



The Association of Lesbian
Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
Addiction Professionals
and their Allies.

Serving the LGBT Community Since 1979
<http://www.NALGAP.org>

NALGAP's Position Statement on Reparative or Conversion Therapy

NALGAP's mission is to confront all forms of oppression and discriminatory practices in the delivery of services to all people and to advocate for programs and services that affirm all genders and sexual orientations. NALGAP provides information, training, networking, and advocacy about addiction and related problems, and support for those engaged in the health professions, individuals in recovery, and others concerned about the health of gender and sexual minorities.

For this reason:

NALGAP opposes the use of "reparative" and "conversion" therapies that are based upon the assumption that homosexuality is a mental disorder and/or relies on the belief that the individual seeking treatment should change their sexual orientation.

NALGAP opposes any form of counseling identified as "reparative" or "conversion" therapy by any addiction professional or related health care provider, for any individual seeking assistance and or treatment for a substance use or mental disorder. Treatment that does not affirm an individual's sexual orientation, sexual identity, gender identity and/or gender expression is counterproductive and harmful to the individual.

NALGAP recognizes some individuals have experienced spiritual abuse by growing up or being exposed to religious institutions that consider homosexuality a sin, abomination or perversion. When an individual seeking recovery chooses to incorporate a spiritual component, NALGAP believes it is imperative that the spiritual program that is utilized should be affirming of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.

NALGAP encourages all addiction and prevention professionals, behavioral health professionals allied health professionals as well as peer recovery support programs, administrative support staff, hospitals, institutions, agencies and residential settings that provide any and all services to individuals and families seeking support, information, referral, education and or treatment to provide a safe and supportive environment, free from all forms of oppression, homophobia, heterosexism and transphobia for any lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning client.

Adopted by the NALGAP Board or Directors July 2015

Statements from other organizations on why these therapies do not work and why they cause great harm:

American Academy of Pediatrics (1993)

“Therapy directed specifically at changing sexual orientation is contraindicated, since it can provoke guilt and anxiety while having little or no potential for achieving changes in orientation.”

American Medical Association (2003)

“Our AMA opposes the use of ‘reparative’ or ‘conversion’ therapy that is based on the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or based upon the a priori assumption that the patient should change his/her homosexual orientation.”

American Psychoanalytic Association (2000)

“Psychoanalytic technique does not encompass purposeful efforts to ‘convert’ or ‘repair’ an individual’s sexual orientation. Such directed efforts are against fundamental principles of psychoanalytic treatment and often result in substantial psychological pain by reinforcing damaging internalized homophobic attitudes.”

American Psychiatric Association (1998)

“The American Psychiatric Association opposes any psychiatric treatment, such as reparative or conversion therapy, which is based upon the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or based upon the priori assumption that a patient should change his/her sexual homosexual orientation.” The APA removed homosexuality from its list of disorders in 1973.

American Psychological Association (1997)

“No scientific evidence exists to support the effectiveness of any of the conversion therapies that try to change sexual orientation.” The association removed homosexuality from its list of disorders in 1975.

National Association of Social Workers (2000)

“People seek mental health services for many reasons. Accordingly, it is fair to assert that lesbians and gay men seek therapy for the same reasons that heterosexual people do. However, the increase in media campaigns, often coupled with coercive messages from family and community members, has created an environment in which lesbians and gay men often are pressured to seek reparative or conversion therapies, which cannot and will not change sexual orientation. Aligned with the American Psychological Association’s (1997) position, NCLGB believes that such treatment potentially can lead to severe emotional damage. Specifically, transformational ministries are fueled by stigmatization of lesbians and gay men, which in turn produces the social climate that pressures some people to seek change in sexual orientation. No data demonstrate that reparative or conversion therapies are effective, and in fact they may be harmful.