

Bill of Rights for Racially Mixed People

By Maria P.P. Root

I HAVE THE RIGHT...

- Not to justify my existence in this world.
- Not to keep the races separate within me.
- Not to be responsible for people's discomfort with my physical ambiguity.
- Not to justify my ethnic legitimacy.

I HAVE THE RIGHT...

- To identify myself differently than strangers expect me to identify.
- To identify myself differently from how my parents identify me.
- To identify myself differently from my brothers and sisters.
- To identify myself differently in different situations.

I HAVE THE RIGHT...

- To create a vocabulary to communicate about being multiracial.
- To change my identity over my lifetime -- and more than once.
- To have loyalties and identification with more than one group of people.
- To freely choose whom I befriend and love

Maria P. P. Root, PhD, is author of
["The Multiracial Experience: Racial Borders as the New Frontier"](#)
which you can purchase through [Interracial Voice](#) and [Amazon.com](#)