



*gay & lesbian alliance  
against defamation*

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual  
& Transgender  
Media Reference Guide**

**Winter/Spring 2003**



**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL  
& TRANSGENDER  
MEDIA REFERENCE GUIDE**

Winter/Spring 2003

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## **fair, accurate and inclusive**

Increasingly fair and accurate news media coverage has played an important role in expanding public awareness and understanding of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lives. However, many journalists and producers continue to face challenges covering these issues in an increasingly complex and still often rhetorically charged climate.

Media coverage of our community has become -- and continues to be -- increasingly multi-dimensional. As a result, reporting that remains mired in simplistic, predictable "pro-gay" and "anti-gay" dualisms does a disservice to readers seeking information on the diversity of opinion and experience within our community. And as coverage of the Catholic Church abuse scandal has shown, misinformation and misconceptions are corrected when journalists diligently research the facts and expose the myths that often are used against us.

There continues to be a need for journalists to distinguish between opposing viewpoints on lesbian and gay 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 organizations and institutions continue to see their incendiary rhetoric and inaccurate, unverifiable claims legitimized through stories, features and profiles. Such inclusion, despite the best intentions 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 coverage of family, faith, sports, politics, and many 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 and appropriate context. We ask that you help to give them that option on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

## LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Bisexual** An individual who is romantically and physically attracted to both men and women. Bisexuals need not have had equal sexual experience with both men and women; in fact, they need not have had any sexual experience at all to identify as bisexual.

**Civil Union** Formal recognition of committed lesbian and gay relationships by the state of Vermont. Civil unions confer upon same-sex couples the same rights available to married couples under Vermont law in such areas as state taxes, medical decisions and estate planning.

**Closeted** Term denoting an individual who is not open about his or her sexual orientation. Also "in the closet."

**Coming Out** A lifelong process of self-acceptance. People forge a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender identity first to themselves, and then may reveal it to others. However, publicly identifying oneself as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender may or may not be part of "coming out."

**Domestic Partnership** A civil or legal contract recognizing a partnership or a relationship between two people which sometimes confers limited legal benefits to them. Such a partnership can be formed by lesbians or gay men, by unmarried heterosexual life partners, or by others making a home together. Members of such a commitment may be referred to as "partners" or "companions."

**Gay** A term for describing people attracted to members of the same gender (see **gay man, lesbian**). Avoid identifying gay men and lesbians as "homosexuals."

**Gay Man** A man whose primary physical, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to other men. Avoid identifying gay men as "homosexuals."

**Gay Panic Defense** The justification of an anti-gay attack or murder based upon the allegation of a sexual advance made by the victim. Essentially, the gay panic defense blames the victims of hate crimes, and suggests that a sexual advance warrants a violent (or even murderous) response.

**Heterosexual Man/Woman** A person whose primary physical, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to people of the opposite sex.

**Heterosexism** The attitude that heterosexuality is the only valid sexual orientation. Heterosexism often takes the form of ignoring lesbians and gay men. For example: news stories about numerous Valentine's Day couples often omit same-sex couples.

**Homosexual** SEE PROBLEMATIC TERMINOLOGY Dated clinical term for individuals who are attracted physically, emotionally and/or spiritually to members of their own gender. Inappropriate and possibly offensive to many gay men and lesbians. Preferred terms are “lesbian” and “gay .”

**Homophobia** Fear or hatred of lesbians and gay men.

**Lesbian** A woman whose primary physical, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to other women. Avoid identifying lesbians as “homosexuals.”

**LGBT** The acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender." LGBT (or LGBTQ) is often used because it is more inclusive of the entire community.

**Lifestyle** SEE PROBLEMATIC TERMINOLOGY Term often used to denigrate the lives of lesbians and gay men. Avoid using. As there is no one heterosexual lifestyle, there is no one lesbian or gay lifestyle.

**Openly Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender** Describes people who self-identify as lesbian or gay in their public and/or professional lives.

**Outing** The act of publicly revealing another person’s sexual orientation. Considered inappropriate in the current political and social climate by a large majority of the gay community.

**Queer** Traditionally a pejorative term for non-heterosexuals, this has been appropriated by some lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to describe themselves. Some value the term for its defiance and because it is inclusive — not only of lesbians and gay men but also of bisexuals and transgender people as well. Nevertheless, it is **not** universally accepted within our community, and if used by a non-LGBT person, it is still considered derogatory. It is advised that media avoid it, unless quoting someone who self-identifies that way.

**Rainbow Flag** A symbol of LGBT unity and diversity used worldwide. Many countries prefer it to the pink triangle, which was used by the Nazis to identify gay men during the Holocaust, or the black triangle, which was used to identify lesbians, gypsies and prostitutes.

**Sexual Orientation** The preferred term used when referring to an individual’s physical, emotional and/or spiritual attraction to the same and/or opposite sex, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual orientations.

**Sodomy Laws** Term for various state laws against specific sexual acts. Sodomy is not synonymous with lesbian/gay sex, although sodomy laws are usually used to selectively prosecute only lesbians and gay men. The legal definition of sodomy is different in each state and often applies to certain sexual acts practiced by non-gay people.

## TRANSGENDER GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Sex** The classification of people as male or female. At birth, infants are assigned a sex based on a combination of bodily characteristics including: chromosomes, hormones, internal reproductive organs and genitals.

**Gender Identity** One's personal sense of being a man or a woman (or a boy or girl.) For transgender people, their birth-assigned sex and their own internal sense of gender identity do not match.

**Gender Expression** External representation of one's gender identity, usually expressed through "masculine" or "feminine" behavior, clothing, hair cut, voice or body characteristics. Typically, transgender people seek to make their gender expression match their gender identity, rather than their birth-assigned sex.

**Transgender** An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. The term may include, but is not limited to: transsexuals, intersex people, cross-dressers, and other gender-variant people. Transgender people can be female-to-male (FTM) or male-to-female (MTF). Use the descriptive term (transgender, transsexual, cross-dresser, FTM or MTF) preferred by the transgender person. Transgender people may or may not choose to alter their bodies hormonally and/or surgically.

**Cross Dressing** To occasionally wear clothes traditionally associated with people of the other sex. Cross-dressers are usually comfortable with the sex they were assigned at birth and do not wish to change it. ("Cross-dresser" should NOT be used to describe someone who has transitioned to live full-time as the other sex, or who intends to do so in the future.) While cross-dressing is a form of gender expression, it is not necessarily tied to sexual orientation or erotic activity. Most cross-dressers are heterosexual.

**Gender Identity Disorder (GID)** A controversial DSM-IV diagnosis given to transgender and other gender-variant people. Because it labels people as "disordered," Gender Identity Disorder is often considered offensive. The diagnosis is frequently given to children who don't obey expected norms in terms of dress, play or behavior. Such children are often subjected to intense psychotherapy, behavior modification and/or institutionalization. Replaces the outdated term "gender dysphoria."

**Intersex** Describing a person whose sex is ambiguous. There are many genetic, hormonal or anatomical variations which make a person's sex ambiguous (i.e., Klinefelter Syndrome, Adrenal Hyperplasia). Parents and medical professionals usually assign intersex infants a sex and perform surgical operations to conform the infant's body to that assignment. This practice has become increasingly controversial as intersex adults are speaking out against the practice, accusing doctors of genital mutilation.

**Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS)** Refers to genital alteration, and is only one small part of transition (see transition below). Not all transsexuals choose or can afford to have SRS. Journalists should avoid overemphasizing the importance of SRS. Preferred term to sex change operation.

**Transition** The complex process of altering one's sex. Transition includes some or all of the following: changing one's name and/or sex on legal documents, hormone therapy, and possibly some form of chest and/or genital alteration.

**Transsexual (also Transexual)** see **transgender**

**Transvestite** DEROGATORY see **cross-dressing**

### **PRONOUN USAGE, GENDER IDENTITY & SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

We encourage you to ask transgender people which pronoun they would like you to use. If it is not possible to ask the person which pronoun he or she prefers, use the pronoun that is consistent with the person's appearance and gender expression. Also, please do not put quotation marks around gender pronouns or name as if to suggest that the pronoun or name does not reflect the person's true sex.

Gender identity is an integral part of a person's identity. Please do not characterize transgender people as "deceptive," "pretending," "posing" or "masquerading" as a man or a woman.

Gender identity and sexual orientation are not the same. Transgender people may be heterosexual, lesbian, gay or bisexual.

### **TRANSGENDER-SPECIFIC PROBLEMATIC TERMINOLOGY**

**PROBLEMATIC:** "sex change," "pre-operative," "post-operative"

**PREFERRED:** "transition"

Altering one's birth sex is not a one-step procedure. It is a process that takes place over a long period of time. Using terms such as pre- or post-operative implies that one must have surgery in order to truly change one's sex.

**PROBLEMATIC:** "hermaphrodite"

**PREFERRED:** "intersex person"

The word "hermaphrodite" is a stigmatizing and misleading word, usually used to sensationalize intersex people.

**DEFAMATORY:** "she-male," "he-she," "trannie," "tranny," "gender-bender"

These words only serve to dehumanize transgender people and should not be used (See DEFAMATORY LANGUAGE TO AVOID).

## **PROBLEMATIC TERMINOLOGY**

**PROBLEMATIC:** “homosexual” (as a n. or adj.)

**PREFERRED:** “gay” (adj.); “gay man” or “lesbian” (n.)

Please use “lesbian” or “gay man” to describe people attracted to members of the same sex. Because of the clinical history of the word “homosexual,” it has been adopted by anti-gay activists to suggest that lesbians and gay men are somehow diseased or psychologically disordered -- notions discredited by both the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association in the 1970s. Please avoid using “homosexual” except in direct quotes.

**PROBLEMATIC:** “sexual preference”

**PREFERRED:** “sexual orientation”

The phrase “sexual preference” is generally used to suggest that being lesbian or gay is a choice, and therefore “curable.” The term “sexual orientation” is an accurate description of variations of sexual attraction, and is inclusive of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and heterosexual men and women.

**PROBLEMATIC:** “gay lifestyle”

**PREFERRED:** “lesbian” or “gay”

There is no single lesbian or gay lifestyle; lesbians and gay men are diverse in the ways they lead their lives. The phrase “gay lifestyle” is used to denigrate lesbians and gay men, suggesting that their sexual orientation is a choice and therefore “curable.”

**PROBLEMATIC:** “admitted homosexual” or “avowed homosexual”

**PREFERRED:** “openly lesbian” or “openly gay”

Used to describe those who are openly lesbian or gay or who have recently come out of the closet. “Admitted” or “avowed” suggests that being a lesbian or gay man is somehow shameful.

**PROBLEMATIC:** “gay agenda” or “homosexual agenda”

**PREFERRED:** “lesbian and gay movement”

Lesbians and gay men are as diverse in our political beliefs as other communities. Our commitment to equal rights is one we share with civil rights advocates who are not necessarily lesbian or gay. “Lesbian and gay movement” accurately describes the historical effort to achieve understanding and equal treatment for lesbians and gay men.

**PROBLEMATIC:** “special rights”

**PREFERRED:** “equal rights” or “equal protection”

Anti-gay political extremists frequently characterize equal rights and protection for lesbians and gay men as “special rights.” This is an attempt to energize opposition to anti-discrimination and hate-crimes legislation, civil unions, lesbian/gay adoption and other equal opportunities for lesbians and gay men.

## **DEFAMATORY LANGUAGE TO AVOID:**

**“fag,” “faggot,” “dyke,” “homo,” “sodomite,” “queen,” “she-male,” “he-she,” “tranny” and similar epithets.**

The criteria for using these derogatory terms should be the same as those applied to hate words used against other groups: they should not be used except in a direct quote which 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 an obscene or profane word for a lesbian, gay man or transgender person."

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

The notion that homosexuality 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 lesbians and gay men as less than human, mentally ill, or as a danger to society. Words such as these should be avoided in stories about the lesbian and gay community. If they must be used, they should be quoted directly in a way that reveals the bias of the person being quoted.

**Associating homosexuality with pedophilia, child sexual abuse, bestiality and incest.**

Homosexuality is not synonymous with pedophilia, child sexual abuse, bestiality and/or incest. These associations often are used to suggest that lesbians and gay men pose a threat to society, and to children in particular. Such suggestions are defamatory and should be avoided, except in a direct quote which reveals the bias of the person quoted.

## IN DEPTH: COVERING CRIME STORIES

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

**When a gay 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 gay, lesbian or bisexual suspects.

**It is a false-cause fallacy to imply, suggest or allow others to suggest a causal relationship between sexual orientation and criminal activity.** Gay and straight people commit crimes. But to insinuate – either through direct statements or by quoting others – that gay people are more likely to commit crimes because they are gay is blatantly defamatory. This also applies to insinuating that a gay individual's criminal acts are broadly representative of LGBT lives.

**Stereotypes perpetuate myths.** For example, far-right extremists long have claimed that gays are sexual predators and likely child molesters. These baseless stereotypes only sensationalize crime stories and fuel anti-gay sentiment.

**Quick assumptions can feed rumors about the sexual orientations of any of the involved parties.** A criminal's or a victim's sexual orientation is not always obvious (or relevant) based simply on the circumstances of the crime or preliminary investigation reports. If a person's sexual orientation is relevant, please investigate to establish it factually rather than rely on speculation or innuendo.

**Level the field on sexual orientation.** As a rule, avoid labeling an activity or emotion "homosexual," "gay" or "lesbian" unless you would call the same activity "heterosexual" or "straight" if engaged in by someone of another sexual orientation. Your readers, viewers or listeners will be able to discern the genders of the people involved through your use of pronouns.

**Inaccurate hate/bias crime reporting can unintentionally support a "gay panic defense."** Personal assaults and criminal acts may only involve a single victim, but the perpetrator often intends it to send a message to LGBT people that they are legitimate targets for discrimination and abuse. (In fact, the victims of some anti-gay hate crimes are heterosexuals who are thought to be gay.) Please report the specifics of a crime and its social implications based on the facts of the case. Implying that an openly gay victim shares responsibility for being attacked, or that an attack was justified because of an unwanted sexual advance (the "gay panic defense"), often biases criminal or legal investigations.

**Many on the far right downplay or trivialize hate crimes.** Some people may 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 real or perceived sexual orientation/gender identity.

## IN DEPTH: SPORTS & HOMOPHOBIA

In recent months, media have begun to explore the complex intersection of sports culture, closeted and openly gay athletes, and homophobia. Recent anti-gay comments by baseball player John Rocker, speculation about celebrity athletes' sexual orientations and stories about athletes like gay former NFL-er Esera Tuaolo have catalyzed a national dialogue on the issue.

Few coaches, managers or players have any experience working with openly gay teammates. And most sports professionals publicly proclaim there are no gay people on their team, enforcing a closet mentality through locker-room jokes and innuendoes about gay men. Coaches and managers often express concern about public reaction to openly gay athletes, worrying that the long-held stereotype of gay male effeminacy would damage a team's reputation and competitive edge. As a result, gay male athletes are deeply closeted through a system of institutionalized intimidation.

In women's sports, successful women athletes are frequently assumed to be lesbians. Some professional organizations, like the WNBA, have targeted lesbians through promotions, and out tennis player Martina Navratilova has become a spokesperson on LGBT issues. Yet when Sue Wicks of WNBA's New York Liberty came out of the closet, there was little media coverage and powerful resistance from the league owners.

Within the gay community, LGBT teams and organizations have formed for league play, and the international Gay Games has grown to become the largest event of its kind worldwide. Resources like Outsports.com and the National Center for Lesbian Rights' Homophobia and Sports Project provide information for LGBT sports fans and lead research and visibility initiatives.

**When covering the issue of gays in sports, expand your focus beyond those who claim that team sports are not able to deal with openly gay athletes.** Many sports columnists, coaches, managers and athletes (straight and gay) often claim it would be impossible for an openly gay athlete to play in team sports. When reporting on the topic, consider seeking out other voices in the sports world or in the LGBT community who would challenge the merits of this claim.

**Treat homophobic comments from pro athletes, managers and coaches as you would similar remarks by other public figures.** Just as anti-gay epithets would receive extensive coverage if uttered by an elected official or a Hollywood celebrity, homophobia by sports figures should be publicly examined and discussed in a larger context.

## **IN DEPTH: STUDIES, SURVEYS & THE GAY COMMUNITY**

As gay and lesbian cultural visibility increases, studies that substantively explore and quantify gay issues and lives (and mainstream America's opinions regarding both) are becoming key barometers of evolving cultural attitudes toward our community. And as surveys and statistics can be useful sources of demographic and public opinion data, it is important to evaluate studies based on source/methodology credibility and respectability. Among the most frequently cited surveys/studies in recent months:

### **“INSIDE-OUT,” HENRY J. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION (NOV. 2001)**

<http://www.kff.org/content/2001/3/193/>

Kaiser conducted two national public opinion surveys: one of lesbian/gay/bisexual people; the other a representative sample of the general public. They found that:

- 74% of LGB people had experienced verbal abuse based on their sexual orientation, and about one-third had experienced physical violence.
- 73% of general public know someone who is gay, lesbian or bisexual; 62% have an LGB friend or acquaintance.
- There is broad public support for laws to protect gays and lesbians from prejudice and discrimination in employment (76%) and housing (74%).

### **GALLUP POLL (JUNE 2001)**

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr010604.asp> (subscription required)

Gallup has conducted periodic polls of the general public regarding gay issues since 1977. Their June 2001 survey found:

- There is steadily increasing support for equal marriage rights for lesbians and gay men, with 44% in favor (up from 42% the previous year) and 52% opposed (down from 54%).
- 85% believe gays should have equal employment rights (up from 74% in 1992). Gays and lesbians should be able to be hired in the armed forces (72%), as doctors (78%), as clergy (54%), as elementary school teachers (56%), as high school teachers (63%) and as part of the president's cabinet (75%).

### **“COPARENT OR SECOND-PARENT ADOPTION BY SAME-SEX PARENTS,” AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS (FEB. 2002)**

<http://www.aap.org/policy/020008t.html>

The AAP's analysis of the growing body of scientific literature (see report for full bibliography) on children of gay and lesbian parents revealed that:

- Children who grow up with one or two gay/lesbian parents fare as well in emotional, cognitive, social and sexual functioning as do children whose parents are heterosexual.

## **IN DEPTH: “REPARATIVE THERAPY” & “EX-GAYS”**

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 claim homosexuality is a form of mental illness or a disorder that can be "cured" through psychological or religious intervention. Through the testimony of so-called "ex-gays," anti-gay activists argue their belief that homosexuality is a curable condition, therefore lesbians and gay men do not need or deserve equal rights or protection from discrimination.

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." In addition, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, the National Mental Health Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics also have spoken out against these therapies. Many who have undergone these therapies also condemn the practice.

### **THE SPITZER STUDY**

In May 2001, Dr. Robert Spitzer of Columbia University released the results of a short-term study of reparative therapy. Based on telephone interviews with a convenient sample of 200 subjects, Spitzer concluded that some "highly motivated" gay people could change their sexual orientation through therapy or other means.

Many in the scientific community dismissed the study because of its serious methodological flaws, among them:

- Spitzer recruited most of his subjects through two anti-gay activist groups: Exodus and the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH).
- Spitzer intentionally excluded from his study anybody whose experiences with reparative therapy were not successful.
- Spitzer's research did not mention or account for the existence of bisexuality on the continuum of sexual orientation.

Initial media coverage of the study was largely inaccurate and sensationalistic. Outlets viewed the study solely through social and political filters, rather than on scientific merits (in fact, many media outlets sought religious or political spokespeople to discuss the scientific implications of the study). And many outlets mis-stated Spitzer's conclusions, resulting in headlines such as: "An explosive new study says some gay people can turn straight if they really want to." This is a notion Spitzer himself has vehemently disputed in the public record.

When reporting on scientific opinions or research on sexual orientation/gender identity issues, please solicit information and opinions from qualified experts in the appropriate scientific discipline.

## **IN DEPTH: “THE DOWN LOW” & MSM ISSUES**

### **TERMINOLOGY:**

**Down Low (or DL)** A term coined by some bisexual men of color that describes a cultural phenomenon of men who have sex with other men without the knowledge of their female partners. The term came into the mainstream following media coverage of "AIDS at 20" and the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) 2001 study of HIV/AIDS rates within black and Latino gay communities.

**MSM** Common abbreviation for men who secretly have sex with men while maintaining relationships with women. MSM is not synonymous with bisexual and usually refers to members of communities of color. For many MSMs, fear of isolation or rejection by family members or the church can lead to lower self-respect, shame and silence about their sexual identity.

### **BACKGROUND & ISSUES:**

The issue of HIV/AIDS prevention and education among men who have sex with men but who don't identify as gay or bisexual has long been the focus of AIDS groups, such as the African American AIDS Prevention & Training Institute, that primarily serve communities of color. However, these efforts – and issues of sexual identity among people of color – only recently came to national prominence.

In 2001, the Centers for Disease Control issued a report citing higher rates of HIV/AIDS within gay black and Latino men. The startling results of the CDC's study – combined with concerted public education efforts by key AIDS service organizations – prompted several media outlets to examine MSMs and the Down Low for the first time as part of their "AIDS at 20" coverage.

Coverage of MSMs/Down Low has been mixed, due in part to the complex intersection of race, ethnicity, cultural attitudes, gender and sexuality inherent in these identities. Even some well-intentioned coverage has stigmatized MSMs without exploring the homophobia and racism that lie at the root of the identity challenges they face.

**In covering MSMs or the Down Low, please avoid generalizations that one community or ethnic group is more homophobic than another – or than the mainstream of America.** Some have unfairly painted black or Latino culture as inherently homophobic, even though many in the African American and Latino communities are supportive of gays and lesbians.

**If you do background research or interviews around this topic, please consider seeking information from diverse resources.** Please seek out HIV/AIDS service organizations, advocacy organizations, churches or other groups that focus on health education for gay communities of color and MSMs. See **DIRECTORY OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES** for more information.

## DIRECTORY OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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 gay and lesbian lives.

We encourage you to contact GLAAD News Media Director Cathy Renna at (646) 871-8008 or the GLAAD Regional Media Manager for your area (see cover page) for additional resources.

### FAMILY

*Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)*  
Heather Wright  
(202) 467-8180, ext. 213  
[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

*Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)*  
Felicia Park-Rogers  
(415) 861-5437  
[www.colage.org](http://www.colage.org)

*Family Pride Coalition*  
Corri Planck  
(202) 331-5015  
[www.familypride.org](http://www.familypride.org)

### LEGAL

*Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund*  
Eric Ferrero  
(212) 809-8585  
[www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)

*National Center for Lesbian Rights*  
Kate Kendell  
(415) 392-6257  
[www.nclrights.org](http://www.nclrights.org)

*American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Lesbian and Gay Rights Project*  
Paul Cates  
(212) 549-2568  
[www.aclu.org/issues/gay/hmgl.html](http://www.aclu.org/issues/gay/hmgl.html)

### MEDIA

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*(see cover page for Regional Media, Entertainment Media and Cultural Interest Media contacts)*

*National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA)*  
Pamela Strother  
(202) 588-9888, ext. 11  
[www.nlgja.org](http://www.nlgja.org)

### MILITARY

*Servicemembers Legal Defense Network*  
Steve Ralls  
(202) 328-3244  
[www.sldn.org](http://www.sldn.org)

*Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military*  
Nathaniel Frank  
(718) 624-5999  
[www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu](http://www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu)

**PEOPLE OF COLOR**

*African American AIDS Prevention and Training Institute*  
 Phill Wilson  
 (213) 353-3610  
[www.aaainstitute.org](http://www.aaainstitute.org)

*Asian Pacific Islanders for Human Rights*  
 Patrick Mangto  
 (323) 860-8775  
[www.apihr.org](http://www.apihr.org)

*Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center*  
 Ronald Pineda  
 (415) 292-3400, ext. 373  
[www.apiwellness.org](http://www.apiwellness.org)

*Audre Lorde Project (multi-cultural)*  
 Jimmy Lopez  
 (718) 596-0342, ext. 18  
[www.alp.org](http://www.alp.org)

*Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD)*  
 Earle Plante  
 (212) 828-1697, ext. 129  
[www.gmad.org](http://www.gmad.org)

*Mano a Mano*  
 Andres Duque  
 (212) 584-9306  
[www.latinoaids.org/programs/mano.htm](http://www.latinoaids.org/programs/mano.htm)

*National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum*  
 Alvan Quamina/Bryan Philpot  
 (510) 302-0930

*National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization (LLEGO)*  
 Noemi Perez  
 (202) 408-5380, ext. 105  
[www.llego.org](http://www.llego.org)

**POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS**

*Human Rights Campaign*  
 David Smith  
 (202) 628-4160  
[www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

*National Gay and Lesbian Task Force*  
 Sherri Lunn  
 (202) 332-6483  
[www.nglhf.org](http://www.nglhf.org)

**POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS****(continued)**

*Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund (LGBT candidates)*  
 Jason Young  
 (202) 842-8679  
[www.victoryfund.org](http://www.victoryfund.org)

*Log Cabin Republicans*  
 (202) 347-5306  
[www.lcr.org](http://www.lcr.org)

**RELIGION/FAITH COMMUNITIES**

*Dignity/USA (LGBT Catholics)*  
 Marianne Duddy  
 (617) 361-9512  
[www.dignityusa.org](http://www.dignityusa.org)

*Metropolitan Community Churches (LGBT-affirming Christian denomination)*  
 Jim Birkitt  
 (310) 360-8640, ext. 226  
[www.ufmcc.com](http://www.ufmcc.com)

*Congregation Beth Simchat Torah (New York City LGBT synagogue)*  
 Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum  
 (212) 929-9498  
[www.cbst.org](http://www.cbst.org)

*Congregation Kol Ami (Los Angeles LGBT synagogue)*  
 Rabbi Denise Eger  
 (323) 606-0996  
[www.kol-ami.org](http://www.kol-ami.org)

*Al-Fatiha Foundation (LGBT muslims)*  
 M. Faisal Alam  
 (202) 352-5305  
[www.al-fatiha.net](http://www.al-fatiha.net)

*People for the American Way (General faith community inquiries)*  
 Rev. Steven Baines  
 (202) 467-2377

**“REPARATIVE THERAPY” & “EX-GAYS”**

*American Psychiatric Association*  
 Jack Drescher, M.D.  
 Chair, Committee on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues  
 (212) 645-2232

**SENIORS**

*NGLTF Aging Initiative*  
Ken South  
(202) 332-6483, ext. 3308  
[www.ngltf.org/pi/aging.htm](http://www.ngltf.org/pi/aging.htm)

*Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE)*  
Amber Hollibaugh  
(212) 741-2247, ext. 231  
[www.sageusa.org](http://www.sageusa.org)

**SPORTS**

*National Center for Lesbian Rights'  
Homophobia and Sports Project*  
Helen Carroll  
(415) 392-6257  
[www.nclrights.org](http://www.nclrights.org)

*Outsports.com*  
Cyd Zeigler  
(323) 822-0829  
[www.outsports.com](http://www.outsports.com)

**TRANSGENDER/INTERSEX**

*Gender Education and Advocacy*  
James Green  
(510) 393-4785  
[www.gender.org](http://www.gender.org)

*International Foundation for Gender  
Education*  
Nancy Cain  
(781) 894-8340  
[www.ifge.org](http://www.ifge.org)

*Intersex Society of North America*  
Cheryl Chase  
(734) 994-7369  
[www.isna.org](http://www.isna.org)

*National Center for Lesbian Rights*  
Shannon Minter  
(415) 392-6257  
[www.nclrights.org](http://www.nclrights.org)

*National Transgender Advocacy Coalition  
(NTAC)*  
Vanessa Edwards Foster  
(832) 483-9901  
[www.ntac.org](http://www.ntac.org)

**VIOLENCE/HATE CRIMES**

*New York City Gay and Lesbian  
Anti-Violence Project*  
Clarence Patton  
(212) 714-1184  
[www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org)

*Triangle Foundation (Michigan)*  
Jeffrey Montgomery  
(313) 537-3323  
[www.tri.org](http://www.tri.org)

**YOUTH/EDUCATION**

*Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education  
Network (GLSEN)*  
Chadwick Bovee  
(212) 727-0135  
[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)

The **Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)** is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate, and inclusive representation of individuals and events in all media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

**Los Angeles**

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

**New York**

248 W. 35th St.  
8th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 629-3322  
fax (212) 629-3225

**San Francisco**

1375 Sutter St.  
Suite 222  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
(415) 561-0638  
fax (415) 561-0632

**[www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org)**