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New York Queer Asian & Pacific Islander Groups and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission Stand With Hong Kong LGBT Activists; Host “Shower-in” To Oppose Hong Kong Government’s State-Sanctioned “Ex-Gay Conversion Therapy”

What: Members and allies of the Gay Asian Pacific Islander Men of New York (GAPIMNY), Queer, Asian, Visible Empowered (Q-WAVE) and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) will demonstrate in front of the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office to protest the Hong Kong government’s legitimization of ex-gay conversion therapy, a practice that has been widely discredited by major medical and mental health organizations. To protest, 30-40 concerned members and allies of the community will demonstrate the shortcomings of ex-gay conversion therapy, which includes a regimen of prayer and cold showers, by staging a “shower-in”. They will call on the Hong Kong government to honor the demands of Hong Kong LGBT activists and call for an end to the U.S. export of anti-LGBT bigotry.

Where: Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office; 115 East 54th Street, New York, NY 10022

When: Sunday, August 7th, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

Who: Gay Asian Pacific Islander Men of New York (GAPIMNY), Queer, Asian, Visible, Empowered (Q-WAVE) and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC). GAPIMNY and Q-WAVE are groups that serve the LGBT Asian Pacific Islander community in the New York City area. IGLHRC is an international organization dedicated to human rights advocacy on behalf of people who experience discrimination or abuse on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. All are in contact with two LGBT groups in Hong Kong: Rainbow Action and Tongzhi Community Joint Meeting (TCJM)

Why: Homosexuality or more broadly, queerness, does not need a cure. Furthermore, the export of ex-gay conversion therapy from the United States to other countries is a concern for the LGBT community. Dennis Chin, spokesperson for GAPIMNY says, “We are greatly disturbed by the increasing exportation of right-wing bigotry to overseas communities. Exodus Ministries and the “ex-gay movement” are not just content with fanning the flames of

homophobic violence here in the United States but also want their beliefs adopted by the Hong Kong government."

Media Visuals: Signs, banners, protestors soaked in water

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