

## **Website Statement Addressing Ongoing Controversy over Cancellation of Bitch's Performance**

June 2007

The Boston Dyke March Committee would like to address ongoing public discussion regarding its decision to cancel Bitch's performance at the Dyke March rally this year.

In the week preceding the Dyke March, members of the Boston queer, genderqueer, and transgender community began contacting the Dyke March Committee, expressing dissatisfaction about the selection of Bitch as a featured performer. As the week continued, many community members and organizations contacted the Dyke March, urging the committee to cancel the performance. By the end of the week, it was obvious that the unhappiness had become widespread and threatened to disrupt the spirit of unity and inclusivity that the Boston Dyke March has enjoyed for so many years. The widespread dissatisfaction included many longtime Dyke March supporters, past committee members, community sponsors, and liaison groups. The mission of the Boston Dyke March is to provide a dynamic and welcoming space for participants of all sexualities, gender expressions, races, ages, ethnicities, sizes, economic backgrounds, and physical abilities. Because our mission is one of inclusivity and unity, we are committed to listening and responding to the voices of our LGBTQ community members.

This decision made by the Dyke March Committee was in response to the hurt and sorrow expressed by a large segment of our community, and is in no way a statement about Bitch as a performer or dyke activist.

Much of the public discussion regarding the Boston Dyke March's decision to cancel Bitch has come from people outside our community. The Boston queer and dyke community is committed to progressive politics of trans-inclusion, so feedback from the Boston community has been overwhelmingly positive. We are excited to announce that the 2007 Dyke March was the largest Dyke March in Boston history. The Boston Dyke March has been and continues to be for everyone.