

## Should We March on Washington in 2008?

*Response to a Call for an LGBT March on Washington*

**By Eric Rofes**  
Contributing Writer

On June 1st, the Working Group of Perfect Union published, in its entirety, a call to a march on Washington by Robin Tyler. I sent copies of a shortened version of this call — one that appeared in the *Washington Blade* — to 25 friends and colleagues who are veteran movement activists. I sought to sample their opinions about the wisdom of such a march and the factors that led them to support or oppose such an event.

This brief report is intended to summarize the complicated responses to my email and to highlight common themes that emerged from the responses. In no way do I intend to suggest my outreach created a random survey of activists or leaders. Instead, this was a convenience sample, hence subject to generalizability limitations. At the same time, I believe many of the findings listed below merit consideration as discussion of a possible march continues. We in the Perfect Union Working Group are aware that participants on our site often think deeply about the complicated strategies related to community organizing, and we want to honor this thinking by providing more food for thought.

### Overall Response

Of the 25 people who were sent the email, 18 responded in writing in some way or another. Five of these responses were hurried and con-



The Millennium March on Washington for Equality passes the Washington Monument Sunday, April 30, 2000. Thousands of people converged on the Nation Mall in support of gay and lesbian rights. (AP Photo/Kamenko Pajic)

tained no specific opinion or points of support or concern. Thirteen people offered opinions about the potential march; these opinions ranged from enthusiastic support to strong opposition. Of these 13 respondents, I classified 3 as supportive of the march, 2 as opponents, and 7 as either mixed or no opinion. Several of the "mixed" or "no opinion" respondents seemed as if they would be supportive of some kinds of actions and not others, or supportive of marches occurring at specific times and not others.

An additional three people approached me face-to-face (2) or on the telephone (1). Because these responses were

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## A Reply to Eric Rofes

*Veteran National March Activist Answers the Survey Report*

**By Robin Tyler**  
Contributing Writer

On both local and national levels, the LGBT community has become the ultimate scapegoat. Since we are losing ground that we never actually had, we owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to take our struggle into the streets. We currently do not have a single civil right at the federal level. We are

treated like non-citizens in this country, and we need to get as angry, as committed, and as passionate about this issue as we did around the AIDS crisis. We are not fighting for our lifestyles: in this climate, we are fighting for our lives.

First of all, let me thank Eric Rofes for taking the time to reach out to seasoned activists, and for soliciting your thoughts and concerns. It is my hope that the discussion about the March will take place in ever growing larger leadership circles. In this time of crisis, we all need to come together with a single

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Stand up and be counted!  
[www.glcensus.org](http://www.glcensus.org)  
Survey ends August 23!

See story, page 5

The Largest Gay and Lesbian Consumer Census