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## Bullying of the LGBTQ Community

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# BULLYING OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

Bethany Green, Ashlynn Kelly, and Alicia McLeod



# LGBTQ POPULATION

- ▶ 9 million Americans identify as LGBTQ
- ▶ 700,000 Americans identify as Transgender
- ▶ 650,000 Same Sex Couples in America

(Gates, G., 2013)

# TYPES OF BULLYING

- ▶ Physical
- ▶ Verbal
- ▶ Cyber
- ▶ Societal

(GSA, 2009)

# LGBTQ BULLYING IN THE UNITED STATES

- ▶ Schools
- ▶ 59-84% of students who are LGBTQ have experienced bullying of some type
- ▶ LGBTQ students are more likely to be bullied
- ▶ This bullying can be indirect or direct

# LGBTQ BULLYING IN THE UNITED STATES

- ▶ Workplace
- ▶ “More than four percent of the American workforce identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT). Approximately 212,000 of these workers live in Ohio. Ohio does not have a statewide law that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment.” (Hasenbush, A. & Mallory, C., 2014)

# RESULTS OF LGBTQ BULLYING IN AMERICA

Youth harassed on the basis of sexual orientation are:

- ▶ **More likely** to report low grades, smoke, drink alcohol or use drugs
- ▶ **More likely** to become victims of violence
- ▶ **3 times as likely** to carry a weapon
- ▶ **3 times as likely** to report missing school in the last 30 days
- ▶ **More than twice as likely** to report depression and seriously consider suicide

# LGBTQ and Suicide

- ▶ LGB youth are **4 times more likely**, and questioning youth are **3 times more likely**, to attempt suicide as their straight peers.
- ▶ Suicide attempts by LGB youth and questioning youth are **4 to 6 times more likely** to result in injury, poisoning, or overdose that requires treatment from a doctor or nurse, compared to their straight peers.
- ▶ LGB youth who experienced severe family rejection were more than **8 times more likely** to report having attempted suicide compared with peers from families with little or no rejection.
- ▶ **12-19%** of LGB adults vs. **4.6%** of all U.S. adults



# LGBTQ YOUTH AND HOMELESSNESS

- ▶ Of the estimated **1.6 million** homeless American youth, between **20 and 40 percent** identify as LGBT.
- ▶ **26 percent** of gay teens who came out to their parents or guardians were told they must leave home.



(Gay and Transgender Youth Homelessness by the Numbers, 2010; LGBT Homeless, 2009)

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-gov-cuomo-don-t-abandon-lgbt-homeless-youth>

# LGBTQ BULLYING IN SOUTH AFRICA

- ▶ On any given day, a lesbian woman is twice as likely to be raped or sexually molested than a heterosexual woman
- ▶ Corrective rape- The idea that having sexual relations with men will reverse the desire to have sexual relationships with women.

(Brown, 2012)

# SOUTH AFRICAN CULTURE

- ▶ Patriarchy
- ▶ Homosexuality is “un-African”
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> to secure gay rights in the work place in 1997
- ▶ Legalized gay marriage in 2005

"Even if you know how the constitution works, you don't know how to use it to protect yourself. If you don't have money you don't have access to the justice system. Violence in the townships is normal. Homosexuality is [seen as] un-African. Patriarchy is everywhere. The way religious leaders read scripture is painful. Children start raping at 14, 15 and take pictures. We're sitting on a time bomb."

**-Funeka Soldaat, founder of Freegender  
Cape Town, South Africa**

(Strudwick, 2014)

# RAPE IN SOUTH AFRICA

- ▶ Between 2011-2012 there were a total of **9,193** sexual offences reported to the South African Police Services (SAPS) in the Western Cape.
- ▶ Just under **27** cases per day



<http://www.change.org/petitions/south-africa-follow-words-with-action-against-rape>

(Strudwick, 2014)

- ▶ There is currently no legislation that pertains specifically to the rape of lesbians in order to 'correct' their sexual orientation as a hate crime.
- ▶ 24 out of 25 rapes that even reach trial in South Africa don't see attackers convicted.
- ▶ In testimonies collected by one researcher, the most common reaction from police to corrective rape is **laughter**.

# UGANDA

- ▶ Homosexuality is illegal in Uganda
- ▶ President Museveni signed Anti-Gay bill February 24, 2014
- ▶ 2009 bill included death penalty for homosexual acts
- ▶ Parliament replaced death penalty for life in prison for “aggravated homosexuality”
- ▶ Bill includes years in prison for anyone who reaches out or counsels gays or lesbians
- ▶ Ensures withdraw from LGBT rights and service groups



<http://www.mysecretatheistblog.com/2012/08/gay-bravery-gay-authenticity-gay.html>

(Karimi and Thompson, 2014)

# RUSSIA

- ▶ 2013 law prohibits “distribution of propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors”
  - ▶ Gay rights protests,
  - ▶ Pride parades
  - ▶ Stating gay and straight relationships are equal
  - ▶ Fines up to 100,000 rubles (about \$3,000) and up to 3 years jail time
- ▶ Second law allows Russian police to arrest tourists suspected of being homosexual or lesbian
  - ▶ Jailed up to 14 days
  - ▶ Eviction from the country
  - ▶ Allows police to arrest athletes, trainers, journalists, fans, etc.



# RUSSIA

- ▶ Third law (July 2013) prohibits gay couples in Russia and single parents from countries that allow gay marriage, to adopt Russian-born children.
- ▶ Fourth law (in progress) takes away parental rights from any adult with a “nontraditional sexual orientation.”



<http://thedisorderofthings.com/2013/06/23/russias-anti-gay-laws-the-politics-and-consequences-of-a-moral-panic/>

# OUR RESPONSIBILITY

## Education

- ▶ Teachers and school staff
- ▶ Students
- ▶ Professionals
- ▶ Communities



<http://www.stopbullying.gov/what-you-can-do/parents/index.html>

# OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- ▶ Policy Change
  - ▶ South Africa
  - ▶ In the school system



<http://www.ivmcf.org/tag/south-africa>

(Brown, R., 2012)

# ORGANIZATIONS



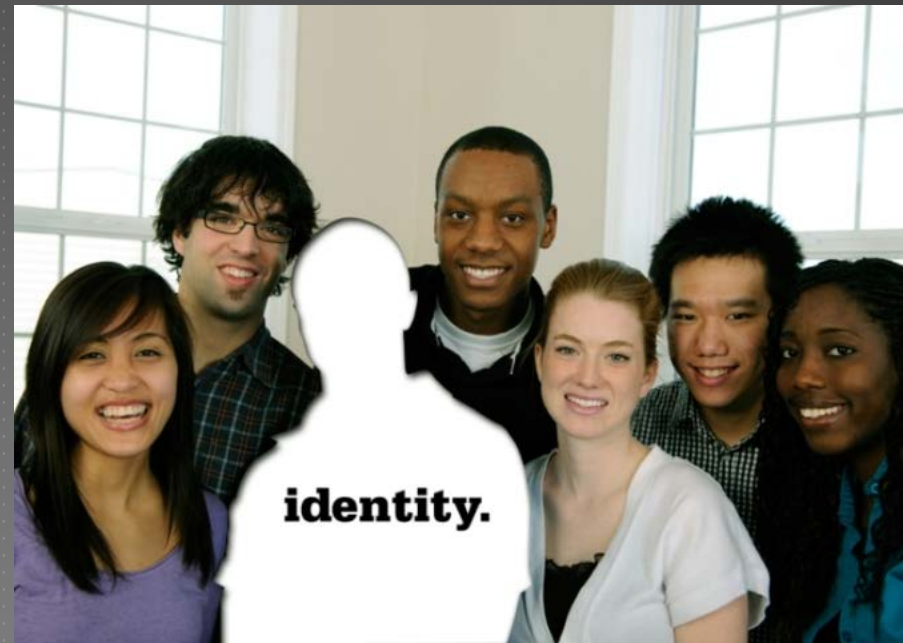
<https://www.gsanetwork.org/>

- ▶ Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)
- ▶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Stop Bullying Initiative

(GSA Network, n.d.; Kosciw et al., 2012;  
Stopbullying.gov, n.d.)

# ORGANIZATIONS

- ▶ Walls Down
- ▶ Six-11 Ministries
- ▶ Parakaleo
- ▶ Christopher Yuan



<http://six11.wordpress.com/youth-workers/who-am-i-in-christ/>

(Parakaleo, n.d.; Six-11 Ministries, n.d.; Walls Down, 2013; Yuan, C. 2011)

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