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