



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release  
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### **FIERCE Leads Charge for a 24-Hour LGBTQ Youth Center in NYC's West Village to Address the Urgent Needs of LGBTQ Youth of Color**

**LGBTQ youth-leaders to testify at NYC Public Hearing about the importance of being able to access services when and where they are needed most**

**WHAT:** Last month, FIERCE members and other LGBTQ youth testified before the NYC Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Runaway and Homeless Youth about the causes and impact of homelessness amongst LGBTQ youth and presented youth-led solutions to address the issue.

On Tuesday, January 19, FIERCE members will mobilize to the second and final public hearing to testify about:

- Specific experiences of LGBTQ youth of color
- Accessing services where youth feel safe, including how a 24-hour LGBTQ Youth Center in the West Village would strengthen programs and services for LGBTQ youth
- The dangers and adverse effects of increased policing of LGBTQ youth
- Youth-led solutions that build their leadership and transform their lives

In October 2009, FIERCE, along with 24 other organizations, was appointed by the Mayor to the NYC Commission. As the only youth-led organization on the Commission, FIERCE is dedicated to ensuring that LGBTQ youth-led solutions are included in Commission recommendations.

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

- Stitch Barua-Valverde
- Azreal Morales
- Michael Owens

Additional interview opportunities:

- Rickke Mananzala, Executive Director, FIERCE
- Desiree Marshall, Lead Organizer, FIERCE

**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 19, 2010  
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).**