

glaad  **media reference guide**

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INTRODUCTION

Fair, Accurate & Inclusive

Fair, accurate and inclusive news media coverage has played an important role in expanding public awareness and understanding of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) lives. However, many reporters, editors and producers continue to face challenges covering these issues in a complex, often rhetorically charged, climate.

Media coverage of LGBT people has become increasingly multi-dimensional, reflecting both the diversity of our community and the growing visibility of our families and our relationships. As a result, reporting that remains mired in simplistic, predictable “pro-gay”/“anti-gay” dualisms does a disservice to readers seeking information on the diversity of opinion and experience within our community. Misinformation and misconceptions about our lives can be corrected when journalists diligently research the facts and expose the myths (such as pernicious claims that gay people are more likely to sexually abuse children) that often are used against us.



There continues to be a need for journalists to distinguish between opposing viewpoints on LGBT issues and the defamatory rhetoric that fuels prejudice and discrimination. While defamatory comments may be newsworthy, they should no longer be used simply to provide “balance” in a news story.

Unfortunately, anti-gay individuals and organizations continue to see their incendiary rhetoric and inaccurate, sensationalistic distortions of LGBT lives legitimized through stories, features and profiles. Such inclusion, despite the best efforts of reporters striving for fair and accurate coverage, devalues the quality of journalism.

In an era when gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender lives increasingly intersect with mainstream media coverage of family, faith, the economy, health care, politics, sports,

entertainment, and a myriad of other issues, we at GLAAD are committed to providing timely and accurate resources for journalists. GLAAD believes the best news coverage allows readers, viewers, and listeners to form their own conclusions based on factual information, compelling stories and appropriate context. We ask that you help give them that opportunity in your coverage of LGBT issues.

GLAAD's Media Reference Guide is intended to be used by journalists reporting for mainstream media outlets and by creators in entertainment media who want to tell our stories fairly and accurately. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive glossary of language used within the LGBT community, nor is it a prescriptive guide for LGBT people.



Sarah Kate Ellis
President & CEO
GLAAD

LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Sexual Orientation

The scientifically accurate term for an individual's enduring physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual (straight) orientations. Avoid the offensive term "sexual preference," which is used to suggest that being gay, lesbian or bisexual is voluntary and therefore "curable." People need not have had specific sexual experiences to know their own sexual orientation; in fact, they need not have had any sexual experience at all.

Gay

The adjective used to describe people whose enduring physical, romantic and/or emotional attractions are to people of the same sex (e.g., *gay man, gay people*). Sometimes *lesbian* (n. or adj.) is the preferred term for women. Avoid identifying gay people as "homosexuals" an outdated term considered derogatory and offensive to many lesbian and gay people.

Lesbian

A woman whose enduring physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction is to other women. Some lesbians may prefer to identify as gay (adj.) or as gay women. Avoid identifying lesbians as "homosexuals," a derogatory term (*see Offensive Terms to Avoid*).

Bisexual, Bi

A person who has the capacity to form enduring physical, romantic and/or emotional attractions to those of the same gender or to those of another gender. People may experience this attraction in differing ways and degrees over their lifetime. Bisexual people need not have had specific sexual experiences to be bisexual; in fact, they need not have had any sexual experience at all to identify as bisexual.

Transgender, Transsexual (see next section)

LGBT / GLBT

Acronym for “lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender.” LGBT and/or GLBT are often used because they are more inclusive of the diversity of the community. Care should be taken to ensure that audiences are not confused by their use. Ensure that the acronym is spelled out on first usage.

Queer

Traditionally a pejorative term, *queer* has been appropriated by some LGBT people to describe themselves. However, it is not universally accepted even within the LGBT community and should be avoided unless describing someone who self-identifies that way or in a direct quote. When Q is seen at the end of “LGBT,” it typically means queer and/or questioning.

Heterosexual

An adjective used to describe people whose enduring physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction is to people of the opposite sex. Also *straight*.

Homosexual

(*see Offensive Terms to Avoid*) Outdated clinical term considered derogatory and offensive by many gay and lesbian people. The Associated Press, *New York Times* and *Washington Post* restrict usage of the term. *Gay* and/or *lesbian* accurately describe those who are attracted to people of the same sex.

Homophobia

Fear of lesbians and gay men. *Intolerance* or *prejudice* is usually a more accurate description of antipathy toward LGBT people.

Biphobia

Fear of bisexuals, often based on stereotypes, including inaccurate associations with infidelity, promiscuity, and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases. *Intolerance* or *prejudice* is usually a more accurate description of antipathy toward bisexual people.

LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Coming Out

A lifelong process of self-acceptance. People forge a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender identity first to themselves and then they may reveal it to others. Publicly sharing one's identity may or may not be part of coming out.

Out

A person who self-identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender in their personal, public, and/or professional lives. For example: *Ricky Martin is an out pop star from Puerto Rico.* Preferred to *openly gay*.

Openly Gay

Describes people who self-identify as gay in their personal, public, and/or professional lives. Also *openly lesbian*, *openly bisexual*, *openly transgender*. While accurate and commonly used, the phrase still implies a confessional aspect to publicly acknowledging one's sexual orientation or gender identity. See *out* above.

Closeted

Describes a person who is not open about his or her sexual orientation or gender identity. Better to simply refer to someone as not out about being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

Outing

The act of publicly declaring (sometimes based on rumor and/or speculation) or revealing another person's sexual orientation or gender identity without that person's consent. Considered inappropriate by a large portion of the LGBT community.

Lifestyle

(see Offensive Terms to Avoid) Inaccurate term used by anti-gay extremists to denigrate lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lives. As there is no one straight lifestyle, there is no one lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender lifestyle.

Marriage

Many states now recognize the marriages of same-sex couples. Because a key section of the Defense of Marriage Act, passed by the federal government in 1996, was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in June 2013, legally married couples are now recognized by the federal government. However, the status of couples who marry in a state where it is legal, and then move to a state where it is not legal remains unclear. Furthermore, many states still do not allow same-sex couples to legally marry.

Civil Union

State-based relationship recognition for gay and lesbian couples that offers some or all of the state (though none of the federal) rights, protections and responsibilities of marriage

Domestic Partnership

Civil/legal recognition of a committed relationship between two people that sometimes extends limited protections to them.

Sodomy Laws

Historically used to selectively persecute gay people, the state laws often referred to as “sodomy laws” were ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003). “Sodomy” should never be used to describe gay, lesbian or bisexual relationships or sexuality.

LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL TERMS TO AVOID

Offensive: “homosexual” (n. or adj.)

Preferred: “gay” (adj.); “gay man” or “lesbian” (n.); “gay person/people”

Please use “gay” or “lesbian” to describe people attracted to members of the same sex. Because of the clinical history of the word “homosexual,” it is aggressively used by anti-gay extremists to suggest that gay people are somehow diseased or psychologically/emotionally disordered – notions discredited by the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association in the 1970s. Please avoid using “homosexual” except in direct quotes. Please also avoid using “homosexual” as a style variation simply to avoid repeated use of the word “gay.” The Associated Press, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* restrict use of the term “homosexual” (see AP & New York Times Style).

Offensive: “homosexual relations/relationship,” “homosexual couple,” “homosexual sex,” etc.

Preferred: “relationship,” “couple” (or, if necessary, “gay couple”), “sex,” etc.

Identifying a same-sex couple as “a homosexual couple,” characterizing their relationship as “a homosexual relationship,” or identifying their intimacy as “homosexual sex” is extremely offensive and should be avoided. These constructions are frequently used by anti-gay extremists to denigrate gay people, couples and relationships.

As a rule, try to avoid labeling an activity, emotion or relationship “gay,” “lesbian” or “bisexual” unless you would call the same activity, emotion or relationship “straight” if engaged in by someone of another orientation. In most cases, your readers, viewers or listeners will be able to discern people’s sexes and/or orientations through the names of the parties involved, your depictions of their relationships, and your use of pronouns.

Offensive: “sexual preference”

Preferred: “sexual orientation” or “orientation”

The term “sexual preference” is typically used to suggest that being lesbian, gay or bisexual is a choice and therefore can and should be “cured.” *Sexual orientation* is the accurate description of an individual’s enduring physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex and is inclusive of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, as well as straight men and women (see AP & New York Times Style).

Offensive: “gay lifestyle” or “homosexual lifestyle”

Preferred: “gay lives,” “gay and lesbian lives”

There is no single lesbian, gay or bisexual lifestyle. Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals are diverse in the ways they lead their lives. The phrase “gay lifestyle” is used to denigrate lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals suggesting that their orientation is a choice and therefore can and should be “cured” (*See AP & New York Times Style*).

Offensive: “admitted homosexual” or “avowed homosexual”

Preferred: “openly lesbian,” “openly gay,” “openly bisexual,” or simply “out”

Dated term used to describe those who self-identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual in their personal, public, and/or professional lives. The words “admitted” or “avowed” suggest that being gay is somehow shameful or inherently secretive. You may also simply describe the person as being out, for example: “Ricky Martin is an out pop star from Puerto Rico.” Avoid the use of the word “homosexual” in any case (*see AP & New York Times Style*).

Offensive: “gay agenda” or “homosexual agenda”

Preferred: Accurate descriptions of the issues (e.g., “inclusion in existing non-discrimination and hate crimes laws,” “ending the ban on transgender service members”)

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are motivated by the same hopes, concerns and desires as other everyday Americans. They seek to be able to earn a living, be safe in their communities, serve their country, and take care of the ones they love. Their commitment to equality is one they share with many allies and advocates who are not LGBT. Notions of a so-called “homosexual agenda” are rhetorical inventions of anti-gay extremists seeking to create a climate of fear by portraying the pursuit of equal opportunity for LGBT people as sinister (*see AP & New York Times Style*).

Offensive: “special rights”

Preferred: “equal rights” or “equal protection”

Anti-gay extremists frequently characterize equal protection of the law for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-

LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL TERMS TO AVOID

gender people as “special rights” to incite opposition to such things as relationship recognition and inclusive non-discrimination laws (see *AP & New York Times Style*).

“fag,” “faggot,” “dyke,” “homo,” “sodomite,” and similar epithets

The criteria for using these derogatory terms should be the same as those applied to vulgar epithets used to target other groups: they should not be used except in a direct quote that reveals the bias of the person quoted. So that such words are not given credibility in the media, it is preferred that reporters say, “The person used a derogatory word for a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender person.”

“deviant,” “disordered,” “dysfunctional,” “diseased,” “perverted,” “destructive” and similar descriptions

The notion that being gay, lesbian or bisexual is a psychological disorder was discredited by the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association in the 1970s. Today, words such as “deviant,” “diseased” and “disordered” often are used to portray LGBT people as less than human, mentally ill, or as a danger to society. Words such as these should be avoided in stories about the gay community. If they must be used, they should be quoted directly in a way that clearly reveals the bias of the person being quoted.

Associating gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people with pedophilia, child abuse, sexual abuse, bestiality, bigamy, polygamy, adultery and/or incest

Being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender is neither synonymous with, nor indicative of, any tendency toward pedophilia, child abuse, sexual abuse, bestiality, bigamy, polygamy, adultery and/or incest. Such claims, innuendoes and associations often are used to insinuate that LGBT people pose a threat to society, to families, and to children in particular. Such assertions and insinuations are defamatory and should be avoided, except in direct quotes that clearly reveal the bias of the person quoted.

Sex

The classification of people as male or female. At birth infants are assigned a sex, usually based on the appearance of their external anatomy. (This is what is written on the birth certificate.) However, a person's sex is actually a combination of bodily characteristics including: chromosomes, hormones, internal and external reproductive organs, and secondary sex characteristics.

Gender Identity

One's internal, deeply held sense of one's gender. For transgender people, their own internal gender identity does not match the sex they were assigned at birth. Most people have a gender identity of man or woman (or boy or girl). For some people, their gender identity does not fit neatly into one of those two choices. Unlike gender expression (see below) gender identity is not visible to others.

Gender Expression

External manifestations of gender, expressed through one's name, pronouns, clothing, haircut, behavior, voice, or body characteristics. Society identifies these cues as masculine and feminine, although what is considered masculine and feminine changes over time and varies by culture. Typically, transgender people seek to make their gender expression align with their gender identity, rather than the sex they were assigned at birth.

Sexual Orientation

Describes an individual's enduring physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction to another person. Gender identity and sexual orientation are not the same. Transgender people may be straight, lesbian, gay, or bisexual. For example, a person who transitions from male to female and is attracted solely to men would identify as a straight woman.

TRANSGENDER

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TRANSGENDER-SPECIFIC TERMINOLOGY

Transgender

(adj.) An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. People under the transgender umbrella may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms - including *transgender*. Some of those terms are defined below. Use the descriptive term preferred by the individual. Many transgender people are prescribed hormones by their doctors to change their bodies. Some undergo surgery as well. But not all transgender people can or will take those steps, and a transgender identity is not dependent upon medical procedures.

Transsexual

(adj.) An older term that originated in the medical and psychological communities. Still preferred by some people who have permanently changed - or seek to change - their bodies through medical interventions (including but not limited to hormones and/or surgeries). Unlike *transgender*, *transsexual* is **not** an umbrella term. Many transgender people do not identify as transsexual and prefer the word *transgender*. It is best to ask which term an individual prefers. If preferred, use as an adjective: transsexual woman or transsexual man.

Trans

Used as shorthand to mean *transgender* or *transsexual* - or sometimes to be inclusive of a wide variety of identities under the transgender umbrella. Because its meaning is not precise or widely understood, be careful when using it with audiences who may not understand what it means. Avoid unless used in a direct quote or in cases where you can clearly explain the term's meaning in the context of your story.

Transgender man

People who were assigned female at birth but identify and live as a man may use this term to describe themselves. They may shorten it to trans man. (Note: *trans man*, not “transman.”) Some may also use FTM, an abbreviation for female-to-male. Some may prefer to simply be called men, without any modifier. It is best to ask which term an individual prefers.

Transgender woman

People who were assigned male at birth but identify and live as a woman may use this term to describe themselves. They may shorten to trans woman. (Note: *trans woman*, not “transwoman.”) Some may also use MTF, an abbreviation for male-to-female. Some may prefer to simply be called *women*, without any modifier. It is best to ask which term an individual prefers.

Cross-dresser

While anyone may wear clothes associated with a different sex, the term *cross-dresser* is typically used to refer to heterosexual men who occasionally wear clothes, makeup, and accessories culturally associated with women. This activity is a form of gender expression, and not done for entertainment purposes. Cross-dressers do not wish to permanently change their sex or live full-time as women. *Replaces the term “transvestite.”*

PLEASE NOTE: Transgender women are not cross-dressers or drag queens. Drag queens are men, typically gay men, who dress like women for the purpose of entertainment. Be aware of the differences between transgender women, cross-dressers, and drag queens. Use the term preferred by the individual. Do not use the word “transvestite” at all, unless someone specifically self-identifies that way.

TRANSGENDER GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Transition

Altering one's birth sex is not a one-step procedure; it is a complex process that occurs over a long period of time. Transition includes some or all of the following personal, medical, and legal steps: telling one's family, friends, and co-workers; using a different name and new pronouns; dressing differently; changing one's name and/or sex on legal documents; hormone therapy; and possibly (though not always) one or more types of surgery. The exact steps involved in transition vary from person to person. **Avoid the phrase "sex change."**

Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS)

Refers to doctor-supervised surgical interventions, and is only one small part of transition (see **transition** above). Avoid the phrase "sex change operation." Do not refer to someone as being "pre-op" or "post-op." Not all transgender people choose to, or can afford to, undergo medical surgeries. **Journalists should avoid overemphasizing the role of surgeries in the transition process.**

Gender Identity Disorder (GID)

outdated, see Gender Dysphoria

Gender Dysphoria

In 2013, the American Psychiatric Association released the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V) which replaced the outdated entry "Gender Identity Disorder" with *Gender Dysphoria*, and changed the criteria for diagnosis. The necessity of a psychiatric diagnosis remains controversial, as both psychiatric and medical authorities recommend individualized medical treatment through hormones and/or surgeries to treat gender dysphoria. Some transgender advocates believe the inclusion of Gender Dysphoria in the DSM is necessary in order to advocate for health insurance that covers the medically necessary treatment recommended for transgender people.

OTHER TERMS YOU MAY HEAR

You may hear the following terms when doing research on transgender issues or speaking to an interview subject. As they are not commonly known outside the LGBT community, they will require context and definition if used in mainstream media. **Their inclusion here is for informational purposes.**

Cisgender

A term used by some to describe people who are not transgender. “Cis-” is a Latin prefix meaning “on the same side as,” and is therefore an antonym of “trans-.” A more widely understood way to describe people who are not transgender is simply to say *non-transgender people*.

Gender Non-Conforming

A term used to describe some people whose gender expression is different from conventional expectations of masculinity and femininity. **Please note that not all gender non-conforming people identify as transgender; nor are all transgender people gender non-conforming.** Many people have gender expressions that are not entirely conventional -- that fact alone does not make them transgender. Many transgender men and women have gender expressions that are conventionally masculine or feminine. Simply being transgender does not make someone gender non-conforming. The term is not a synonym for *transgender* or *transsexual* and should only be used if someone self-identifies as gender non-conforming.

Genderqueer

A term used by some people who experience their gender identity and/or gender expression as falling outside the categories of man and woman. They may define their gender as falling somewhere in between man and woman, or they may define it as wholly different from these terms. The term is not a synonym for *transgender* or *transsexual* and should only be used if someone self-identifies as genderqueer.

TRANSGENDER NAMES, PRONOUN USAGE & DESCRIPTION

Always use a transgender person’s chosen name.

Many transgender people are able to obtain a legal name change from a court. However, some transgender people cannot afford a legal name change or are not yet old enough to change their name legally. They should be afforded the same respect for their chosen name as anyone else who lives by a name other than their birth name (e.g., celebrities).

Whenever possible, ask transgender people which pronoun they would like you to use.

A person who identifies as a certain gender, whether or not that person has taken hormones or had some form of surgery, should be referred to using the pronouns appropriate for that gender.

If it is not possible to ask a transgender person which pronoun is preferred, use the pronoun that is consistent with the person’s appearance and gender expression.

For example, if a person wears a dress and uses the name Susan, feminine pronouns are usually appropriate.

It is never appropriate to put quotation marks around either a transgender person’s chosen name or the pronoun that reflects that person’s gender identity.

The Associated Press Stylebook provides guidelines for journalists reporting on transgender people and issues.

According to the AP Stylebook, reporters should “use the pronoun preferred by the individuals who have acquired the physical characteristics of the opposite sex or present themselves in a way that does not correspond with their sex at birth. If that preference is not expressed, use the pronoun consistent with the way the individuals live publicly.” (*see AP & New York Times Style*)

TRANSGENDER NAMES, PRONOUN USAGE & DESCRIPTION

When describing transgender people, please use the correct term or terms to describe their gender identity.

For example, a person who was assigned male at birth and transitions to living as a woman is a *transgender woman*, whereas a person who was assigned female at birth and transitions to living as a man is a *transgender man*. If someone prefers a different term, use it along with an explanation of what that term means to them.

Avoid pronoun confusion when examining the stories and backgrounds of transgender people prior to their transition.

Ideally a story will not use pronouns associated with a person's birth sex when referring to the person's life prior to transition. Try to write transgender people's stories from the present day, instead of narrating them from some point in the past, thus avoiding confusion and potentially disrespectful use of incorrect pronouns.

TRANSGENDER TERMS TO AVOID

PROBLEMATIC TERMS

Problematic: “transgenders,” “a transgender”

Preferred: transgender people, a transgender person

Transgender should be used as an adjective, not as a noun. Do not say, “Tony is a transgender,” or “The parade included many transgenders.” Instead say, “Tony is a transgender man,” or “The parade included many transgender people.”

Problematic: “transgendered”

Preferred: transgender

The adjective *transgender* should never have an extraneous “-ed” tacked onto the end. An “-ed” suffix adds unnecessary length to the word and can cause tense confusion and grammatical errors. It also brings transgender into alignment with lesbian, gay, and bisexual. You would not say that Elton John is “gayed” or Ellen DeGeneres is “lesbianed,” therefore you would not say Chaz Bono is “transgendered.”

Problematic: “transgenderism”

Preferred: none

This is not a term commonly used by transgender people. This is a term used by anti-transgender activists to dehumanize transgender people and reduce who they are to “a condition.” Refer to *being transgender* instead, or refer to *the transgender community*. You can also refer to *the movement for transgender equality*.

Problematic: “sex change,” “pre-operative,” “post-operative”

Preferred: transition

Referring to a “sex-change operation,” or using terms such as “pre-operative” or “post-operative,” inaccurately suggests that one must have surgery in order to transition. Avoid overemphasizing surgery when discussing transgender people or the process of transition.

Problematic: “biologically male,” “biologically female,” “genetically male,” “genetically female,” “born a man,” “born a woman”

Preferred: *assigned male at birth, assigned female at birth or designated male at birth, designated female at birth*

Problematic phrases like those above are reductive and overly-simplify a very complex subject. As mentioned above, a person’s sex is determined by a number of factors - not simply genetics - and one’s biology does not “trump” one’s gender identity. Finally, people are born babies - they are not “born a man” or “born a woman.”

Defamatory Terms

Defamatory: “deceptive,” “fooling,” “pretending,” “posing,” “trap,” or “masquerading”

Gender identity is an integral part of a person’s identity. Do not characterize transgender people as “deceptive,” as “fooling” or “trapping” others, or as “pretending” to be, “posing” or “masquerading” as a man or a woman. Such descriptions are defamatory and insulting.

Defamatory: “tranny,” “she-male,” “he/she,” “it,” “shim”

These words dehumanize transgender people and should not be used in mainstream media. The criteria for using these derogatory terms should be the same as those applied to vulgar epithets used to target other groups: they should not be used except in a direct quote that reveals the bias of the person quoted. So that such words are not given credibility in the media, it is preferred that reporters say, “The person used a derogatory word for a transgender person.” Please note that while some transgender people may use “tranny” to describe themselves, others find it profoundly offensive.

Defamatory: “bathroom bill”

A term created and used by far-right extremists to oppose non-discrimination laws that protect transgender people. The term is geared to incite fear and panic at the thought of encountering transgender people in public restrooms. Simply refer to the *non-discrimination law/ordinance* instead.

AP & NEW YORK TIMES STYLE

In recent years, the nation's leading media style books have published guidelines for language and terminology use when reporting on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lives, issues and stories.

The Associated Press and *The New York Times* both restrict usage of the term "homosexual" - a word whose clinical history and pejorative connotations are routinely exploited by anti-gay extremists to suggest that lesbians and gay men are somehow diseased or psychologically and emotionally disordered. Editors at the AP and *New York Times* also have instituted rules against the use of inaccurate terminology such as "sexual preference" and "gay lifestyle."

Following are the LGBT-related editorial guidelines from The Associated Press and *The New York Times* as they appear in their respective style guides.

Associated Press (2013)

gay

Used to describe men and women attracted to the same sex, though *lesbian* is the more common term for women. Preferred over *homosexual* except in clinical contexts or references to sexual activity. Include sexual orientation only when it is pertinent to a story, and avoid references to "sexual preference" or to a gay or alternative "lifestyle."

lesbian

See *gay*.

husband, wife

Regardless of sexual orientation, *husband* or *wife* is acceptable in all references to individuals in any legally recognized marriage.

transgender

Use the pronoun preferred by the individuals who have acquired the physical characteristics of the opposite sex or present themselves in a way that does not correspond with their sex at birth. If that preference is not expressed, use the pronoun consistent with the way the individuals live publicly. See *transsexual*.

transsexual

A person who changes gender by undergoing surgical procedures. See *transgender*.

New York Times (2013)

bisexual.

Do not use the slang shorthand *bi*.

homosexuality.

See bisexual; gay; lesbian; sexual orientation.

gay (adj.)

is preferred to *homosexual* in most references. Generally confine *homosexual* in specific references to sexual activity or clinical orientation. *Gay* may refer to homosexual men or more generally to homosexual men and women. In specific references to women, *lesbian* is preferred. When the distinction is useful, write *gay men and lesbians*. Do not use *gay* as a singular noun. As a noun, the plural *gays* is acceptable, but avoid the singular *gay*. *Also see sexual orientation.*

gay rights.

Advocates for gay issues are concerned that the term may invite resentment by implying “special rights” that are denied other citizens; the advocates prefer phrases like *equal rights* or *civil rights for gay people*. But the shorter phrase is in wide use and often indispensable for confined headlines. When it occurs, define the issues precisely.

homosexuality.

See bisexual; gay; lesbian; sexual orientation.

lesbian

(adj. and n.). Lowercase except in the names of organizations. Lesbian women is redundant. *See sexual orientation.*

AP & NEW YORK TIMES STYLE

L.G.B.T.

Except in quotations and organization names, seek alternatives to this cumbersome abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. (Take care, however, not to inadvertently exclude relevant information; for example, if antidiscrimination legislation specifically applies to bisexual and transgender people, avoid suggesting that it only affects gay people.) If the abbreviation is necessary as a first reference, deftly explain it at some point. Note that some groups use G.L.B.T. instead. Do not use other, less familiar variations that include additional categories.

same-sex marriage, gay marriage.

Both terms are acceptable, though the former is sometimes preferred to make clear that the expression covers both gay men and lesbians. Normally use *wife* or *husband* for people who are legally married. (*Spouse* is also accurate for either partner in any legal marriage, but do not use it simply to avoid *husband* and *wife* for same-sex couples.)

sex changes.

See *transgender*.

sexual orientation.

Never *sexual preference*, which carries the disputed implication that sexuality is a matter of choice. Cite a person's sexual orientation only when it is pertinent and its pertinence is clear to the reader. *Also see bisexual; gay; lesbian; straight.*

sexual preference.

Use *sexual orientation* instead.

straight,

meaning heterosexual, is classed as slang by some dictionaries and standard by others. Avoid any use that conveys an in-group flavor. But use the term freely (adj. only) in phrases drawing a contrast with *gay*: *The film attracted gay and straight audiences alike.*

transgender

(adj.) is an overall term for people whose current identity differs from their sex at birth, whether or not they have changed their biological characteristics. Cite a person's transgender status only when it is pertinent and its pertinence is clear to the reader. Unless a former name is newsworthy or pertinent, use the name and pronouns (*he, his, she, her, hers*) preferred by the transgender person. If no preference is known, use the pronouns consistent with the way the subject lives publicly.

Transgender is generally preferable to the older *transsexual*. Do not use the offensive slang *tranny*.

transvestite

is outdated and often viewed as offensive. Use *cross-dresser* instead to describe someone of either sex who sometimes dresses in clothing associated with the opposite sex. Note that cross-dressing does not necessarily indicate that someone is gay or transgender.

IN FOCUS

COVERING THE BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

Issues pertaining to the bisexual community are often under-reported or poorly reported by mainstream and LGBT media, leading many people who are bisexual to feel misunderstood, isolated and depressed. Multiple research studies have shown that people who identify as bisexual are more likely to binge drink, engage in self-harm, and have suicidal thoughts than gay, lesbian or heterosexual people.

A 2013 Pew Research Center report showed only 28% of bisexuals said most or all of the important people in their lives knew about their sexual orientation, compared to 71% of lesbians and 77% of gay men. Among bisexual men, only 12% said they were out to that degree. At work, only 11% of bisexual people polled by Pew said most of their closest coworkers knew about their sexual orientation, compared to 48% of gay men and 50% of lesbians.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, bisexual people reported they “avoided coming out because they didn’t want to deal with misconceptions that bisexuals were indecisive or incapable of monogamy — stereotypes that exist among straights, gays and lesbians alike.”

By being more cognizant of the realities facing bisexual people, and by being careful about reporting on someone who identifies as bisexual, the media can help eliminate some of the misconceptions and damaging stereotypes bisexual people face on a daily basis.

Identify individuals accurately.

If someone clearly states that they identify as bisexual, do not identify them as gay or lesbian instead. Simply because a person is currently in a same-sex relationship, that does not negate his or her bisexual orientation. Similarly, if a person is in what appears to be a heterosexual relationship, that also does not negate his or her bisexual orientation.

Identifying couples accurately.

When writing about two people of the same sex in a relationship, consider referring to them as a same-sex couple. Do not assume they are a gay couple or a lesbian couple until you know for certain that both people in the couple identify as gay or lesbian.

It’s not a phase or a deception.

Do not imply that being bisexual is a phase and that bisexuals are “on their way” to being gay or lesbian. People who self-identify as bisexual are not confused, indecisive, or lying. Studies consistently show that bisexual is a distinct sexual orientation and not an experimental or transitional stage.

Bisexual does not mean promiscuous:

A common stereotype is that bisexual people do not want to be, or cannot be, monogamous. This is simply not true. Bisexual people form monogamous relationships in the same percentages as heterosexual, gay, and lesbian people. It is inaccurate and harmful to imply that bisexual people are more promiscuous than others. Since the 1990s, there has been a tendency to blame promiscuous bisexual people for spreading HIV and other diseases to the “general population.” This is a blatantly false and harmful stereotype.

Other terms you might hear:

Some people who have the capacity to be attracted to people of any gender choose other words to describe their sexual orientation such as: pansexual, polysexual, omnisexual, fluid, or queer. Some people prefer to avoid any label at all. Given the lack of understanding of even the word bisexual, it’s best to only use alternate words if someone specifically self-identifies that way and asks for their preferred term to be used.

IN FOCUS

COVERING THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

UCLA's Williams Institute estimates there are 700,000 transgender people in the United States. But according to a 2013 Pew poll, only 8% of Americans say they personally know someone who is transgender - compared to 90% of Americans who say they personally know someone who is lesbian, gay, or bisexual. If a stereotypical or defamatory LGB image appears in the media, viewers can compare it to real people they know. But when a stereotypical or defamatory transgender image appears in the media, the viewer may assume that all transgender people are actually like that; they have no real-life experience with which to compare it.

Transgender issues can be complicated, but GLAAD staff are always available to answer questions, provide resources, and identify spokespeople. Below are some basic tips for writing fair and accurate stories about transgender people.

BASICS OF WRITING A TRANSGENDER STORY

Language is important.

Using accurate terminology is the first step toward creating a respectful story about transgender people. The [Transgender Terminology](#) section of this guide offers definitions of basic terms, along with guidelines on name and pronoun usage and a list of defamatory and offensive terms to avoid. More resources for journalists may be found at glaad.org/transgender.

Moving beyond the coming out narrative.

People who have just come out publicly as transgender are considered newsworthy, but they are often not ready for media attention, nor are they ready to speak about larger issues facing the diverse trans community. Consider interviewing people who have chosen to take leadership roles in the community – with all the responsibility that entails. Furthermore, the “coming out narrative” has been covered thoroughly since Christine Jorgensen came back from Europe in 1952. Just as coverage of the LGB community now focuses on many different aspects of being gay, lesbian, or bisexual, the media is encouraged to look for stories about transgender people that go beyond “when did you know” and “what surgeries have you had.”

Avoid focusing on medical issues.

It is inappropriate to ask a transgender person questions about their genitals or other surgeries they may have had. Typically those questions are only asked out of prurient curiosity. They also distract the journalist and the viewer from seeing the whole person – and from discussing larger issues that affect transgender people like discrimination, poverty, and violence. Do not characterize being transgender as a mental disorder. Neither the American Psychiatric Association nor the American Psychological Association consider simply being transgender a “mental disorder.”

Describing the fact that someone is transgender.

Transgender should always be used as an adjective. For example, “Susan is a transgender woman.” If your audience needs clarification about what that phrase means, you can explain that “Susan was designated male at birth, and began her transition 15 years ago.” Avoid “Susan was born a man.” People are born babies and a doctor decides the sex based on a quick look at the external anatomy. But a transgender person’s gender is much more complicated than a simple glance at external anatomy can capture. One’s biology does not “trump” one’s gender identity, and oversimplifications like “born a man” seem to invalidate the current, authentic gender of the person you’re speaking about.

Disclosing birth names.

When a transgender person’s birth name is used in a story, the implication is almost always that this is the person’s “real name.” In fact, a transgender person’s chosen name is their real name - whether they are able to obtain a court-ordered name change or not. Many people use names they’ve chosen for themselves, and the media does not mention their birth name when writing about them, (e.g., Lady Gaga, Demi Moore, Whoopi Goldberg). Transgender people should be accorded the same respect. When writing about a transgender person’s chosen name, do not say “she wants to be called,” “she calls herself,” “she goes by Susan,” or other phrases that cast doubt on the transgender person’s identity.

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COVERING THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

Illustrating your story and headlines.

In almost every instance it is unnecessary to show before and after pictures of the person being profiled. Often these images are simply included to satisfy the curiosity of readers or viewers, and in most cases they add nothing to the story. Similarly, avoid clichéd images of transgender women putting on make-up, wigs, and panty hose, and shots of transgender men shaving. These type of photos connote that being transgender is simply a superficial, external matter. Being transgender is not about clothing, make-up, and shaving. With headlines, it is often necessary to save space and simplify. However, it's very easy to ruin a well-written, nuanced story with a headline that resorts to clichés and offensive language. Try to avoid phrases like “sex change” or “born a man” in headlines.

Bringing in expert opinion.

Be cautious inviting non-transgender guests to talk *about* transgender people – instead of talking *to* transgender people. Transgender people are the experts to talk about transgender people. You don't always need a medical or psychological “expert” to speak about transgender people, but if you'd like a medical or psychological perspective, there are many transgender doctors and psychologists who can speak with authority.

Integrating transgender people into non-trans stories.

While it is true that there are many social issues that must be addressed before transgender people are treated equally – it is also true that transgender people live day-to-day lives just like everyone else. When being transgender is just one of the many facts that make someone unique, we will move closer to acceptance. If you are doing a story about women in tech or Mother's Day, consider including a transgender woman in those stories. Transgender people can also be booked to talk about issues that are not trans-specific. Jenny Boylan regularly writes op-ed columns for the *The New York Times* on a variety of non-trans issues. Janet Mock is a contributing editor at *Marie Claire* where she covers a variety of topics.

SOCIAL ISSUES FACING TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

Transgender people, particularly transgender women, are disproportionately affected by hate violence.

In 2013, 72% of LGBT homicide victims were transgender women, according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. In 2012, 53% of LGBT homicide victims were transgender women. The majority were transgender women of color. For information on covering stories where a transgender person has been the victim of a crime please see the In Focus section on Hate Crimes [“Doubly Victimized: Reporting on Transgender Victims of Crime.”](#)

Transgender people face high levels of discrimination and poverty.

According to the largest national survey of transgender people, the community experiences unemployment at twice the rate of the general population, with rates for people of color up to four times the national unemployment rate. Transgender people are four times more likely to live in poverty. Ninety percent of trans people report experiencing harassment, mistreatment or discrimination on the job. Forty-one percent of respondents reported attempting suicide, compared to 1.6% of the general population. More statistics from this survey may be found [here](#).

Access to healthcare is extremely limited for transgender people.

The American Medical Association has stated that treatment for gender dysphoria is medically necessary and involves changing the body to align with a person’s gender identity (their internal sense of being a man or a woman.) Trying to change a person’s gender identity is no more successful than trying to change a person’s sexual orientation - it just doesn’t work. However, private insurance companies treat transition-related medical care as if it is cosmetic - regularly inserting “transgender exclusion clauses” into health insurance plans making access to care difficult, if not impossible, for most transgender people. Several states, including California, Illinois, and Massachusetts, have issued regulations ordering insurance companies to cover medical care for transgender people - but even in those states many transition-related treatments may still not be covered. Improving access to healthcare is a high priority for the transgender community.

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COVERING THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

Covering non-discrimination bills.

When covering the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) or other anti-discrimination bills that include gender identity, don't accept at face value misperceptions promulgated by anti-LGBT activists that non-discrimination can be reduced to arguments about transgender people using the bathroom consistent with their gender identity. Non-discrimination bills that are inclusive of gender identity and expression provide important protections for transgender people in housing, employment, and public accommodations. There has never been a confirmed incident where a transgender woman has assaulted someone on a public restroom. In fact, most incidents in public restrooms involve transgender women being expelled, insulted, and harassed when they try to use a public restroom consistent with their gender identity and expression.

Transgender people are still prohibited from serving openly in the United States military.

The repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" only applied to lesbian, gay, and bisexual military personnel. The Palm Center estimates that there are over 15,000 transgender people currently serving in the armed forces, in addition to approximately 130,000 veterans. At least a dozen nations, including Australia, Canada, England and Israel, allow military service by transgender people.

Public support for allowing same-sex couples to marry has increased substantially over the past several years. National polling now consistently shows that a solid majority of Americans (over 50% in every region of the U.S.) support marriage for same-sex couples; and courts, legislatures, and voters are extending the freedom to marry at a rapid pace. What was a highly contentious “issue” a decade ago is rapidly becoming a consensus position that spans generations, geography, and political affiliation. For current polling information, see Freedom to Marry’s [polling resource page](#).

Covering Efforts to Secure Marriage Equality.

Same-sex couples marry for the same reasons as everyone else: to make a lifelong promise of love and commitment to one another, and to protect and take care of their family. As you report on legal and policy discussions regarding marriage for same-sex couples, please share the stories of the committed couples whose lives and families are at the heart of this issue – and for whom the denial of marriage continues to threaten the security of their loved ones. The stories of same-sex couples and families are an integral and essential part of fair, accurate and inclusive coverage of discussions about, and movement toward, the freedom to marry.

Marriage for Same-Sex Couples in the U.S.

For information on U.S. states where same-sex couples are able to marry, please contact GLAAD’s Director of News at news@glaad.org, or visit the [Movement Advancement Project’s Equality Maps](#).

Federal recognition of marriage.

In June 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Section 3 of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). In its decision in *U.S. v. Windsor*, the court ruled that the federal government may not deny recognition to lawfully married same-sex couples.

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Access to federal recognition remains murky.

Most federal agencies and programs now respect, and provide equal treatment to, the marriages of same-sex couples *performed* in a jurisdiction where marriage for same-sex couples is legal, regardless of where the couple lives. However, a handful of federal programs only respect the marriages of couples who are currently *living* in a state that respects their marriage. Some key protections for married same-sex couples (such as Social Security survivor benefits and certain provisions applying to married veterans) remain unavailable in nearly all states that do not respect a couple's marriage. The varying standards of recognition across federal government programs is confusing for married couples. For example, a legally married couple who move to a state without marriage equality would have federal government recognition of their marriage for some benefits, but not for others.

Recognition in the States - when reporting about *U.S. v. Windsor*, be careful not to overstate the demise of DOMA.

Marriage is still denied to same-sex couples in the majority of states, with most of those states banning same-sex couples from marriage, as well as other legal protections, in their state constitutions. Section 2 of DOMA (which was not addressed by the Supreme Court in *U.S. v. Windsor*) is currently seen as permitting those states to deny recognition of lawful marriages performed in other jurisdictions. Therefore couples may be legally wed in one state, and be strangers in the eyes of the law in another state. Section 2 denies same-sex couples the security of knowing that their relationship will be recognized and respected even if they must move for reasons of employment, military service, or to be near family. State and federal court cases are challenging the denial of the freedom to marry and unequal treatment of married couples in all of these states, as well as Puerto Rico.

How the denial of marriage impacts transgender people.

Some transgender people are gay, lesbian, or bisexual and their ability to marry their partners is affected by state bans on marriage for same-sex couples. Other transgender people may identify as heterosexual - considering themselves to be in a different-sex relationship - but their state may view them as legally "same-sex" and deny them the opportunity to enter into, or refuse to recognize legally, their different-sex marriages.

Unfortunately, whether a transgender person's marriage will be recognized as valid depends on what state they live in, what medical procedures they have (or haven't) undergone, and whether or not an employer or insurer or family member decides to challenge their marriage's validity. When the freedom to marry is extended to everyone, a court's decision (which can be biased and uninformed) on the legal sex of a transgender person will not deny them the ability to marry.

Inclusive Reporting on Marriage.

Same-sex couples are a part of the fabric of American marriage, and as such, should be included in stories that look at marriage (and marriages) more broadly. For example, features on what makes for an enduring marriage could interview and feature same-sex couples who have been together for decades. Articles on how the economic downturn and recovery are affecting families could interview same-sex couples alongside opposite-sex couples. While in some cases these stories may benefit from spotlighting the unique challenges facing same-sex married couples, other stories may benefit more from simply and seamlessly including same-sex couples in such coverage without focused emphasis on the fact that they're a same-sex couple. Please also include stories about marriages where one (or both) of the spouses are transgender.

Avoid constructions that use the inaccurate terms "gay marriage" or "same-sex marriage."

Same-sex couples seeking the freedom to marry want to join the institution of marriage as it currently exists. Their relationship is not a "gay marriage," but simply a marriage. They are advocating for marriage equality or the freedom to marry. "Gay marriage" should never be used to describe the marriages of same-sex couples in any state or country where same-sex couples have the legal ability to marry. Talk about *marriage*, without modifiers - or marriage for same-sex couples when clarification is needed.

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COVERING MARRIAGE

Avoid using terms designed to obscure the impact of denying marriage to same-sex couples.

Opponents of marriage for same-sex couples often try to get media to talk about “redefining marriage” and “changing the definition of marriage,” or how anti-gay activists are “protecting the sanctity of marriage.” Such carefully chosen euphemisms are intended to both obscure the impact of systematically excluding same-sex couples from marriage, and render invisible the hundreds of thousands of loving, committed couples whose lives are most directly impacted by this debate.

Non-Marriage Relationship Recognition.

A handful of U.S. states, while they do not allow committed same-sex couples to marry, do provide varying degrees of legal protections via civil unions or domestic partnership laws. It is important to note that these laws offer only limited protections to same-sex couples and families - and unlike the marriages of same-sex couples, civil unions and domestic partnerships are not recognized by the federal government, except in very limited situations.

According to a 2013 report by the Williams Institute,

“LGBT Parenting in the United States,” there are an estimated 6 million Americans (children and adults) with a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender parent. Same-sex couple parents and their children are more likely to be racial and ethnic minorities. An estimated 39% of individuals in same-sex couples with children under age 18 at home are non-white, as are half of their children. States with the highest proportions of same-sex couples raising biological, adopted, or step-children include Mississippi (26%), Wyoming (25%), Alaska (23%), Idaho (22%), and Montana (22%).

“All Children Matter,” a 2011 report co-authored by the Movement Advancement Project, the Family Equality Council, and the Center for American Progress, details how the lack of full legal recognition for same-sex couples impacts the 2 million children being raised by LGBT parents. Archaic and discriminatory laws, combined with social stigma, create obstacles to stable, loving homes, economic security, and health and well-being.

Across most of the U.S., LGBT people and couples can petition family courts to provide their children with legal ties to their parents.

Family courts are responsible for making case-by-case decisions based on the best interests of a child, and their expertise and authority in determining the fitness of adoptive parents – gay or straight – is traditionally acknowledged and respected.

Most states do not have blanket policies on adoption by gay and lesbian couples.

In a few states, however, anti-gay activists have sought to circumvent family courts by proposing sweeping laws that would ban adoption by gay and lesbian people and couples. Please contact GLAAD’s Director of News at news@glaad.org for a list of states with anti-gay adoption bans.

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Single-parent adoption by lesbian, gay and bisexual parents is permitted in most states and the District of Columbia.

Joint adoption and/or second-parent adoption – where a parent co-adopts his or her partner’s child, thus providing the security that comes with having two legally connected parents – is permitted by statute or appellate court decisions in several states.

For further information, please contact the Family Equality Council, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the ACLU or Lambda Legal (*see Directory of Community Resources*).

Research on Parenting & Adoption

Discussions about research on children raised by gay and lesbian parents often become mired in divisive political rhetoric by those opposed to gay parents and legal protections for their families.

Those who oppose parenting by gay and lesbian couples often make two claims: first, that “all” social science research shows that children do best when raised by married opposite-sex parents, and, second, that any study that shows otherwise is flawed.

In fact, there is a large and growing body of literature that focuses on family structure and outcomes for children raised by their gay or lesbian parents. These studies have consistently shown that parenting by gay or lesbian parents has no adverse effects on children.

Additionally, nearly every credible authority on child welfare (including the Child Welfare League of America, the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, and the American Academy of Pediatrics) **has determined that a person’s sexual orientation has nothing to do with the ability to be a good, loving, effective parent.**

Most of the studies cited by those opposed to gay families have a significant flaw: they do not study gay families.

Instead, they generally compare children with single parents to those living with their married parents. As such, it is inappropriate to use this research to argue that the sexual orientation or the gender-composition of parents affects the well-being of their children.

In 2012 a study by Mark Regnerus and the conservative Witherspoon Institute, claimed to prove that people raised by LGBT parents reported more negative experiences than those who were raised by straight parents. Mark Regnerus signed an amicus brief against the repeal of DOMA and Prop 8 and is a known anti-LGBT activist. It quickly became clear that the Regnerus study was technically flawed and biased. The study compared people raised by opposite sex parents in committed relationships to people raised by (often single) parents who had at one time or another experienced same-sex attraction. Only two of the respondents had been raised by lesbian parents from birth. After reviewing the study, the American Sociological Association (of which Regnerus is a member) declared that the study “provides no support for the conclusions that same-sex parents are inferior parents or that the children of same-sex parents experience worse outcomes.” The Regnerus study is still being used by anti-LGBT activists like the National Organization for Marriage. Fortunately, most media outlets were vigilant in uncovering the bias behind this study. It is crucial that media position biased studies like this in the context of the dozens of legitimate studies which show that LGBT parenting has no negative influence.

By the same token, it is important to note that research does not show that children with gay or lesbian parents are “exactly the same” as kids with straight parents.

There may indeed be differences (for example, one study found that female children of lesbian parents are more willing to consider career paths that could be thought of as atypical for women). The relevant question is whether such differences are harmful; and again, the considerable body of research demonstrates that they are not.

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LGBT PARENTING

Media sometimes unintentionally but inaccurately frame discussions about gay and lesbian parenting as a false dichotomy, pitting parenting by opposite-sex couples against parenting by gay or lesbian couples. Research shows that men and women with good parenting skills come in all types – gay, straight and transgender. Academics and practitioners agree that sexual orientation and gender identity is not a factor when it comes to good parenting.

Transgender parents face unique challenges.

Parents who are married and transition face the risk of losing their children if their spouse chooses to make it an issue in a custody case. According to Lambda Legal, “Courts are generally allowed to base custody or visitation rulings only on factors that directly affect the ‘best interests of the child.’ If a transgender parent’s gender identity can’t be shown to hurt the child in some way, contact should not be limited, and other custody and visitation orders should not be changed for this reason.” However, some courts have unfairly ruled that simply because the parent is transgender, there is a risk of “social harm” to the child.

GLAAD encourages media to share the stories of LGBT families as they are, on their own terms, without requiring them to defend themselves against the attacks of those who believe they shouldn’t be allowed to exist.

For additional information on research related to parenting by LGBT people, please contact the Child Welfare League of America, the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, or the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law (*see Directory of Community Resources*).

Language & Terminology

When reporting on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families, it is important to treat those families, parents and children with dignity and respect – both during the newsgathering process and in the language used to tell their stories.

Never put quotation marks around descriptions such as family, parents, mothers or fathers when describing families with gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender parents. Such tactics are often used by anti-gay groups to denigrate, delegitimize and dehumanize loving families.

A common myth about LGBT equality is that it is universally opposed by people of faith. This myth, combined with vitriolic opposition to LGBT people and families by anti-gay activists who claim the mantle of Christianity, frequently leads to media coverage that falsely positions LGBT equality as a matter of “gays vs. religion.” Despite increasing religious acceptance of LGBT people, three out of four religious leaders interviewed by the media on LGBT issues come from traditions that have policies or traditions that oppose LGBT equality.

Mainstream religious denominations support LGBT equality.

For decades, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the United Church of Christ, and the Metropolitan Community Church have had policies of LGBT inclusion, including ordaining LGBT people, performing weddings for same-sex couples, and advocating for LGBT equality in society. More recently, The Episcopal Church, Conservative Judaism, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Presbyterian Church (USA) have all adopted policies of LGBT inclusion. Their leaders are often vocal supporters of marriage equality, employment non-discrimination, transgender inclusion, and other LGBT issues.

Other denominations are home to robust debate about LGBT issues and equality.

Others denominations continue to openly debate issues of LGBT inclusion, the blessing of same-sex couples’ unions, and the ordination of LGBT clergy, with growing support for full inclusion. For example, the United Methodist Church has not changed its policies to be more LGBT inclusive, but several United Methodist leaders have challenged those policies, as well as advocated publically for LGBT equality. Even the Mormon Church has softened its tone toward LGBT people, no longer advocating for family alienation and so-called “ex-gay” programs.

Anti-gay activists are often identified by the media as representing the only “religious” or “Christian” view, while excluding religious voices that are in favor of LGBT inclusion.

Anti-gay activists like Pat Robertson and Harry Jackson, as well as groups like Focus on the Family, Family Research Council, Traditional Values Coalition, and the Institute on Religion & Democracy often claim to represent the views of religious Americans. Yet these

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groups' policy views are not shared by the majority of those they claim to represent. This is especially true for Roman Catholics, nearly three-quarters of whom support LGBT equality, despite anti-gay language and actions from many in the Roman Catholic hierarchy. Large majorities of all Americans, including people of faith, favor inclusive non-discrimination laws, military service, inclusive hate crimes laws, and family recognition (whether by marriage or civil unions) for LGBT people.

Please consider whether anti-gay activists' attacks on the dignity and equality of LGBT people warrant a media spotlight.

When such prejudice is newsworthy or must be quoted, please seek out religious voices who support LGBT equality and can effectively address those attacks in the language of inclusive faith.

LGBT people of faith are rarely represented in mainstream media.

Groups like Dignity/USA (LGBT Catholics), Integrity (LGBT Episcopalians), Reconciling Ministries Network (LGBT Methodists) and More Light Presbyterians represent affinity groups within some of the nation's largest Christian denominations. The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, United Church of Christ, Unitarian Universalist Association and Unity Fellowship Church Movement welcome LGBT people and clergy. The Metropolitan Community Church is the world's oldest and largest LGBT denomination, and churches, synagogues and other houses of worship around the country serve LGBT people of faith.

When reporting on religion and LGBT equality, please include the voices of LGBT faith leaders.

In addition to the groups mentioned above, GLAAD, the Institute for Welcoming Resources, the National Black Justice Coalition, the Human Rights Campaign, the World Congress of GLBT Jews, and others can help direct reporters to qualified spokespeople.

In its 2012 report, the FBI recognized 1,376 victims of hate crimes targeted due to their sexual orientation - 19.6 percent of all hate crimes reported. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) reported that 2013 saw a 21% increase in reports of physical hate violence toward LGBT people - noting that people of color and transgender people are disproportionately targeted. NCAVP reported that 90% of all LGBT homicide victims were people of color, and 72% of homicide victims were transgender women.

Avoid re-victimizing transgender people who have suffered violence.

Transgender people, particularly transgender women of color, are disproportionately affected by hate violence. Sadly, the tragedy of these incidents is often compounded by reporting that does not respect (or sometimes even exploits) the victim's transgender identity. Often, reporters writing about transgender victims of violent crimes will be given incorrect or incomplete information from police, from witnesses, or even from family and friends of the victim. GLAAD has a special report on how to fairly and accurately report on crimes with transgender victims. [Please read GLAAD's report "Doubly Victimized" to find detailed recommendations on how to fairly and accurately cover crimes involving transgender victims.](#)

Providing context.

The transgender community is one of the most marginalized and discriminated against communities in our society. If a transgender victim was in a difficult or unfortunate situation at the time of a violent crime, try to provide your audience with some context. Please visit glaad.org/transgender for statistics that will help you provide context about the unemployment, poverty, and discrimination faced by transgender people. For additional information about discrimination faced by the transgender community, please see "[Injustice at Every Turn](#)," a report issued by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality.

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HATE CRIMES

Media can play a vital role in determining community and law enforcement response to hate crimes.

In some cases, local law enforcement still places a low priority on anti-LGBT hate crimes. As a result, police may not investigate the case properly or at all, may re-victimize survivors, and may be unresponsive to families and/or community members seeking information. In cases like these, fair, accurate and inclusive media coverage of the case can motivate law enforcement to better and more transparently investigate and communicate around a hate crime.

Many on the far right downplay or trivialize hate crimes.

Some people, particularly many on the far right, generalize that “all crimes are hate crimes.” We ask that you offer your readers, viewers, or listeners the facts so they may decide for themselves whether a crime victim was targeted because of his or her actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Assaults and criminal acts may involve only a single victim, but perpetrators often intend to send a message that LGBT people are legitimate targets for abuse and violence. (In fact, the victims of some anti-LGBT hate crimes are heterosexuals who are thought to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.) Please report the specifics of a crime and its social implications based on the facts of the case.

Inaccurate hate/bias crime reporting can unintentionally support a “gay panic” (i.e., “blame the victim”) strategy.

Implying that a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender victim shares responsibility for being attacked, or that an attack was justified because of an unwanted romantic or sexual advance (the so-called “gay panic” or “transgender panic” strategy) is never acceptable.

In August 2013, the American Bar Association issued the following statement “...the American Bar Association urges federal, state, local and territorial governments to take legislative action to curtail the availability and effectiveness of the ‘gay panic’ and ‘trans panic’ defenses, which seek to partially or completely excuse crimes such as murder and assault on the grounds that the victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity is to blame for the defendant’s violent reaction.”

Hate Crimes Laws

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 added sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability to the categories covered under federal hate crimes law.

As a result, federal hate crimes law now addresses violent crimes based on a victim's race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

State laws on hate crimes vary considerably.

Of the states with some kind of hate crimes law that expands law enforcement resources and/or sentencing in cases involving bias-motivated crimes, some explicitly include sexual orientation among the law's protected classes, and some include both sexual orientation and gender identity. For a list of states with inclusive hate crimes laws, please contact GLAAD's Director of News at news@glaad.org.

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COVERING CRIMES WHEN THE ACCUSED IS LGBT

Crime stories that involve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people invariably pique media curiosity. However too often they also garner sensationalistic coverage that focuses on lurid speculation and sexual innuendo.

When a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender person stands accused of a crime, please treat him or her as you would treat any other person who is similarly accused.

If you would not report on the sexual orientation of a heterosexual suspect, please apply a consistent standard for LGBT suspects.

It is a false-cause fallacy to imply, suggest, or allow others to suggest a causal relationship between sexual orientation or gender identity and criminal activity.

Straight and LGBT people commit crimes. But to insinuate – either through direct statements or by quoting others – that LGBT people are more likely to commit crimes because they are LGBT is blatantly defamatory. This also applies to insinuating that one person’s criminal acts are broadly representative of all LGBT people.

Stereotypes perpetuate myths.

For example, far-right extremists long have claimed that gay and lesbian people are sexual predators, substance abusers, and prone to domestic abuse and child molestation. These baseless, defamatory myths only sensationalize crime stories and fuel anti-LGBT sentiment.

Hasty assumptions can feed rumors about the sexual orientations and/or gender identities of any of the involved parties.

A criminal’s or a victim’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity is not always obvious – or relevant – based simply on the circumstances of the crime or preliminary investigation reports. If a person’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity is clearly relevant, please investigate to establish it factually rather than relying on speculation or innuendo.

Level the playing field.

As a rule, avoid labeling an activity, relationship, or emotion “gay,” “lesbian” or “bisexual” unless you would call the same activity, relationship, or emotion “heterosexual” or “straight” if engaged in by someone of another sexual orientation. Do not identify someone as transgender unless it is directly related to the alleged crime. In most cases, your readers, viewers or listeners will be able to discern people’s genders and/or sexual orientations through the names of the parties involved, your depictions of their relationships, and your use of pronouns.

Providing Context.

In the section on covering hate crimes, it is recommended that a journalist provide some context about the discrimination, violence and poverty faced by transgender people - especially transgender women of color. The same recommendation is made when reporting on a transgender person who is accused of committing a crime. For additional information about discrimination and violence faced by the transgender community, please see [“Injustice at Every Turn,”](#) a report issued by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality.

IN FOCUS

HIV AIDS & THE LGBT COMMUNITY

HIV transmission is tied to specific high-risk behaviors that are not exclusive to any one sexual orientation.

Avoid suggesting that simply being gay makes one part of a “high-risk group,” or that risk of HIV infection increases simply by having sex with someone of the same sex.

“MSM” is acronym created by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for “men who have sex with men.” It should not be used to describe openly gay or bisexual men, individually or collectively, except in specific clinical or statistical contexts.

Where MSM do not self-identify as gay or bisexual, the term may be a useful as a description of that discrete category of people.

Avoid terms that directly or indirectly pit gay people against others at risk for HIV.

For example, references to “the general population” typically are used to suggest that gay men, bisexuals and/or MSM should be considered separate and apart from broader prevention and treatment strategies.

The invisibility of disproportionately impacted groups threatens the effectiveness of prevention messages aimed at them.

It is important to focus attention on gay and bisexual men of color, transgender people, and others who are often overlooked in HIV/AIDS coverage.

The term “HIV criminalization” refers to the inappropriate use of a person’s HIV-positive status in a criminal prosecution, typically under an HIV-specific criminal statute, or as heightened charges or punishments under general assault, prostitution, or other statutes.

HIV criminalization is based on outdated and erroneous beliefs about the routes, risks and consequences of HIV transmission. Public health professionals oppose HIV-specific criminal statutes because they may discourage persons at risk from getting tested for HIV,

and make those who do test positive less trustful of public health officials and less willing to cooperate with public health measures. HIV criminalization perpetuates unwarranted stigma and treats HIV differently from other sexually-transmitted infections, which if left untreated, can inflict serious harm or even kill. In July 2014, the Department of Justice [called upon states to eliminate or reform antiquated laws](#) which criminalize conduct by HIV-positive individuals that would be legal if they were not HIV-positive or did not know their status. For detailed information about states with HIV criminalization laws, please contact GLAAD's Director of News at news@glaad.org, or contact the [Sero Project](#).

Use the term “Down Low” only to describe men who self-identify that way.

A controversial term describing the phenomenon of MSMs who publicly identify as heterosexuals and maintain sexual relationships with women, the “Down Low” has become synonymous with sensationalized claims that MSM are spreading HIV into “the general population.” Avoid inaccurate claims that the “Down Low” is a phenomenon exclusive to communities of color.

Despite rigorous blood testing and risk factors that cross lines of sexual orientation, self-identified gay men are still prohibited by federal law from donating blood or organs.

Some public health officials have condemned these policies, noting they can jeopardize the blood supply by senselessly preventing millions of men of all blood types from donating.

Coverage of rare or unusual phenomena (such as “bug-chasing”) often veers toward sensationalism. Please avoid suggesting or allowing others to suggest that obviously outlying trends are representative of larger populations or LGBT people in general.

If you report on HIV/AIDS, please seek information from diverse resources, including public health agencies, service organizations, advocacy organizations, and groups that focus on health education LGBT communities of color (*see Directory of Community Resources*).

IN FOCUS

“EX-GAYS” & “CONVERSION THERAPY”

Anti-gay activists have argued for years that sexual orientation is a choice and changeable – but only for lesbians and gay men, not heterosexuals. They often claim “homosexuality” is not real, but only a form of mental illness or an emotional disorder that can be “cured” through psychological or religious intervention. Anti-gay activists claim that being gay is a curable condition, and therefore lesbians, gay men and bisexual people do not need or deserve equal treatment under the law or protection from discrimination.

Such programs have come under increased scrutiny recently. The largest program, Exodus, closed in 2013, apologizing for the harm that was caused by those who participated in its programs. Additionally, lawsuits have been filed against other “ex-gay” programs, noting that they did not produce the orientation change promised, but instead brought great harm to those who participated.

American Psychiatric Association

The American Psychiatric Association has condemned the “treatment” of “homosexuality,” saying, “The potential risks of ‘reparative therapy’ are great, including depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior, since therapist alignment with societal prejudices against homosexuality may reinforce self-hatred already experienced by the patient.”

American Psychological Association Report (2009)

In 2009, a task force of the American Psychological Association drafted a landmark report on *Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation*. Following a comprehensive analysis of peer-reviewed research on what the APA labeled “sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE)” the APA “concluded that efforts to change sexual orientation are unlikely to be successful and involve some risk of harm, contrary to the claims of SOCE practitioners and advocates.” The APA’s governing body adopted the report’s recommendations by an overwhelming 125-4 vote.

In addition, the American Medical Association, the National Mental Health Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics have also spoken out against these attempts to “cure” lesbian, gay men and bisexual people.

States banning “conversion therapy” for minors

Many “ex-gay” organizations claim that they only help people who want to live their lives in accordance with their religious beliefs, and that they only offer their programs for people who want to change. However, many participants in “ex-gay” programs are youth who are not enrolling of their own will, but being forced into such programs by parents who have been told by religious leaders that they must change their child. A handful of states have begun examining the harm done by “ex-gay” programs. At the time of this writing, California and New Jersey have now banned the practice on anyone under 18 years of age, and other states may follow suit.

Terminology

In reporting, the terms “conversion therapy” or “reparative therapy” should be avoided whenever possible (except in quoted material), as it is most often used to insinuate that lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are “disordered” or “broken” and need to be “repaired.” It is usually best simply to describe the actions and motivations of those who seek to change the orientation of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people.

Science, Research & Reporting

When reporting on scientific opinions or research on sexual orientation and gender identity issues, please consult with acknowledged, qualified experts in the appropriate scientific discipline(s) to assess the quality of scientific studies and methods before legitimizing them through media reports. In addition, be careful not to overstate or misstate the findings or implications of new research.

Ex-Gay Survivors

Any story about “ex-gay” programs should include the perspective of “ex-gay” survivors. For each “success story” featured by “ex-gay” activists, there are hundreds who have gone through the programs with no change in orientation, but who have suffered trauma, depression, even suicidal thoughts or actions. Networks like Beyond Ex-Gay have been created to provide support and healing for those who have been harmed by ex-gay programs. Beyond Ex-Gay has surveyed survivors of “ex-gay” programs, and the results may be found [on their web site](#).

In recent years, the complex intersection of sports culture, homophobia, transphobia, and

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LGBT PEOPLE IN SPORTS

out LGBT athletes has become a hot topic among sports fans and in sports media. Anti-gay comments by athletes and coaches, speculation about athletes' sexual orientations, and the coming out stories of NFL player Michael Sam, NBA player Jason Collins, Puerto Rican boxer Orlando Cruz, MMA fighters Fallon Fox and Liz Carmouche, WNBA star Brittney Griner, soccer player Robbie Rogers, Welsh rugby player Gareth Thomas, U.S. Olympic soccer player Megan Rapinoe, former NFL players Esera Tuaolo and Wade Davis, and others have sparked national dialogue on these issues. Competitors in sports like tennis, diving, and skating, such as Martina Navratilova, Billie Jean King, Greg Louganis, and Johnny Weir, have lead the way as out athletes have become spokespeople on LGBT issues.

Professional sports are more accepting than ever.

Many coaches, managers and players are becoming aware that they probably have people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender on their team, and are taking steps to educate themselves and create a more welcoming environment for LGBT athletes. Allies like Brendon Ayanbadejo, Chris Kluwe, Ben Cohen, Brian Burke, and Hudson Taylor have spoken out on LGBT issues, forming non-profit groups like You Can Play, the StandUp Foundation, and Athlete Ally to show their support for out athletes and inclusive professional sports teams. Hundreds of professional athletes have appeared in "You Can Play" or "It Gets Better" PSAs to express public support for LGBT teammates and fans. The corporate owners of many teams are following the lead of their business counterparts and showing official support for LGBT equality. The professional leagues are actively working to educate and inform their employees and players about LGBT issues, including at the rookie symposia for the NHL, NFL, and NBA. In July 2014, MLB appointed Billy Bean, a former player who is now openly gay, as a consultant in guiding the sport toward full LGBT inclusion.

However, some sports professionals still publicly say there are no gay people on their team, and enforce a negative work environment through locker-room jokes and innuendoes about gay men. In women's collegiate sports, negative recruiting – where coaches use anti-gay messages to deter potential recruits from attending a rival school – is a common problem. As a result, the vast majority of LGBT athletes remain deeply closeted due to a system of institutionalized intimidation.

Allow players to play.

While out athletes playing at the professional level is still relatively new and a ground-breaking step forward in destroying stereotypes about LGBT people - it's also important to acknowledge that their first and most important role is simply to play and excel at their sport. In an ideal world, an out NFL or NBA player will be allowed to play without constantly being asked to comment on LGBT issues.

Highlight players from every level of sport.

Naturally there is a strong focus on professional and Olympic athletes, but players at every level of performance are coming out in large numbers. Please consider looking for stories of athletes at the high school and college level who want to share their experiences of being out. Stories like bisexual college football kicker Conner Mertens and transgender high school coach Stephen Alexander have the potential to illustrate people in local communities are accepting LGBT players and coaches.

When covering the issue of LGBT athletes in sports, expand your focus beyond those who claim that team sports are not able to deal with out athletes.

Sports journalists, coaches, managers, and athletes sometimes claim it would be impossible for an out athlete to play in team sports. Journalists may contribute to this attitude by constantly framing their questions around the negative, difficult consequences of a player choosing to come out. When reporting on the topic, consider seeking out other voices in the sports world who would challenge the merits of this opinion. As more players come out, they will be able to speak about the positive response they've received, and the benefits of being able to play without the fear of losing their job should someone find out about that they are LGBT. Many of them are associated with the organizations listed in our resources section below.

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LGBT PEOPLE IN SPORTS

Treat homophobic and transphobic comments from professional athletes, managers and coaches as you would similar remarks by other public figures.

Just as anti-LGBT epithets would receive extensive coverage if uttered by an elected official or a Hollywood celebrity, antipathy toward LGBT people by sports figures should be publicly examined and discussed in a larger context.

Transgender athletes face uninformed opposition.

Public and media reaction to a transgender person - particularly a transgender woman - competing in a sport is often extremely negative and uninformed by scientific fact. Commentators often espouse their “gut feelings” about whether or not a transgender person has an “unfair advantage.” Gut feelings are not science. Sport governing organizations like the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and the National College Athletics Associate (NCAA), as well as the Women’s Sports Foundation (WSF), have looked at the actual science associated with medical transition and made clear statements in support of the right of transgender athletes to participate in a way that is fair, equitable, and respectful to all. **When writing about transgender athletes, please use up-to-date expert legal and medical knowledge about the effects of medical transition on athletic performance.**

While the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community encompasses the full spectrum of our society's diversity, that diversity rarely is reflected in media coverage. Our community crosses lines of gender, race, age, income, class, family structure, education, geography, religion and political affiliation. More often than not, however, media representations of our community focus largely on those who are white, male, and affluent.

With this in mind, GLAAD makes it a priority to provide media professionals with resources so they may seek out and reflect the diversity of our community across all issues impacting LGBT lives. We encourage you to contact us for additional resources and/or with any other questions you may have.

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

GLAAD Voices of Color Program
www.glaad.org/programs/voicesofcolor

National Black Justice Coalition
www.nbjc.org

Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD)
www.gmad.org

Affinity Community Services (Chicago)
www.affinity95.org

Audre Lorde Project (multi-cultural)
www.alp.org

Zuna Institute
www.zunainstitute.org

ANTI-VIOLENCE/HATE CRIMES

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)
www.ncavp.org

Matthew Shepard Foundation
www.matthewshepard.org

Community United Against Violence
www.cuav.org

Transgender Day of Remembrance
www.transgenderdor.org

DIRECTORY OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER (API) COMMUNITIES

GLAAD Voices of Color Program
www.glaad.org/programs/voicesofcolor

API Equality (Northern California)
norcal.apiequality.org/

API Equality (Southern California)
apiequalityla.org/

National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)
www.nqapia.org

Trikone (South Asian communities)
www.trikone.org

BISEXUALITY

American Institute of Bisexuality
www.bisexual.org

BiNet USA
www.binetusa.org

Bisexual Resource Center (Boston)
www.biresource.org

Boston Bisexual Women's Network
www.biwomenboston.org

COMMUNITY CENTERS

CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
www.lgbtcenters.org

"EX-GAYS" & "CONVERSION THERAPY"

Beyond Ex-Gay (support for those who survived "ex-gay" programs)
www.beyondexgay.com/

American Psychological Association
www.apa.org/pi/lgbt

National Association of Social Workers
www.naswdc.org/diversity/lgb/reparative.asp

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
www.aamft.org/imis15/content/about_aamft/position_on_couples.aspx

FAMILY/PARENTING/ADOPTION

Family Equality Council
www.familyequality.org

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
www.pflag.org

COLAGE (Children, youth and adults with an LGBT parent)
www.colage.org

FAMILY/PARENTING/ADOPTION (cont.)

Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute (Adoption laws, policy, practices)
www.adoptioninstitute.org

National Center for Lesbian Rights' Family Protection Project
www.nclrights.org/explore-the-issues/family-relationships/

Child Welfare League of America
www.cwla.org/programs/culture/glbqt.htm

Asian & Pacific Islander Family Pride
www.apifamilypride.org

Straight Spouse Network
www.straightspouse.org

Lambda Legal Transgender Parents Program
www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/trans-parents/transgender/transgenderaud1

TransParentcy
www.transparentcy.org/index.htm

COLAGE: Kids of Trans Community
www.colage.org/resources/kids-of-trans-resource-guide/

HEALTH

Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA)
www.glma.org

Whitman-Walker Health
www.whitman-walker.org

The National LGBT Health Education Center
www.lgbthealtheducation.org/about-us/lgbt-health-education/

part of Fenway Health
www.fenwayhealth.org/

World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)
www.wpath.org

HIV/AIDS

Global Forum on MSM & HIV
www.msmsgf.org

Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
www.gnpplus.net

National Minority AIDS Council
www.nmac.org

American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)
www.amfar.org

DIRECTORY OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

HIV/AIDS (cont.)

Black AIDS Institute
www.blackaids.org

Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center
(San Francisco)
www.apowellness.org

GMHC (founded as Gay Men's Health Crisis)
www.gmhc.org

The Sero Project
www.seroproject.com

Global Network of People Living with HIV in
North America (GNP+ NA)
www.gnpna.org

United States People Living with HIV Caucus
www.hivcaucus.org

Positive Women's Network
pwnusa.wordpress.com

IMMIGRATION

Immigration Equality
www.immigrationequality.org

National Center for Lesbian Rights'
Immigration Project
www.nclrights.org/explore-the-issues/asylum-immigration/

Out4Immigration
www.out4immigration.org

GLAAD
Spanish-Language Media Program
www.glaad.org/latino

INTERNATIONAL

International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights
Commission (IGLHRC)
www.iglhrc.org

GLAAD
Global Voices Program
www.glaad.org/globalvoices

Human Rights Watch
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and
Transgender Rights Program
www.hrw.org/lgbt

Council for Global Equality
www.globalequality.org

Organization for Refuge, Asylum and
Migration (ORAM)
www.oraminternational.org

LATINO/HISPANIC COMMUNITIES

Unid@s

www.unidoslgbt.com

GLAAD

Spanish-Language Media Program

www.glaad.org/latino

Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA)
(Chicago)

www.almachicago.org

Unity Coalition | Coalicion Unida (Florida)

www.unitycoalition.org

Bienestar (Los Angeles)

www.bienestar.org

ALLGO (Texas)

www.allgo.org

ACLU of Florida en Español

espanol.aclufi.org/

Casa Ruby (Washington, DC)

uslea.org/

Entre Hermanos (Seattle)

www.entrehermanos.org/

Familia es Familia

familiaesfamilia.org/

Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) Boston

www.hbgc-boston.org/

Lambda Legal

Proyecto Igualdad

www.lambdalegal.org/issues/proyecto-igualdad

Latino AIDS Commission (New York)

www.latinoaids.org/

Latino Equality Alliance (Los Angeles)

www.latinoequalityalliance.com/

Latino GLBT History Project (Washington, DC)

www.latinoglbthistory.org

League of United Latin American Citizens
(LULAC)

LGBT Program

lulac.org/programs/lgbt

Make the Road New York

www.maketheroad.org

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians
and Gays) Latino (New York)

www.pflagfamiliesofcolor.org/

Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project (QUIP)

unitedwedream.org/

Somos Familia (San Francisco)

somosfiliabay.org/

DIRECTORY OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

LATINO/HISPANIC COMMUNITIES (cont.)

Southerners On New Ground (SONG) (Atlanta)
www.southernersonnewground.org

TransLatina Coalition
translatinacoalition.org/

Unión=Fuerza Latino Institute
National Latino LGBT and Ally Convening
sites.google.com/site/creatingchangelatino/

LEGAL

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
www.lambdalegal.org

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project
www.aclu.org/lgbt

National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)
www.nclrights.org

Williams Institute UCLA School of Law
williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
www.glad.org

MARRIAGE

Freedom to Marry
www.freedomtomarry.org

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
www.lambdalegal.org

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
www.glad.org

National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)
www.nclrights.org

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project
www.aclu.org/lgbt

Human Rights Campaign
www.hrc.org/campaigns/marriage-center

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
http://www.nglftf.org/issues/marriage_and_partnership_recognition

Williams Institute UCLA School of Law
(demographics, economic research)
williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/

MEDIA

GLAAD

www.glaad.org

[Complete GLAAD media contacts directory, see inside front cover]

National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association
(NLGJA)

www.nlgja.org

MILITARY

OutServe-SLDN (Servicemembers Legal
Defense Network)

www.sldn.org

SPART*A (Service members, Partners, and Allies
for Respect and Tolerance for All)

www.facebook.com/SPARTAArmedForces/info

Palm Center

www.palmcenter.org

Transgender American Veterans Association

www.tavausa.org

PEOPLE OF COLOR

GLAAD Voices of Color Program

www.glaad.org/programs/voicesofcolor

*[Please see African American Communities, Asian Pacific
Islander (API) Communities, Latino/Hispanic Communities.]*

POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Human Rights Campaign

www.hrc.org

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

www.thetaskforce.org

Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Leadership
Institute (LGBT candidates)

www.victoryfund.org

Log Cabin Republicans

www.logcabin.org

Stonewall Democrats

www.stonewalldemocrats.org

RELIGION/FAITH COMMUNITIES

GENERAL

Institute for Welcoming Resources

(program of the National Gay and Lesbian
Task Force)

www.thetaskforce.org

Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

Religion & Faith Program

www.hrc.org

Gay Christian Network

www.gaychristian.net

DIRECTORY OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

RELIGION/FAITH COMMUNITIES

GENERAL (CONT.)

GLAAD
Religion, Faith & Values Program
www.glaad.org/faith

Interfaith Alliance
www.interfaithalliance.org

National Black Justice Coalition
www.nbjc.org

Network on Religion & Justice for Asian and
Pacific Islander LGBT People
www.netrj.org

Soulforce
www.soulforce.org

The Naming Project
www.thenamingproject.org

Muslims for Progressive Values
mpvusa.org/portfolio/lgbt/

DENOMINATIONAL AFFINITY GROUPS

Integrity (Episcopal)
www.integrityusa.org

Dignity/USA (Catholic)
www.dignityusa.org

New Ways Ministry (Catholic)
www.newwaysministry.org

Reconciling Ministries Network (United Methodist)
www.rmnetwork.org

ReconcilingWorks (Lutheran)
www.reconcilingworks.org

More Light Presbyterians
www.mlp.org

Affirmation: Gay & Lesbian Mormons
www.affirmation.org

Keshet (Jewish)
www.keshetonline.org/

LGBT / ALLIED DENOMINATIONS, CONGREGATIONS

Metropolitan Community Churches (LGBT-affirming
Christian denomination)
www.mccchurch.org

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah
(New York City LGBT synagogue)
www.cbst.org

Congregation Kol Ami
(Los Angeles LGBT synagogue)
www.kol-ami.org

RELIGION/FAITH COMMUNITIES

**LGBT / ALLIED DENOMINATIONS,
CONGREGATIONS (CONT.)**

United Church of Christ

www.ucc.org

City of Refuge United Church of Christ / Refuge
Ministries (San Francisco)

www.sfrefuge.org

Unitarian Universalist Association

www.uua.org

Unity Fellowship of Christ Church

www.unityfellowshipchurch.org

RESEARCH

The Movement Advancement Project (MAP)

www.lgbtmap.org/

Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law

williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/

SENIORS/ELDERS

Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)

www.sageusa.org

American Society on Aging's Lesbian and Gay
Aging Issues Network

www.asaging.org/lain

National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)

Elder Law Project

www.nclrights.org/explore-the-issues/elders/

SPORTS

GLAAD

Sports Media Program

www.glaad.org/sports

GLAAD is a member of the LGBT Sports Coalition

www.facebook.com/lgbtsportscoalition

You Can Play Project

www.youcanplayproject.org

Athlete Ally

www.athleteally.org

The Ben Cohen StandUp Foundation

www.standupfoundation.com

National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)

Sports Project

www.nclrights.org/explore-the-issues/sports/

STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS

Equality Federation

www.equalityfederation.org

*[Web site includes complete directory of LGBT state-
wide organizations.]*

DIRECTORY OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

TRANSGENDER

National Center for Transgender Equality
www.transequality.org

Transgender Law Center
www.transgenderlawcenter.org

National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)
Transgender Law Project
www.nclrights.org/explore-the-issues/transgender-law/

Transgender Law & Policy Institute
www.transgenderlaw.org

Sylvia Rivera Law Project
www.srlp.org

World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)
www.wpath.org

Trans Youth Family Allies (TYFA)
www.imatyfa.org

Gender Spectrum
www.genderspectrum.org

PFLAG Transgender Network
<http://community.pflag.org/transgender>

Lambda Legal Transgender Parents Program
www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/

trans-parents/transgender/transgenderaud1

TransParentcy
www.transparentcy.org/index.htm

COLAGE: Kids of Trans Community
www.colage.org/resources/kids-of-trans-resource-guide/

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
www.glsen.org

Point Foundation
www.pointfoundation.org

Gay-Straight Alliance Network
www.gsanetwork.org

The Trevor Project
www.thetrevorproject.org

National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) Youth Project
www.nclrights.org/explore-the-issues/youth/

Campus Pride
www.campuspride.org

New York
104 West 29th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10001
phone (212) 629-3322
fax (212) 629-3225

Los Angeles
5455 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90036
phone (323) 933-2240
fax (323) 933-2241

GLAAD is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate, and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

For the latest updates, visit GLAAD's Media Reference Guide at www.glaad.org.