

## Summary of Conversion Therapy Position Statements of Major Health Organizations

### Canadian Psychological Association

"The Canadian Psychological Association opposes any therapy with the goal of repairing or converting an individual's sexual orientation, regardless of age. Conversion therapy, or reparative therapy, refers to any formal therapeutic attempt to change the sexual orientation of bisexual, gay and lesbian individuals to heterosexual (e.g., Nicolosi, 1991; Socarides & Kaufman, 1994). It can include prayer or religious rites, modification of behaviours, and individual or group counselling (Bright, 2004; Nicolosi, 1991)."

### Pan American Health Organization (Regional Office of the World Health Organization)

"'Cures' for an illness that does not exist: Purported therapies aimed at changing sexual orientation lack medical justification and are ethically unacceptable."

### American Psychiatry Association

1. APA reaffirms its recommendation that ethical practitioners refrain from attempts to change individuals' sexual orientation.
2. APA recommends that ethical practitioners respect the identities for those with diverse gender expressions.
3. APA encourages psychotherapies which affirm individuals' sexual orientations and gender identities.
4. APA encourages legislation which would prohibit the practice of "reparative" or conversion therapies that are based on the a priori assumption that diverse sexual orientations and gender identities are mentally ill.

### American Medical Association

- 1) Our AMA:
  - a) believes that the physician's nonjudgmental recognition of patients' sexual orientations, sexual behaviors, and gender identities enhances the ability to render optimal patient care in health as well as in illness. In the case of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and other (LGBTQ) patients, this recognition is especially important to address the specific health care needs of people who are or may be LGBTQ;
  - b) is committed to taking a leadership role in:
    - i) educating physicians on the current state of research in and knowledge of LGBTQ Health and the need to elicit relevant gender and sexuality information from our patients; these efforts should start in medical school, but must also be a part of continuing medical education;
    - ii) educating physicians to recognize the physical and psychological needs of LGBTQ patients;
    - iii) encouraging the development of educational programs in LGBTQ Health;
    - iv) encouraging physicians to seek out local or national experts in the health care needs of LGBTQ people so that all physicians will achieve a better understanding of the medical needs of these populations; and
    - v) working with LGBTQ communities to offer physicians the opportunity to better understand the medical needs of LGBTQ patients; and
  - c) opposes, the use of "reparative" or "conversion" therapy for sexual orientation or gender identity.