



Hello everyone my name is Naya Marie Velazco my pronouns are, She/Her/Hers, and am a very proud visibly Trans Xicana who embodies, embraces, and intimately dances within her feminine and masculine energies, very much like the ebb and flow of the moons gravitational pull on the sea. A romantic tango between spirit and my creator, I am reminded of being a spirit inside of a body having a human experience. Energy which cannot be harnessed, possessed, tamed and especially not classified. With a tongue that is unapologetic and when willed to speak can free herself and others from bondage. My mere existence is Queer and Trans liberation, thank you Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and Miss Major-Griffin-Gracy for paving the way and granting us all the privilege to celebrate this year's 2020 June PRIDE month! June 27th, 1969 marks the historical 51st anniversary of the Stone Wall riots! Our Trans and Queer elders remind me that I have been complicit, yielding, and have wilted amongst my oppressors, but today I throw a brick at white supremacy and I chant BLACK TRANS LIVES MATTER! Today I urge you all to throw a brick at Transphobia! There's an urgency more than ever to throw bricks at our own internalized hatred! There's an urgency to throw a brick at machismo and xenophobia! I ask of you to lift that brick without hesitation, or fear in your heart and throw it clear

towards homophobia, classism, racism, ageism, colorism and ableism! Let us not be content and remain tolerant of these afflictions, for there is still a great deal of work ahead.

As a first generation American who's felt sequestered everyday of her life, who's never felt like quite enough, who's never seen a reflection of herself in an American history book, or witnessed positive representation of herself in film, or in main stream media, and has never read a children's book or novel showcasing her own life's journey; and as a result inherently suffers from imposter syndrome and questioning self-esteem. Depression has been the result of my oppression and today let us all push back against the people, places, and things that have held us captive and resist! I took my first drink at 15 years of age and alcoholism stole fifteen years of my life, fifteen years that I can never get back, but have spent the last three years creating significant changes. LGBTQIA2+ Community members are disproportionately affected by alcoholism and substance abuse, we self-medicate in order to numb, and sooth our pain from the stigma and discrimination we face every day. Every day we are faced with an uphill battle of inequalities, we are discriminated in the work place for who we love and how we choose express ourselves. We are denied basic needs such as housing, healthcare, family building services, and legislative laws that are meant to protect us! A way in which we can create harmony within ourselves, is to be of Service with a capitol S. I am humbled

to serve our Transgender, Non-Binary, Two-Spirited, and questioning community members as The San Diego's LGBT Community Centers, Transgender Services Coordinator. Every day I am privileged with sharing my story of recovery, strength, and hope with others. This work, is the most fulfilling part of my day. I am able to go to bed every night with a filled and overjoyed heart and wake up every morning looking forward to meeting one of you! The Center, has challenged me in so many positive ways, all our programs offer direct supportive services, and our leadership pulls together to optimize change and make a difference within our community.

Today, I remove all the insecurities of the past that have kept me bound in this lifetime and perhaps even in a lifetime before. Today let us all proclaim, "I am enough." To the little girl inside of me who wanted to be seen, heard, and understood, let us all say to our inner child, "You have always been enough, and I am here to hold you close!" My advice to parents, or guardians of Trans and Queer youth: listen to your child, support them, protect them, and give them unconditional love! Chances are, you're their hero, so let them step into their own and watch them lead the way! The most painful trauma inflicted on a Transgender child, is the neglect and rejection of a parental figure who absolutely refuses to see their child for who they truly are! Our beautiful Trans and Queer children are the epitome of magnificence, and may another light not be dimmed, and may

another light not be snuffed! As adults we must do better, parents I am asking you to lean in and learn something. In order to do better, we must know better, so now you know!

Earlier this week I was prompted to share an inspirational message to help our young folks who are living in an era of COVID-19, but I was unable to express anything resounding. Except, share a clear message of gratitude for their incredible call to action regarding the Black Lives Matter movement! Have been impressed by their ability to utilize social media to call out and dismantle white supremacy! I hear your voices loud and clear speaking up against social, institutional, and governmental injustice. You all are practicing alchemy by creatively hand crafting signs, sowing together masks, in order to show up and exercise your first amendment right! These folks have been tactical while strategically planning to organize rallies, marches, and peaceful protest! Their courage to take on the front lines, exemplifying bravery by being human barricades, offering aid, assistance, and transportation to those in need! Remember, no role is more important than another, it takes a village to create change! Each and everyone one of you have played an intricate role in this national and global civil rights movement!

Let us all honor the life of George Floyd, who lost his life on May 25th, 2020 at the age of 46, by a system that perpetuates violence and bigotry, the police. May we also celebrate the life of Tony

McDade, a Black Trans Man, 38 years of age, who was shot and killed by Tallahassee police on May 27th 2020, because “he fit the description” we all know what that means “being Black and existing in America.” May we also have justice for Lyanna Dior, a Black Trans Woman who was viciously attacked by a group of 20 men on June 1st, the first day of 2020 PRIDE Month! And let’s all wish Breonna Taylor a happy 27th birthday, may she rest in power, she lost her life on March 13th, 2020 when police broke into her home during a sting operation and fatally shot her 8 times! May justice be served.

This country’s core values have been founded on the slavery of Black lives, the exploitation of children, and genocide of millions indigenous peoples. We know this and still question whether, or not racism exists in 2020, let me tell you, racism is alive and well still flowing through the bloodlines of Americans. The current rhetoric of our nation has made explicit attacks against Black lives and other marginalized communities. The way we attack back and create a redistribution of power, is by voting this election year, vote Before, or on Tuesday, November 3rd!