



BUSINESS
Tim Cook and the Way Ahead



POLITICS
Clay Aiken's Next Act



MARRIAGE EQUALITY
Everything You Need to Know About Marriage in Florida



COMMENTARY
7 Reasons To Be Hopeful in 2015



WORLD
Dominican Rep. Lets Gay Couple Wed But There's a Catch



ART
Best Art of the Year: 2014

COMMENTARY

7 Reasons To Be Hopeful in 2015

While the world offers many examples of persecution and injustice, there are reasons to expect the next generation will be better off, and the next, and the next.

BY THOM SENZEE JANUARY 04 2015 9:00 AM ET

[PRINT](#) [EMAIL](#) [Tweet](#) 46 [Like](#) 226 [g+](#) 1



7. The Wisdom of Youth

It's all about the younger generation. From this reporter's admittedly American-centric, Generation X perspective, Millennials born between 1983 and 2000 are more connected, accepting and diverse than any previous generation in modern history.

Unlike their comparatively spoiled parents' generations, who grew up during times of greater prosperity, Millennials have come of age during the Great Recession, a time of

unemployment and economic challenge overshadowed only by the Great Depression.

Arguably, the Great Recession and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, fought by members of the Millennial generation, who have by and large accepted LGB troops since the fall of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, have imbued this generation with greater character and substance than my generation or the Baby Boomers.

Millennials compare well to their great-grandparents' generation, called by Tom Brokaw "The Greatest Generation," which overcame the depression of the 1930s and won World War II. Members of the second-greatest generation — the Millennials — are in themselves reasons to hope for a better tomorrow for LGBT people, as well as other minorities and the poor.

6. Smarter, Stronger Human Rights Advocacy

Because their missions are always growing, non-governmental human rights organizations have become incredibly efficient in terms of how they spend their resources. And they too have been tempered by the effects of the Great Recession (which technically ended in June 2009, according



SUBSCRIBE TO THEADVOCATE

ONLY \$5 for one year ORDER NOW LIMITED TIME OFFER. NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.

Do not take VIAGRA if you:

take any other medicines called nitrates, often prescribed for chest pain, as this may cause a sudden, unsafe drop in blood pressure.
are allergic to sildenafil, as contained in VIAGRA
[See prescribing information](#)

MOST POPULAR



#TBT: They Died in the Closet



Best Art of the Year: 2014



First Transgender Mayor Elected in India



WATCH: This Rick Perry Bloopers Reel Is Perfect



9 Best Sex Scenes of 2014

to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Research, but which still reverberates today, according to the Economic Policy Institute).

Groups like Amnesty International, the Human Rights Campaign, Human Rights First and Human Rights Watch have robust global LGBT advocacy programs. Although HRC's international operation late-comer status was not without controversy, the group's proven track record makes it a powerhouse in all of its endeavors. I say, as long as everyone's focus stays on the goal of attaining basic human rights for gender and sexual minorities, the more the merrier.

All four groups have earned nearly unanimous respect by aggressively holding human rights violators accountable with vigorous documentation of their abuses. Reports compiled by groups like HRC, HRF, Amnesty and HRW put the lurid and often horrifying details of transgressions before the eyes of the world. Their reports act as glaring mirrors that can be held in the faces of offending governments, politicians and the bullies themselves — even when said offenders are the groups' own home countries.

5. Social Media's Continued Growth and Influence

More has been said and by more eloquent and informed commentators than yours truly could possibly add about the potential and realized impact of social media. Just ask Hosni Mubarak or any survivors of Libya's former Qaddafi government about the power of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Only China, North Korea and Iran seem able to control the impact of social media. Two of those three countries are largely isolated from the rest of the world. So far, China manages to have it both ways: restricting social media and remaining open for business with the rest of the world. But even there, its unruly child, Hong Kong, may ultimately break Beijing's control.

4. Growing Influence of LGBT Media

Even as the "mainstream" consumer magazine market has contracted by 20 percent in terms of advertising revenue since 2008, LGBT media has grown by 24 percent during that same period, according to VSS Intelligence, which tracks media market trends. At the same time, circulation of LGBT publications grew by a whopping 15.1 percent in 2013, [according to](#) Rivendell Media.

All of that growth will at least in theory allow publications and news sites like *The Advocate*, *Out* and our worthy competitors to continue bringing light to stories such as the recent defeat of homophobic public officials in Florida who did everything they could to stop marriage licenses from being issued to loving, same-sex couples. Or, to a recent feature about the state of LGBT equality in Africa.

3. Evolving Intelligence

Let's just sum this one up by assuming that humanity is still evolving and that evolution includes the accumulation of greater intelligence for our species. Add in that it is self-evident that accepting and respecting the equality of LGBT members of society is simply smarter than rejecting and denying LGBT people, and voila, another reason to be hopeful.

2. Yesterday's Radicalism Is Tomorrow's Conservatism

Every journalist and writer hopes she or he will say or write something that is remembered. If nothing else, I hope to be remembered by an axiom I first penned in the mid-1990s: What was radical yesterday is liberal today and will be conservative tomorrow.

If the idea that all people are created equal was once considered radical, but is claimed now even by conservative ideologues in many societies, it follows then that the same will ultimately be true of notions such as full equality and acceptance of gender and sexual minorities.

1. The Polls and Big Mo

In U.S. presidential politics, they say momentum, the "Big Mo," is the holy grail. *U.S. News & World Report* recently said, "Gay Marriage has the 'Big Mo.'" Indeed, as that same *U.S. News* article noted, a CBS, *New York Times* poll recently found that only 37 percent of Americans



Mother of Transgender Teen Who Killed Self Speaks Out

An advertisement for a winter getaway. It features a photo of three men smiling and holding a glass. Text reads: "Winter in The Palm Beaches at Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa". Below the photo is a blue button that says "VIEW DEALS". At the bottom are the logos for "EAU PALM BEACH Resort & Spa" and "DISCOVER THE PALM BEACHES FLORIDA".

FOLLOW US



FACEBOOK



TWITTER



RSS FEEDS

A banner for "ADVOCATE" magazine. It says "SIGN UP FOR" on the left, "ADVOCATE" in large bold letters in the center, and "EMAIL UPDATES" on the right. There is a small "Email" icon next to "ADVOCATE".



TWITTER

oppose marriage equality, while 54 percent support it.

While there's certainly a thriving anti-American sentiment in many corners of world affairs, such as sub-Saharan Africa, where several countries have jail-the-gays movements whose leaders claim homosexuality is imported from the West, there's no denying that trends in the U.S. still influence human affairs abroad. As American society becomes more accepting, to a large extent, so too will societies abroad.

TAGS: [WORLD](#), [COMMENTARY](#)

Sponsored Links by Taboola



10 Celebs With Even HOTTER Siblings!!

Caliser



Please Don't Retire At 62. Here's Why.

The Motley Fool



14 Senior Benefits Most Seniors Aren't Taking Advantage Of

Newsmax



20 Male Celebrity Honks

Celebrity Hiccup



5 Banking Services That Will Be Obsolete in 10 Years

GOBankingRates.com



Tom Cruise's Jaw-Dropping Admission Is Scientology's Worst Nightmare

Stirring Daily

MORE IN COMMENTARY



Op-ed: We Need to Protect Our Trans Children



Op-ed: The Year of Hardware, Emojis, and Cake



Editor's Letter: To Be Intersectional or Illegitimate



The 6 Resolutions All Gay Men Should Make

READER COMMENTS (1)

Advocate Staff

Tweets from a list by The Advocate

Members of our reporting and editing team.



Mitch Kellaway

@MitchKellaway

56m

"How Do I Talk to My Trans Teen about Sex?"
actsofgreatness.org/?p=675 via
@ActsofGreatness #trans

Expand



HIV Plus Magazine

@HIVPlusMag

3h

Special Report: Black Gay Men Talk About the Escalation of HIV bit.ly/1vRYcpc

Expand



Mitch Kellaway

@MitchKellaway

7h

Check out Manuel Ricardo Garcia's new photo book "#Trans Men of the World" -- looks intriguing!
thedccenter.blogspot.com/2015/01/trans-...
#guyslikeus

Expand



NASTAD

@NASTAD

22h

An openly HIV-positive #transgender man shares his experience and the lack of data on trans men living with #HIV bit.ly/1AhLuEv

Retweeted by Mitch Kellaway

Expand



Tiffanv Sostar

18h