



VACAYA Letter to Puerto Rico Legislature

VACAYA is the world's first and only large-scale full-ship and full-resort travel company built to serve the entire LGBTQIAPK community. As company with a significant investment in bringing LGBTQIAPK visitors to Puerto Rico, we call on the Puerto Rican Legislature to engage with non-governmental LGBTQIAPK Community leaders and reaffirm the rights of Transgender people within the new Civil Code. Governor Vázquez and the current administration must give the entire LGBTQIAPK community the thorough, fair, and transparent discussion and debate it deserves.

In January 2020 we launched the sale of a 2,100+ passenger charter cruise leaving from and returning to San Juan, Puerto Rico on February 13-20, 2021. When choosing our charter cruise destinations, we have the entire world in consideration for those millions of dollars of tourist investment. We chose San Juan because of its welcoming spirit, its friendly people, its warm hospitality, and its vibrant LGBTQIAPK community.

We choose destinations based on myriad factors, but the single most important aspect in selecting a destination for our events is the destination's embrace of the LGBTQIAPK community. That makes Puerto Rico's new Civil Code that much more disappointing – both in how it was pushed through the legislature and in substance.

Equal human rights are everyone's responsibility. We're seeing a global push right now to finally recognize that the way things have been are not good enough. And that "not good enough" applies equally to all minorities. What you've done continues an old way of thinking, one we're confident you're now realizing is rooted in deeply-ingrained prejudices and biases. If the world-wide protests have shown us nothing else, it's that the old way of viewing society's issues just won't cut it anymore.

There is a right and wrong side to the issue of full equality for all. We hope Puerto Rico will stand on the *right* side of history here and implore you to ensure that the ambiguous language in the Civil Code is not used to discriminate against LGBTQIAPK Puerto Ricans. Otherwise, each of you will certainly be faced with history's judgment. And to put it bluntly, because of these actions, Puerto Rico will begin to lose the support of the LGBTQIAPK community and LGBTQIAPK companies. Based on where you are today, VACAYA will certainly have no choice but to remove Puerto Rico from consideration for our future LGBTQIAPK events.

No matter the ways in which we are diverse, regardless of our race, color, sexual orientation, or gender identity, we are all in this together. Do what's right for your fellow human beings.

The Vacayans