

For Immediate Release

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Human Rights Campaign Atlanta to Honor *Victory For the World Church* for its Service to the LGBTQ Community

Award presented during 31st Annual HRC Atlanta Gala Dinner & Auction, May 5, 2018

ATLANTA, April, 2018– The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Atlanta will honor Dr. Kenneth L. Samuel and Victory For The World Church with the **Dan Bradley Humanitarian Award**. The award will be presented during the 31st Annual Atlanta Gala, Dinner & Auction on Saturday, May 5, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency Downtown Atlanta. Each year, HRC Atlanta recognizes organizations and individuals who have tirelessly worked to advance equality for Atlanta's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities.

For more than 30 years, Victory for the World Church has been a community leader for its inclusion of and advocacy for LGBTQ people. Under the leadership of its organizing pastor, Dr. Kenneth L. Samuel, the church developed ministries that serve and empower its congregation and LGBTQ community.

- **Gateway:** An outreach group geared to LGBTQ members and allies in the congregation and community. The group regularly makes meals at Lost-n-Found's youth center for homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth and hosted a community viewing and discussion of *Brave Spaces: Perspectives on Faith and LGBT Justice*.
- **Victory over HIV/AIDS (VOHA):** The group provides education, care and compassion to people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. VOHA also hosts a community town hall and panel discussion on the state of HIV/AIDS in the black community, as well offering HIV/AIDS testing.

Additionally, Dr. Samuel was a vocal supporter of marriage equality before the Supreme Court's landmark 2015 ruling, making appearances on CNN and the *New York Times* discussing his views as a pro-equality faith leader. He is a past board member of AID Atlanta and a current board member of Jerusalem House, an organization that provides a continuum of housing and supportive services for homeless and low-income individuals, families and children affected by HIV/AIDS.

"All too often, religion is perceived and used as a weapon against LGBTQ people and equality. Thankfully, places of worship like Victory for the World Church, have bravely remained at the table for years, finding new and powerful ways to be inclusive of LGBTQ congregants, serving Atlanta's LGBTQ community and working to end the violence, fear, discrimination and rejection that many LGBTQ people face in religious spaces," said Charlie Frew, Vice Chair of HRC's Foundation Board and Executive Director of Jerusalem House. "Faith leaders, like Dr. Samuel, are a uniting force, moving our communities forward on the issues of LGBTQ equality and HIV/AIDS advocacy. We are proud to honor Dr. Samuel and Victory for the World Church with this award."

About the Dan Bradley Humanitarian Award

As one of the founders of Human Rights Campaign Fund in 1980, the late Dan Bradley distinguished himself through his career as a courageous champion of civil rights. As president of the Legal Services Corporation, Dan was the highest-ranking Presidential appointee ever to acknowledge his homosexuality. That act of bravery set the stage for an impressive string of national media appearances and Dan's activism on the boards of many national and local organizations. Dan was the inspiration behind the historic June 1, 1987 demonstration at the White House and proudly led 64 gay and lesbian leaders to jail

in a symbolic act of civil disobedience. This award is bestowed upon an individual or group who continues Dan Bradley's tradition of activism and service to the LGBTQ community.

About the HRC Atlanta Gala Dinner & Auction

Since 1987, The Atlanta Gala Dinner & Auction has grown to be one of the largest fundraisers in the country for the Human Rights Campaign. The event includes a silent auction, followed by a black-tie dinner that celebrates excellence in the LGBTQ movement and the future of the Human Rights Campaign.

The theme for the 31st HRC Atlanta Gala Dinner & Auction is "Impossible to Ignore" and it reflects the reality that our diverse LGBTQ and ally community is fully engaged in the fight for equality. It places importance on speaking out, being visible, standing up and standing together as we face adversity, hostile legislation and a threatening presidential administration. The theme serves as a reminder that our voices will not fade. For more information, visit www.hrcatlanta.com.

About the Human Rights Campaign

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBTQ citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

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