

“Put a Stop to Deadly Intolerance”

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Within the last few weeks the nation has lost too many young people on the verge of adulthood their lives, tragically cut short by indifference, injustice, intolerance, and acts so heinous their only way to end the torment was to end their own life.

Tyler Clementi, 18, jumped off the George Washington Bridge in New York because his roommate filmed him during an intimate encounter with another man in his dorm room. Tyler had asked his roommate if he could have some privacy one evening and the roommate agreed only to then go to another person’s dorm room and remotely activate a web camera and broadcast Tyler’s private life on the internet.

In California, a 13-year-old middle school student named Seth Walsh hung himself after enduring years of relentless bullying because he was gay. He hung himself on the 19 of September and was placed on life support until he died on the 26. His mother, in an interview with the Tehachapi News said, “He was a very loving boy, very kind....He was artistic and very bright.”

Billy Lucas, just 15, hung himself in his family’s barn after being bullied because he was “different”. He just didn’t fit in and other students decided he was gay. He was called a piece of crap and told he didn’t deserve to live, on the day Billy died it was reported that bullies told him to kill himself.

In a suburb of Houston, Asher Brown, 13, took his own life after being bullied at Hamilton Middle School. Sadly, his torment continued after his death. On a memorial page set up on Facebook people left foul comments about this young teen because he was gay. Comments so bad that the Fox station in Houston would not even report what was said.

October 11 is National Coming Out Day an internationally observed awareness day for coming out and discussing LGBT issues. This day is not just for those coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered it is a day for open discussion about issues facing the LGBT community.

National Coming Out Day is a day for someone to stand up and say no more intolerance towards someone’s sexuality or identity, no more hatred for someone who is gay, no more use of the word fag, no more standing idly by when someone is bullied because they are different. October 11 is a day to stand up and proudly say you are an ally, you are a friend, you are open to a discussion, and you are there for those around you that identify as LGBT.

This day shouldn’t be the only day of discussion; it should start this moment, right now, today. In a world in which four young people had no where to turn to get away from constant torment and bullying that they were faced with only one way out is a

world that needs to stand up and start discussing issues that are plaguing school yards, high school hallways, and college campuses.

We should end intolerance, injustice, and indifference towards ANYONE. We are all human we all deserve respect, love, and civility. Today is the day to say no more so that we do not lose another person in the prime of their life.