It can be useful to add slides that highlight the experiences of local communities to the timeline. Create new slides or have blank paper available for individuals to add their own slides as part of the activity.

**Introductions & Instructions (5 minutes)**

*Large Group Discussion*

- The timeline hanging around the room is a select history of the struggle for racial justice, immigrant and refugee justice and LGBT equality. It is not comprehensive, but gives a place to start talking about shared and unique histories.
- The timeline examines historic and current policies and practices that prevent communities from having complete and full human dignity.

**Touring the Timeline (25 minutes)**

*Pairs*

*Trainer Says:*

- “Some of the images used in this timeline are disturbing. These images were not selected for their shock value but instead show the real violence that many of our communities have survived.”

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**SUMMARY**

This exercise is useful for identifying the common experiences of people of color and LGBT communities in the US.

**GOALS**

- Understand the systematic and institutionalized oppression of targeted communities and its impact
- Identify the common strategies used to exclude and marginalize targeted communities
- Build awareness and common ground between communities

**AGENDA OUTLINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXERCISE</th>
<th>FORMAT</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction &amp; Instructions</td>
<td>Large group discussion</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touring the Timeline</td>
<td>Pairs</td>
<td>25 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debrief</td>
<td>Large group discussion</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MATERIALS**

- LGBT, Racial Justice, and Immigrant Rights Timeline “slides” to hang on the wall, pages 84-132
- Tape
- Flip chart
- Markers
- Post-its

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Immigrant Justice, Racial Justice and LGBT Equality Timeline in Pictures is a shared curriculum of Basic Rights Education Fund and Western States Center. It is based on the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights timeline in the BRIDGE curriculum.
Participants should “tour” the timeline in pairs. As they tour the timeline, have them discuss with their partner the featured events, how they may have impacted their community, and/or what is surprising.

Have extra sheets of paper available so participants can add key dates that are not on the timeline.

Participants touring the timeline can also reflect on the following critical questions, which can be flip charted in advance:

- “What groups have immigrated to the US throughout history? How were they treated by people already here?”
- “What was happening with the LGBT movement during different waves of activism by communities of color?”
- “How have laws prevented certain groups of people from creating families in the US? Who do these laws exclude?”
- “How are LGBT immigrants singled out and treated differently? What experiences do they share with heterosexual immigrants?”

After pairs have finished touring the timeline, ask participants to be seated to discuss and debrief the exercise. The following clarifying questions may be useful to get discussion started.

**Debrief (30 minutes)**

**Large Group Discussion**

**Clarifying Questions:**

- “What are your reactions to the timeline?”
- “What was new information from the timeline? What is missing from your own experience?”
- “Who do the policies featured in the timeline target? What reasons are given for targeting them?”
- “What are similar ideas about LGBT people, people of color and immigrants that we see during specific moments of the timeline?”
- “What are strategies that the US government has used to control and contain LGBT communities and communities of color or immigrant communities?”
- “What did you learn from the timeline about what is believed to be an ‘American Family?’ Who is believed to be a law abiding citizen? Who is a threat to the nation?”

**Trainer Points:**

US laws and policies have sweeping impacts on many communities in sometimes unexpected ways:

- LGBT individuals exist in all communities in some way, and are therefore impacted by US laws and policies that are targeted at other communities.
Immigrant Rights, Racial Justice and LGBT Equality (continued)

- The United States is built on a history of colonialism, slavery and forced migrations. Native Americans experienced forced migration from their own lands, while those coming to the US for the first time may have immigrated for economic reasons, forced displacement or other reasons entirely.

- Immigration policy continues to control who is included or excluded from the US on the basis of race, national origin, class, gender and sexual orientation.

LGBT people, people of color, and immigrants have been scapegoated for social and economic problems throughout US history:

- Looking at immigration history can help point out who is singled out in US society, who is blamed for its problems and, conversely, who is the “ideal American citizen.”

- LGBT people have been blamed for the “downfall of morality,” for wanting to destroy the “cornerstone of Western society” (marriage), and for “corrupting our children.”

- Similarly, immigrants have been blamed for unemployment (“taking our jobs”), crime (“illegals”), ineffective public benefits programs (“they’re not taxpayers”).

- People of color have been blamed for “being lazy,” benefiting too much from federal and state programs (“they are all on welfare”).

US policy has always defined what a family can (and can’t) be. Examples include:

- Chinese Exclusion Act (to prevent Chinese laborers from starting families)

- Anti-miscegenation laws (controlled or prevented interracial families)

- Defense of Marriage Act (limits marriage to one man and one woman, preventing recognition of same sex marriage or families)

LGBT communities and communities of color have successfully fought for the expansion of rights and citizenship throughout history:

- Changes that have been won are both policies (the Civil Rights Act or changes to immigration law) and practices.

- For LGBT communities of color, forming their own networks and organizations is a key victory. It raises visibility, creates community and allows LGBT people of color to create organizations that operate around their needs and agendas.

- Nearly 1/3 of the examples in the timeline are victories, and it shows that we can be successful working for change together.
1619

A detailed drawing of the slave ship Brookes, showing how 482 people were to be packed onto the decks.¹

Slavery begins. First shipload of enslaved Africans to the American colonies arrives in Jamestown, Virginia.

The US invades Mexico for control of land and resources. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is signed in 1848, transferring over 55 percent of Mexican land to the US. Mexican citizens living in the territory have the choice to get US citizenship within one year, although most forcibly lose their land.
1857

Many states place residency restrictions on African Americans and other non-white immigrants, preventing them from living or owning property in the state.

For example, the Oregon State Constitution banned any “free negro, or mulatto, not residing in this State at the time” from living, holding real estate and making any contracts within the state. This allowed Blacks to travel through the state, but banned them from living within it. The punishment was public whipping.

It was removed from the Constitution by the voters in 2001.

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Detroit, MI - February 1942. ³

Long, Bill. 8/21/05 http://www.drbilllong.com/LegalEssays/OregonBlacks.html
Congress passes the Page Act which effectively ends the entry of unmarried Asian women into the country as a way of limiting family development.

“A Chinese Invasion” by illustrated by J. Keppler in 1880 depicts the sentiment towards Chinese Immigrants at the time.  

4 Keppler, Jospeh. “A Chinese Invasion,” 1880. The National Archives (http://memory.loc.gov/service/pnp/cph/3c00000/3c03000/3c03100/3c03143r.jpg)
The Great Migration was the movement of 1.3 million African-Americans out of the Southern United States to the North, Midwest and West from 1915 to 1930.

African-Americans migrated to escape racism, seek employment opportunities in industrial cities and to get better education for their children, all of which were widely seen to lead to a better life.

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5 www.discoverblackheritage.com
Between 1882 and 1968 the Tuskegee Institute recorded 3,437 lynchings of African-Americans.

In the south, lynching was one of the terrorist tactics used to control and threaten the African-American population.

According to the mythology popular at the time, black men were lynched because they had raped white women, yet historians find that in eighty percent of the cases there were no sexual charges alleged, let alone proved.

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6 Photograph by L. Horgan, Jr. (http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aapmob.html)
In the United States, various state laws prohibit the marriage of Whites and Blacks, and in many states also Asians. In the US, such laws were called anti-miscegenation laws.

From 1913 until 1948, 30 out of the then 48 states enforced such laws.
Individuals considered to be “psychopathically inferior,” including LGBT people, are banned from entering the US.

7 US Public Health Service. www.gutenberg.org/files/19560/19560-h/19560-h.htm
“Ladies Agreement” ends the arrival of Japanese and Korean picture brides. European women are also affected—they were banned from entry if they could not show that either a man or a job was available.

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US Naval report on entrapment of “perverts” within its ranks.

In 1943, the US military officially bans gays and lesbians from serving in the Armed Forces.

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“Successful” electric shock therapy treatment of homosexuality is reported at American Psychological Association meeting.

During World War II, many of those threatened by Nazi Germany wanted to immigrate to the US. The 1938 Evian Conference and the 1943 Bermuda Conference met to discuss responsive immigration policy, and due to nationalist and anti-Semitic sentiments at the time, very few refugees were allowed to immigrate.

Following the deaths of millions of Jews and other religious, political, “racial” and sexual minorities, the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 allows refugees to enter the US outside the quota system in place.

Servicemen’s Readjustment Act, better known as the G.I. Bill, established payment for college or vocational education and one year of unemployment compensation for WWII veterans. It also provided loans for returning veterans to buy homes and start business.

However, this remained largely beneficial for white men because the military (1948) and schools (1954) were racially segregated, and many suburban neighborhoods prevented blacks from owning homes.

1954

“Operation Wetback” targets Mexican American communities for “illegal immigrants” and deports over 3.8 million people to Mexico.

13 Photo from www.latinamericanstudies.org
1955-1968

1961: Freedom Rides
1963: March on Washington
1964: Height of Civil Rights Movement; Civil Rights Act outlaws discrimination in public accommodations and by employers.
1965: Voting Rights Act; Malcolm X is assassinated.
1968: Martin Luther King is assassinated.

[Image: Martin Luther King and Malcolm X waiting for a press conference in 1964.]

Gay man, African-American civil rights and nonviolent movement leader Bayard Rustin is the chief organizer of the March on Washington.

Rustin is required to play a behind the scenes role because he was gay and was eventually pushed out of visible leadership in the civil rights movement.

15 Photo by O. Hernandez, World Telegram and Sun http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a4/Bayard_Rustin_NYWTS_3.jpg
Dewey’s Lunch Counter was a popular downtown hangout spot for African-American LGBT people in Philadelphia. Citing the claim that gay customers were driving away other business, Dewey’s began refusing to serve young patrons dressed in “non-conformist clothing.”

On April 25, more than 150 youth dressed in “non-conformist clothing” protest at Dewey’s and are turned away by personnel. During the next week, members of the Philadelphia African-American LGBT community and Dewey’s patrons set up an informational picket line outside the establishment, decrying the treatment of the transgender youth.

On May 2 another sit-in is staged. Dewey’s management backed down and promised “an immediate cessation of all indiscriminate denials of service.”

16 www.onward.justia.com/seo-images/1005_libertybell.jpg
Immigration and Nationality Act repeals the national origins quota system that favors European migration. This significantly altered eligibility to enter the US. The Act stressed family reunification and awarded most of immigration slots to relatives.

“Family” is based on strictly heterosexual and nuclear ties. This law explicitly bans lesbians and gays as “sexual deviants.”

The Stonewall Riots occurred in New York City. Sparked by Sylvia Rivera, a Puerto Rican drag queen and transgender activist, queer and transgender people fought against the police during a raid on the Stonewall bar. This marked a new phase in the LGBT liberation movement.

One of the customers at Stonewall Inn on the night of the raid was an immigrant man who committed suicide rather than be deported for being gay.

1971

Between 1970 and 1989, more than twenty states repeal their anti-sodomy laws.

The State Capitol Building in Salem, OR. 20

20 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oregon_State_Capitol.jpg
Barbara Jordan becomes the South's first Black Congresswoman, representing Texas. In 1976 she gives the keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention.

She is a closeted lesbian who does not publicly support gay rights.

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American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses.

The same year, “ego-dystonic homosexuality” which many considered to be simply a new name to house the same prejudice, is added to the list. Finally in 1986, the diagnosis was removed entirely.

In 1980, “Gender Identity Disorder” is added to the list of mental illnesses.

1974

Elaine Noble becomes the first openly gay person elected to state office in the United States, when she wins a seat in the Massachusetts state legislature.

Reverend Delores Jackson co-founds Salsa Soul Sisters in New York City. It is the first organization for out women of color in New York City.

Salsa Soul Sisters is later renamed African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change.
Gay activist Harvey Milk is elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Milk was the lead sponsor of a successful ordinance that outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation, one of the first and most encompassing in the nation. Ten months after taking office he and Mayor George Mascone are murdered in City Hall.

The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights was a large political rally that took place in Washington D.C. on October 14, 1979. The first such march on Washington, it drew 100,000 gay men and lesbians to demand equal civil rights.

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26 Ramdriver on Flickr- http://www.flickr.com/photos/27245393@N08/2536685363/.
Lesbian and Gay Asian Alliance is founded in part to address the impact of racism on gay and lesbian Asian Pacific American communities.
INS announces new policy on homosexuality: if immigrants admit that they are homosexual to an INS inspector they are excluded from entering the US.

If homosexual people deny that they are homosexual, but are later found out, they could be deported for perjury (lying under oath).

Researchers discover the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

National Latino(a) Lesbian and Gay Activists is created, later renamed Latino(a) Lesbian and Gay Organization (LLEGO).

The Minneapolis Native American community hosts the first Two Spirit Gathering in 1988.

Since then, some 3,200 people have attended the gathering in locales including Montreal, Vancouver, Kansas City, Eugene, Tucson, San Jose and Butte.

31 Photo by Caitlin Childs, 2008 (http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3182/2627270946_317dd731f4.jpg)
Policies restricting immigration of lesbian and gay individuals to the US are rescinded.
The Americans with Disabilities Act passed banning discrimination based on dis/ability. After a long history of discrimination and exclusion under broader immigration policies, this established equal opportunity for employment, transportation, telecommunications, public accommodations and the state and federal government’s services.

As part of the ADA exclusion clause, transgender individuals are not included in the non-discrimination policy.

Remarks by President George H.W. Bush on signing the ADA, 1990

Black lesbian poet Audre Lorde dies of breast cancer.
At the time of her death, she is the poet laureate of New York state.

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Oregon faces Ballot Measure 9, an amendment to the Oregon State Constitution that states: “All governments in Oregon may not use their monies or properties to promote, encourage or facilitate homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism or masochism.”

Between 1992 and 2008, Oregon faces more than 25 local and statewide anti-gay ballot measures. The trend in Oregon is picked up nationally, and states from Arkansas to Idaho have faced anti-gay ballot measures on a range of issues from rolling back anti-discrimination legislation, to same-sex marriage bans to adoption restrictions.
Congress bans people who are HIV+ from entering the US as immigrants.

The policy was finally changed in 2009.

36 Jon Rawlinson on Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/london/75148497/
For the first time, gays and lesbians are able to apply for asylum in the US. Asylum applicants must establish a history of past persecution or a well-founded fear of future persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

Despite the changes in 1994, LGBT asylum seekers still face serious barriers. Asylum cases are often decided based on “evidence” of harassment, or corroborating statements from witnesses. By its very nature, persecution of individuals based on their sexual orientation is subjective, culturally specific and often hidden.

37 http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0e/Castro_Street_Pink_Saturday_2008_June_29.jpg
Matthew Shepard is brutally murdered—beaten and left tied to a fence for 18 hours—outside of Laramie, Wyoming. Nationwide vigils and demonstrations ensue.
Lawrence vs. Texas: Tyron Garner and John Geddes Lawrence were having consensual sex in Lawrence’s apartment in Houston, TX, when the police raid their home based on a false report and arrested them for violating anti-sodomy laws.

The US Supreme Court strikes down the Texas anti-sodomy law, invalidating sodomy laws in the remaining thirteen states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Conservatives use same-sex marriage ballot measures to galvanize their conservative base and get them to the polls for the November 2004 election.

Same-sex marriage bans pass in all 11 states that voted on the measure: Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon and Utah. Louisiana and Missouri pass similar amendments earlier in the year.

REAL ID Act Passes: A federal law intended to standardize identification information. This means if someone is living/working in the US, they will need their identification to meet REAL ID standards in order to travel by airplane, open a bank account, collect Social Security payments and/or to utilize the services of all government service.

People must provide legal residency documents in order to obtain a REAL ID, cutting off nearly all recourse and opportunities for undocumented citizens. All states are required to comply with the REAL ID Act by May 2008.

A Florida custody battle between Linda Kantaras and her transgender husband, Michael, results in a decision granting Michael custody. The case is likely to set a precedent for future cases that deal with defining marriages and the parental rights for transgender individuals.

2007

Anti-immigrant bills increasingly introduced in state legislatures across the country, including:

- Eliminates ability to get official government identification cards, such as a driver’s license or occupational license, and prevents undocumented immigrants from obtaining public benefits or assistance other than what is required by federal law.
- Defines the official language of the state as English.
- Gives local police the authority of immigration enforcement agents.
- Mandates that the Department of Human Services checks for lawful presence in US for all public assistance applicants.
- Requires proof of citizenship in order to register to vote.

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SB2: The Oregon Equality Act, passed in May, creates consistent statewide Oregon law prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation, public services and education on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

HB 2007: The Oregon Family Fairness Act, passed in May, creates legal recognition for same-sex couples and their families through domestic partnerships.
Many states deny immigrants the right to marry. A federal law, created to facilitate collection of child support payments, is increasingly being used by states to deny marriage licenses to individuals without social security cards.

Denise Simmons becomes the nation’s first openly lesbian African-American mayor when she is elected in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Simmons was elected to the Cambridge City Council in 2002.

Angie Zapata, a transwoman, is beaten to death in Greeley, Colorado. Allen Andrade was convicted of first-degree murder and committing a bias-motivated crime, because he killed her after he learned that she was transgender. The case was the first in the nation to get a conviction for a hate crime involving a transgender victim.

Angie Zapata, photographed with her nephew 47

47 Photo from the Zepata family, Denver Legal News Examiner, April 17, 2009
President Obama signs into law the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crime Prevention Act, which strengthens existing US laws by extending federal hate crime protection to cases where the victim was targeted because of their sexual orientation, gender, disability or gender identity.

Federal hate crimes legislation initially passed in 1994 and increased sentencing penalties for crimes committed on the basis of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity or sex of any person.

48 http://www.flickr.com/photos/thirdwaythinktank/4072210995/