Hall  
22 Reade Street, corner of Elk Street  
New York, NY, 10007

**To schedule interviews, please contact Ellen Vaz at 646-336-6789 ext. 209 or [ellen@fiercenyc.org](mailto:ellen@fiercenyc.org).**