

Supplementation of Resources for the Parents of Gay Children

It can be a sudden shock to find out that your child is a homosexual. Whether you are a mother or a father, have suspected something for sometime or were completely shocked, finding out can be a complete shock.

Every family is different, some parents may adjust to their child being Gay and some may not. For the parents of Gay children who find it hard, below is a list of websites and a supplementation of information from each of them.

- http://www.outproud.org/brochure_for_parents.html answers some frequently asked questions.

Why did he or she have to tell us?

Many parents think that they would be happier if they didn't know. What you must realize, however, is that if you did not know, you would never really know your child. A large part of his or her life would be kept secret from you, and you would never really know the whole human being.

The fact that your son or daughter told you is a sign of his or her love and need for your support and understanding. After all, who should know if not you? No other minority is asked to hide from their own parents what makes them "different"!

<http://www.gayfamilysupport.com> helps separate myths from facts

Myth.

* Most Lesbians Or Gays Regard Themselves As Members Of The Opposite Sex.

Fact.

The majority, if not all gays and lesbians are very happy with their gender. In many ways, their sexual identity is seen as a celebration and an affirmation of their gender, not rejection of it.

People often confuse homosexuality with being transgender or a cross dresser/transvestite. Transgender people feel as if they were born into the wrong body and should be the opposite gender. Transvestites are people who often dress in the clothing of the opposite sex.

Most transvestites are heterosexual.

Myth.

* Homosexuality Is A Form Of Mental Illness And Can Be Cured.

Fact.

The American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of official mental illnesses in 1973. The American Psychological Association followed suit in 1974. And so have most Psychiatric and psychological associations around the world.

Myth.

* All Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual And Transgender People Can Be Identified By Certain Mannerisms Or Physical Characteristics.

Fact.

Only a very small percentage of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people have stereotypic mannerisms and characteristics.

As with heterosexuals, homosexuals and transgender people come in many shapes, sizes and different colours. It is fair to say that some heterosexuals portray a variety of the so-called gay stereo typical characteristics.

Below is a list of other useful websites which can help parents of Gay Children

<http://www.bidstrup.com/parents.htm>

http://www.channel4.com/health/microsites/A/adultat14/sexuality/parents_gaychildren.shtml

<http://www.colage.org/research/facts.html>

<http://www.apa.org/pi/parent.html>