

*Conversations*

*Conversation*

# Welcome

Lesbian

Gay

Bi Sexual

Transgender

Questioning

Youth

Queer

Intersex

# WELCOME

What are the issues and challenges for LGBTQ Youth?

What are the barriers to permanence?

What will help facilitate permanency?

What can every organization do to better serve LGBTQ Youth?

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## What are the Implications for LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care?

- Agency liability issues impacting work (being out) with youth.
- Gay parents may be more "open" to many different types (age, race, etc.) of youth
- Health issues STD/HIV
  - Mental health if not open and supportive
- Health care for transgender youth.

## What Will Help Facilitate Permanence for LGBTQ Youth?

- Discussion of youth potentially being gay a time of training placement and educating families
- Make sure there are GLBTQ cultural connections for GLBQ kids when is "straight" homes
- Training and specialized training for gender identity/transgendered youth.
- Feeling safe at home

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#### What can Every Organization Do Better Serving LGBTQ Youth?

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- Make your space “Gay” friendly
  - Posters, Literature, etc
- Normalizing relationship conversations
- Work to break down legal barriers to staff/parents coming out
- Foster parent training
- Push for LGBTQ rights in care with state system
- Need to gather data on GLBTQ youth numbers
  - [Kids Need Support!](#)

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#### What are the Barriers to Permanency for LGBTQ Youth?

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- Homophobia in institutions and organizations
- Lack of Acceptance/Safety by family/Parents
- Belief in gay community that the “system” does not want us.
- Not all LGBTQ families want a gay kid and not all gay kids want a gay family.
- Easier to open a “group” home than find a foster family.
- Do we make gay kids one dimensional?
  - There are many parts of who they are.

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#### What are the issues and challenges for the LGBTQ Youth?

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- Feeling safe
  - Cultural homophobia
- Institutionalized homophobia
  - We don't acknowledge “these kids” exists
- Lack of support from parents/families