

Scientific Professional Associations' Statements on "Reparative" Therapy

Based on clinical knowledge, major medical and scientific professional associations have provided statements regarding reparative therapy including:

American Psychological Association (2009) – "The American Psychological Association reaffirms its position that homosexuality per se is not a mental disorder and opposes portrayals of sexual minority youths and adults as mentally ill due to their sexual orientation...be it further resolved that the American Psychological Association concludes that there is insufficient evidence to support the use of psychological interventions to change sexual orientation."

American Psychiatric Association (1998) - "APA opposes any psychiatric treatment, such as "reparative" or "conversion" therapy, that is based on the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or is based on the a priori assumption that the patient should change his or her homosexual orientation."

American Medical Association (2000) – "Our AMA . . . opposes, the use of "reparative" or "conversion" therapy that is based upon 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 (1999) – "... As with any societal prejudice, anti-homosexual bias negatively affects mental health, contributing to an enduring sense of stigma and pervasive self-criticism in people of same-gender sexual orientation through the internalization of such prejudice. ..."

In addition, several associations provide ethical/practice guidelines such as the following:

National Association of Social Workers (1996) – "NASW believes social workers have the responsibility to clients to explain the prevailing knowledge concerning sexual orientation and the lack of data reporting positive outcomes with reparative therapy. NASW discourages social workers from providing treatments designed to change sexual orientation or from referring practitioners or programs that claim to do so."

American Counseling Association (1998) – The ACA Ethics Committee states ". . . that counselors who offer conversion therapy are providing "treatment that has no empirical or scientific foundation" (ACA, 2005, C.6.e.) and, therefore, must "must define the techniques/procedures as 'unproven' or 'developing' and explain the potential risks and ethical considerations of using such techniques/procedures and take steps to protect clients from possible harm" (ACA, C.6.e.)."

American School Counselor Association (1995, 2000, 2005, 2007) – "It is not the role of the professional school counselor to attempt to change a student's sexual orientation/gender identity but instead to provide support to LGBTQ students to promote student achievement and personal well-being."