



# News & Views

*Parents, Families, Friends, Allies & Members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Gender Non-conforming Community*

Volume 17, Number 4

July/August 2016

## Our Rainbow Ribbon Pins Were A Big Hit At The 2016 RI Pride Fest!

The month of June had us riding on an emotional roller coaster -- from waking up in horror to the news of the Orlando massacre, to the two impressive moving vigils for our sons and daughters and non-binary children so brutally murdered in Orlando, to finally showing our character, strength, determination, and PRIDE as parents, allies and members of the LGBTQ community that we will not be frightened, ignored nor denied our place in this world as evidenced by the huge turnouts at both Pride Fest and the Illuminated Night Parade on June 18th!



Thank you RI Pride for putting on a fabulous 40th Anniversary Pride Fest! I also want to thank all of the volunteers from PFLAG who worked so very diligently in helping PFLAG Greater Providence get ready for Pride this year, as well as those who volunteered their time staffing our booth and pinning over 3,000 rainbow ribbons on Pride Fest attendees in the hot sun! (Yes, I said over 3,000!) We actually ran out of ribbons this year.

I especially want to give a HUGE shout out of thanks to Jill Duff and Jimmy Rotondo and their spouses Bob Duff and Roseanne Rotondo for their tireless efforts in organizing our Pride event. Jim's truck looked awesome in the parade!

Also Denise Messier-Reynolds for organizing our ribbon pin making party and Joe and Dianne Ordog for making all our buttons and providing our tent this year--thank you! And special thanks to my husband Ron for all his help as I prepped and loaded and unloaded supplies for the event and for covering our booth for the entire day. I know there were many, many more of you who helped this year, either before the event, during and after. I don't have a list of all your names, so as not to risk leaving someone out, I just want all of you to know that on behalf of our



PFLAG GP Board member Jill Duff pinning Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza with one of our famous rainbow ribbon pins.

PFLAG Greater Providence chapter, thank you from the bottom of my heart, especially to all those dads who wore themselves out the day before Father's Day! You certainly deserved a very restful Father's Day!

We had a lot of traffic at our booth and were able to provide attendees with lots of helpful information of all kinds, which is why we are there. Without all of our volunteers, we could not do what we do!



PFLAG GP Board member Joe Ordog (L) and PFLAG dad Ron Richard (R) getting ready to march in the RI Pride Illuminated Night Parade as proud PFLAG banner bearers.

**THANK YOU!**



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## Parents, Families, Friends and Allies United with LGBT People to Move Equality Forward

### Our Mission

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and their families and friends through:

**SUPPORT:** To support parents on their journey to understand and accept their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children; and to help children, of whatever age, to understand and come out into loving relationships with their families;

**EDUCATION:** To enlighten an ill-informed public,

**ADVOCACY:** To end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

PFLAG is a volunteer grass-roots, tax-exempt, non-profit organization, not affiliated with any political or religious institution.

PFLAG is a welcoming place for parents and friends of all members of the LGBTQ community, but we are much more than that. Those who identify as gay, lesbian bisexual, transgender, or gender non-conforming are also encouraged to attend our meetings., with or without their family members. Parents and friends may come with or without their loved ones who are members of the LGBTQ community.

Confidentiality is assured.

### PFLAG/Greater Providence

**President:** Sandra Richard

**Vice-President:** Jane Eastman

**Treasurer:** James Rotondo

**Secretary:** Dianne Ordog

**Members-at-Large:** Maureen Britton, Jill Duff, Julie Laffey, Denise Messier-Reynolds, Joe Ordog and Nate Zane

**Ex-Officio Past President:** Myra Shays

**Newsletter Editor:** Sandra Richard

**Welcome Committee Coordinator:** Julie Laffey

**Speaker Coordinator:** Doreen LePage

**WE'RE  
HERE  
FOR YOU!**

# news from our chapter



PFLAG Board members (l-r) Maureen Britton and Jill Duff holding down the fort at our booth at Pride Fest.

## GP Chapter Ready to Go after July Break!

We're back! With the 4th of July holiday so close to what would have been our July monthly meeting, our Board decided to cancel the regular July support meeting. It also gave our many volunteers some time to recoup from all the hard work they put into planning and working at RI Pride Fest and the Illuminated Night Parade this year.

So we are now refreshed and ready for our upcoming meetings. Plans are underway to schedule speakers for alternating months to talk about important issues impacting the LGBTQ community and their families. Our August meeting will feature Christopher Lauth, the new Executive Director of Youth Pride, Inc. as our guest speaker.

Also, as a reminder, we are always available to provide support beyond our monthly meetings. If you, or someone you know, would prefer to speak with someone privately, just contact us by phone at (401) 307-1802 or by email at [pflagprovidence@gmail.com](mailto:pflagprovidence@gmail.com). It is not unusual for us to meet with someone at a mutually agreed upon location.

We are also looking to add to our Chapter Lending Library. Some of our books are a bit out of date and others have not been returned; so we are planning to add some new books to our library. However, before we go out and purchase any books, we would greatly appreciate any donations of used books on LGBTQ topics you might consider donating to PFLAG. Also, if you have any recommendations for books we should consider purchasing, please let us know! If you have a book you would like to donate or have recommendations, please contact us via email at [pflagprovidence@gmail.com](mailto:pflagprovidence@gmail.com).

We hope you are having a great summer and look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings and welcoming some newcomers as well!



## Youth Pride Inc.

## Youth Pride Inc. Announces New Executive Director

Christopher R. Lauth, Assistant Director of Diversity Programs at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), has been named Executive Director of Youth Pride Inc. (YPI) by the organization's Board of Directors. Mr. Lauth officially assumed this new role on June 27, 2016.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors of Youth Pride Inc., I am excited to welcome Christopher Lauth as the new Executive Director," said Board Chair Lisa Carcier. "His passion and demonstrated leadership serving the LGBTQ community will help the organization advance its mission to meet the unique needs of LGBTQ youth and young adults of our State."

Mr. Lauth will be YPI's fifth Executive Director. His background includes founding and leading a gay/straight alliance from 2006-2009 in North-east Florida and significant experience in higher education, student development theory, non-profit management and social justice education. Mr. Lauth will advance both YPI's strategic plan and guide development initiatives to better support LGBTQ youth and YPI's future contributions in youth advocacy/education for the Rhode Island community.

"I am humbled and honored to be serving our Rhode Island LGBTQ youth, helping to create not only a safe space but a space that will allow our youth to show up with all of their identities fully present," said Mr. Lauth. "Only then will we create an environment that will empower and prepare our youth to recognize their immense personal power when they live true to who they are enabling them to become change agents in our community."

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## Youth Pride Inc. Announces New Executive Director

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Lauth has a Master of Science in College Student Personnel Administration from Canisius College in Buffalo, New York and a Bachelor of Arts in U.S. Southern Cultural History from Flagler College in Saint Augustine, Florida.

YPI was founded nearly 25 years ago in 1992 as a support group within the YMCA of Greater Rhode Island. Having its first meeting in the Sarah Doyle Women's Center on Brown University's campus, it quickly outgrew the space and incorporated in 1994. Today, YPI is poised to begin a robust and exciting time in its history to help foster an emerging generation of strong, thoughtful and caring leaders in a global society. Over the past year, YPI has served 850 youth in its drop-in center, providing access to food for over 300 and supported 45 gay/straight alliances in the Rhode Island school system.

Youth Pride, Inc (YPI) is an affirming space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and questioning young people ages 13-23 to build community, develop connections and be themselves. YPI is dedicated to the unique needs of youth and young adults impacted by sexual orientation and gender identity/expression while working to end the homophobic and transphobic environments in which they live, work and play. They also provide professional development and training for youth service workers, social service organizations and schools so that they have the information and resources to treat all youth with respect and dignity.

Credit: Youth Pride Inc., June 21, 2016



## Check out Our Chapter President's StoryCorps Interview on Our Website!

The StoryCorps trailer has moved on to Burlington, Vermont; but not before Chapter President Sandra Richard shared stories about her cousin Deb Monuteaux, who passed away in 2012, with Deb's partner Alexia Kosmider. You can listen in on their conversation at our chapter website at [www.pflagprovidence.org](http://www.pflagprovidence.org).



Deb Monuteaux

It's listed under the Events tab. There is also a slide show with photos of Deb and Sandra growing up together. Unfortunately, the sound quality leaves something to be desired; but the idea that a bit of Deb's story will be in the National Archives warms our hearts!

## Brown University AIDS Program to Hold First Conference on Sexual Health and Equity in Rhode Island on September 16, 2016

The Brown University AIDS Program, in collaboration with the New England AIDS Education and Training Center, is excited to announce the brand-new **Conference on Sexual Health and Equity in Rhode Island**. The goal of this conference is to highlight the amazing ongoing work of community organizations working to promote sexual health in our state, and to foster a spirit of collaboration and empowerment among those engaged in this critical work.

The conference will take place **Friday, September 16** from **8:30am-4pm** at the **Providence Marriott Downtown**, 1 Orms Street, Providence, RI 02904.

The target audience is anyone providing care, organizing, or otherwise working in the field of sexual health or the related fields of advocating for equity on the basis of race, gender and gender identity, and sexual orientation. Approval for continuing education credits is pending.

They are offering conference scholarships for individuals and organizations with financial need. If the cost of the conference is a prohibitive factor, please contact [Alec.Tributino@lifespan.org](mailto:Alec.Tributino@lifespan.org) for more information. For more information and registration, please visit [www.tinyurl.com/CoSHE2016](http://www.tinyurl.com/CoSHE2016).

## Rhode Island State Workers Get Transgender Surgery Benefits

Rhode Island state government employees are now receiving health care coverage for transgender surgeries and other sex change therapies.

On June 23, 2016

Gov. Gina Raimondo announced the state's employee health plan now covers both non-surgical and surgical treatments for gender identity disorder. That includes genital surgery, hormone-replacement therapy, psychotherapy and other related medical services.



"This isn't a choice. We can't discriminate on the basis of who people are," Raimondo said.

Raimondo said the benefit change is effective July 1 and is available to over 13,000 state workers, as well as any dependents aged 18 years or older.

"It's the right thing to do. There's no place for discrimination in Rhode Island – period," she said. "On any basis -race, gender, sexual identity. That's not who we are."

Department of Administration spokeswoman Brenna McCabe says the sex reassignment surgeries will be 100 percent covered for qualified patients after they meet their annual deductible.

In 2001, Rhode Island became the second state to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression.

Credit: Stephanie Johnston, API/WPRI, Providence, RI, June 23, 2016



## Providence Schools Adopt New Transgender Policy

A new transgender, non-discrimination policy was adopted by Providence schools. The Providence School Board approved the new policy on June 27th.

Now, the district will provide training and professional development to teachers and staff so they understand how to best respect and support all students in the district.

"However children identify, we need to support them," Providence Schools Superintendent Christopher Maher told NBC 10 News. The goal is to create an environment that is welcoming to students who identify with a gender different than what's on their birth certificate, and who express that identity in school.

"They may have different learning styles (or) different backgrounds," Maher said. "This is just an extension of that." Maher said the new policy codifies a lot of what's already being done in the district. Each individual school will be able to implement the policy in their own way.

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## Providence Schools Adopt New Transgender Policy

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"We want to give our parents and teachers in each school building the opportunity to support their kids in the best way they see fit, as long as it fits within our policy," Maher said.

Angelica Villalona, a student, said the policy gives students a voice. "Not a lot of people are heard," Villalona said. "It makes it better for them. They feel comfortable. They can be able to walk in and out of the restroom they feel comfortable with."

In addition to the use of restrooms and facilities based on gender identity, the policy outlines other issues, such as addressing the student by the name and pronoun they identify with, participating in intramural sports, as well as harassment and bullying.

"It's definitely a good thing," Aileen Griffin, a parent, said. "At least these kids don't have to live in silence anymore because they have somebody who supports them."

Each school will have its own point team in place made up of teachers and parents to address any concerns, as well as to support students and their families.

Credit: Mario Hilario, NBC 10 News/WJAR TV, Providence, RI, June 28, 2016



U.S. Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island joined a panel with Mayors Against Discrimination July 27<sup>th</sup> at Philadelphia City Hall. Photo: Paige Cooperstein, Philadelphia Gay News

## Charlotte Mayor to Congressman Cicilline: "We need your help"

The mayor of Charlotte, N.C., Jennifer Roberts, is a tall woman with a quick drawl. Near the end of an hour-long panel at Philadelphia City Hall during which six representatives of Mayors Against Discrimination shared their cities' LGBT-inclusive policies, she reached for the mic and said, "We need your help."

She looked at U.S. Rep. David Cicilline, an openly gay congressman from Rhode Island who introduced the Equality Act, and said, "We need to have a strong, national state-

ment that [discrimination] is wrong and against the law. My plea is that we need federal action as soon as possible... Our state has been very clear they won't budge until forced to do so by the courts or the federal government."

Roberts had only been in office two months when Charlotte City Council passed a non-discrimination ordinance that included LGBT protections in housing, employment and public accommodations. It was her third month in office when North Carolina rammed through the legislature HB2, which barred local communities from passing non-discrimination laws. "They slapped us down," Roberts said. "In Charlotte, I feel like our hands are shackled."

During the panel, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney said the best tool mayors have at their disposal to promote LGBT equality is not authorizing contracts with entities that come from states with discriminatory laws. Cicilline told *PGN* he didn't think the Equality Act, which would add LGBT nondiscrimination protections to the Civil Rights Act, would pass without a Democratic majority in Congress.

"Once Democrats take control of the House," he said, "this bill will move immediately. It has been cosponsored by virtually every member of the Democratic Caucus. It has the strong support of our nominee, Hillary Clinton... But we've got to elect people who support this legislation."

"It's a question of them listening to their constituents and understanding that their constituents do not support discrimination," Cicilline said. "I'm going to try to get as many Republicans as I can, but they have so far been resistant to any effort to eliminate discrimination against the LGBT community. In fact if you look at the efforts to promote measures that do discriminate, they have been leading those efforts around the country."

The Equality Act has stalled since last summer. But Cicilline told *PGN* there are no plans to break the act into three separate bills, as Pennsylvania legislators have done to get some protections passed.

"We made a decision to introduce this as a single piece of legislation, as a comprehensive bill," Cicilline said. "We really sat around and thought, 'Well, in what area do we think discrimination is okay?' We were unwilling to say, 'You can discriminate in public accommodations,' or 'You can discriminate in housing.'"

"It quickly became obvious to us that the only way to do it was to draft legislation that prohibited discrimination in all of the important areas of life and that a piece of legislation that only addressed one area would be deficient."

Credit: Paige Cooperstein, Philadelphia Gay News, July 28, 2016 as published in the *Windy City Times*, Chicago, IL

## Rise Up

by Matthew Soares

I write to you today in a time remembrance, at a moment of reflection, in an era of struggle. The events that unfolded at *Pulse Night Club* in Orlando, in June shocked and surprised us all. The horrific nature of it all is something that we would all like to forget—but we mustn't.

But this is not why I write to you today. True, it is what prompted me too, but the reason I write to you now is for *tolerance*. I write for *compassion*. I speak for *peace*.

As much as we try to ignore it, hate is very much a part of our society. It's invaded literature, movies, music, just about anywhere we could think of. It is ugly, it is hurtful, and it is strong. Although the *Pulse* attack started out as a "gay incident", we need to remember that hate can target anyone----- because hate affects everyone. Events like this attack could, and have happened in various religious, racial, ethnic, gender, and political settings. When events like the attack occur, it is easy for us to get angry. It is easy to become discouraged or outraged. It is easy for us to hate. But in time, let us learn to see such incidents as times for *growth*, times for *education*, times for *healing*.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"--- and today, we are called to face those injustices. If there is one thing that I have learned it is that we cannot simply stand on the sidelines and disapprove of something. Disapproval of an injustice doesn't change it, *people* change it. All of you have come here today for a reason—let us make that reason unified. Let us, here and now, take a stand against hate. Let us seek out discrimination and confront prejudice.

In this New Year, I pray that we, as a society, can grow to understand the *full* meaning of our humanity. I hope we can look beyond our individual prejudices. I hope we can clear up misunderstandings. I hope we reach out to those around us. So I ask you to look around you—look to your roommates, professors, classmates, residents, co-workers, family, and friends and see them, but not for their differences, but rather for their humanity.

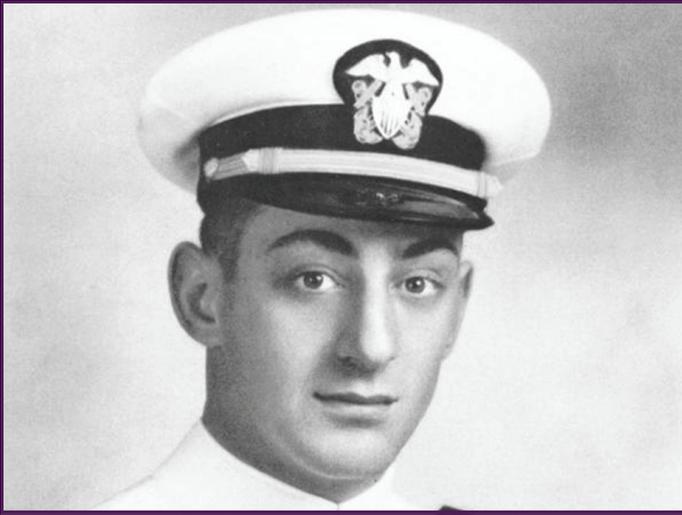
It is not our differences that divide us, but our inability to recognize and celebrate them.

I look forward to and continue to fight for the day when we can truly, in the words of Dr. King, proclaim, "Free at last, free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!" I look to the day when we can be free from fear, shatter ignorance, and silence hate.

Let us remember those that have gone before us—those noble advocates who fought for equality and justice—Susan B. Anthony (a Champion for Women's Rights), Harvey Milk (the Pioneer Gay Rights Activist), and Dr. King (the Inspirational Civil Rights Leader) among many others. May their memory ignite flames of hope within each of us. May those flames spread and continue to guide what we say and inspire all that we do. May we work together so that good may come out of evil, tolerance from ignorance, and most importantly, may love grow from hate.

Allow yourselves to be the change you wish to see in the world!

# news from all over



Young Navy Ensign Harvey Milk would become a leading figure in the gay rights movement. Photo: US Navy.

## U.S. Navy To Honor Gay Rights Icon Harvey Milk

The U.S. Navy plans to honor slain gay rights activist and former San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk by naming a ship after him. The USNS Harvey Milk, which hasn't been built yet, is the latest in a series of Navy vessels named for civil rights icons.

The news came in a report published by the U.S. Naval Institute, citing a notification sent to Congress earlier this month by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, signaling his intention to name a Military Sealift Command fleet oiler after Milk. The Navy has not officially confirmed the plan.

According to the USNI News, the ship will be built by General Dynamics NASSCO in San Diego.

Milk was the first openly gay elected official in California. As a young man, he served in the Navy as a diving officer during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged from the service with the rank of lieutenant in 1955.

Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. A year later, he was assassinated, along with Mayor George Moscone, by another former Supervisor Dan White, over a dispute about White's resignation from the Board. When White changed his mind and tried to get his job back, Milk and Moscone opposed his reinstatement. In a rage, White killed them both.

The news of the Navy's plans to honor Milk was met with cheers and some mixed reactions by local leaders and activists who knew him.

Milk's nephew Stuart Milk, who long had organized public pressure for the Navy to honor his uncle told the *San Francisco Chronicle*:

"We have just reached the point recently where LGBT people can serve openly in the military, and what better message can there be of that than this ship? It's a very fitting tribute to a man whose primary goal was for people to be authentic and not have to wear a mask."

The *Chronicle* also quoted Cleve Jones, a former Milk intern who went on to spearhead the Names Project's AIDS Memorial Quilt.

"I have no idea what Harvey would think of this. He has been dead a long time. I can tell you I have mixed feelings. It is obviously an indication that gay people are more accepted than they were when he lived. And I think he would be glad of that. But he did not like war."

The USNS Harvey Milk is one is a series of vessels known as the John Lewis-class, named for civil rights activist Rep. John Lewis, (D-Ga.).

Others in the class include ships named for former Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren, former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, women's rights activist Lucy Stone and abolitionist and women's rights activist Sojourner Truth.

Credit: Richard Gonzales, NPR, July 29, 2016



## Volunteer for PFLAG!

*"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.—Winston Churchill*

Our PFLAG chapter operates with an all-volunteer Board of Directors who are dedicated to fulfilling the mission of PFLAG for its members.

We hope to grow and expand our outreach in Rhode Island, but we need your help to do so. Some forms of help are short and simple—like signing up to bring refreshments to one of our support meetings, picking up some of our new brochures to distribute in businesses and doctors' offices you frequent, or helping us plan for Pride Fest and the Pride parade in June.

Other types of volunteering may involve a longer commitment, such as serving on a committee or serve as a speaker as part of our education and outreach efforts.

We are also looking for someone to take over the design and production of this newsletter. Right now we publish every other month. If anyone is interested in taking on this task or volunteering for any of the above needs, please contact us at [pflagprovidence@gmail.com](mailto:pflagprovidence@gmail.com).

Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook [www.Facebook.com/PFLAGGreaterProvidence,RI](http://www.Facebook.com/PFLAGGreaterProvidence,RI) and "Follow" us on Twitter [@PFLAGProvRI](https://twitter.com/PFLAGProvRI).



# World Health Organization

## W.H.O. Weighs Dropping Transgender Identity From List of Mental Disorders

The **World Health Organization** is moving toward declassifying transgender identity as a mental disorder in its global list of medical conditions, with a new study lending additional support to a proposal that would delete the decades-old designation. The change, which has so far been approved by each committee that has considered it, is under review for the next edition of the **W.H.O.** codebook, which classifies diseases and influences the treatment of patients worldwide.

“The intention is to reduce barriers to care,” said Geoffrey Reed, a psychologist who is coordinating the mental health and behavior disorders section in the upcoming edition of the codebook, called the International Classification of Diseases, or I.C.D.

Dr. Reed, a professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and an author of the new study, said the proposal to remove transgender from the mental disorder category was “not getting opposition from **W.H.O.**,” suggesting that it appears likely to be included in the new edition. The revised volume would be the first in more than 25 years, and is scheduled to be approved in May 2018.

Removing the mental health label from transgender identity would be a powerful signifier of acceptance, advocates and mental health professionals say.

“It’s sending a very strong message that the rest of the world is no longer considering it a mental disorder,” said Dr. Michael First, a professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia University and the chief technical consultant to the new edition of the codebook, which is known by its initials and the edition number I.C.D.-11. “One of the benefits of moving it out of the mental disorder section is trying to reduce stigma.”

Other parts of the proposed change are stirring debate, however. The proposal would not take transgender out of the codebook altogether, but would move it into a newly created category: “Conditions related to sexual health.” Many, but not all, advocates favor the idea of keeping transgender in the codebook in some form because the designations are widely used for billing and insurance coverage of medical services and for conducting research on diseases and treatments. But where should it go?

“I think there is a bit of a problem with the idea of putting it in a chapter on sexual health because it has nothing to do with sex,” said Dr. Griet De Cuypere, a psychiatrist at the Center of Sexology and Gender at University Hospital in Ghent, Belgium, and a board member of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. “If it’s possible to have it more separately, it would be better.”

Others have concerns about a proposal to change the name from

“transsexualism” to “gender incongruence,” a name chosen to try to express “a discrepancy between a person’s experienced gender identity and their body,” said Dr. Reed, who was part of the working group that recommended the changes to **W.H.O.**

One problem is that “incongruence” resonates differently in different languages. “In English it sounds kind of neutral — my association is with geometry,” Dr. Reed said. “But in Spanish it sounds very bad, it sounds kind of psychotic.” So, in Spanish, the proposal is “gender discordance,” which, he said, “in English sounds really bad.”

Language differences are only part of the issue. “The terminology is difficult because nobody likes anything,” Dr. Reed said. “People have made suggestions that have been all over the map. One of the people at one of the meetings said we could call this happy unicorns dancing by the edge of the stream and there’d be an objection to it.”

The issue is reminiscent of the change in the way homosexuality was treated in the American bible of psychiatric diagnoses, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, known as the D.S.M. In 1973, the book, published by the American Psychiatric Association, changed the diagnosis of “homosexuality” to “sexual orientation disturbance,” and later to “ego-dystonic homosexuality” before dropping it altogether in 1987.

Transgender identity has changed in the D.S.M. too, classified under “sexual deviations” in 1968, “psychosexual disorders” in 1980 and “sexual and gender identity disorders” in 1994. In the fifth and most recent edition, D.S.M.-5 in 2013, the designation was changed to “gender dysphoria,” and was defined to apply to only those transgender people who are experiencing distress or dysfunction, said Dr. Jack Drescher, a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst at New York Medical College, who serves on the **W.H.O.** working group and served on a similar working group for the D.S.M.-5.

Dr. Drescher said he supported removing the diagnosis from the D.S.M. entirely, but he noted that the I.C.D. was different because it has categories for every disease and condition, not just psychiatric ones, and retaining some code for transgender identity might be the only way for some to receive medical care. Inmates, including Chelsea Manning, have received access to hormone treatments partly based on the fact that transgender identity belongs to a medical category, Dr. Drescher said.

Dr. First said he once received a call from the Internal Revenue Service asking him, as an expert, to support the agency’s intention to challenge a tax deduction that a transgender woman claimed for gender reassignment surgery. He declined, and said cases like that would be more likely without a diagnostic category.

Karl Surkan, a professor of women’s studies at M.I.T. and Temple University, who is transitioning from female to male, agreed. He said some trans people “say homosexuality was declassified, so now this is part of our civil rights movement, without understanding that it’s wildly different.” Mr. Surkan said gays, lesbians and bisexuals were “not sort of reliant on medical treatment in the same way that the transgender population often is. You need a code to get an insurance company to pay for something.”

In a study published Tuesday in *Lancet Psychiatry*, Dr. Reed and co-authors interviewed 250 patients at a clinic that provides transgender health services in Mexico City. They found that while most had felt distress related to their gender identity during adolescence, almost a fifth of them had not. And among those who felt distress or experienced dysfunction at work, home or

*(Continued on Page 7.)*

## W.H.O. Weighs Dropping Transgender Identity From List of Mental Disorders

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school, most was attributed to how they were treated — being rejected or violently attacked — rather than to their gender identity itself, the authors reported.

Many had physical health problems, likely a result of living on the margins of society, because their lives followed a “slope leading from stigma to sickness,” said Dr. De Cuyper, who is the co-writer of a commentary about the study. Similar studies are being conducted in Brazil, India, Lebanon, South Africa and France.

“I would expect to see this kind of stigmatization and violence in all the other countries,” said Dr. Reed, although he said that in France, the researchers received a slightly more laissez-faire reception.

“In France, they said, ‘Just leave us alone, we don’t need your stinking classification,’ ” Dr. Reed said. “But they live in a society where access to health care is conceptualized as a right.”

Credit: Pam Belluck, *The New York Times*, July 26, 2016.



## Join or Renew Membership Today!

When you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG still needs you. Join or renew your membership today so we can continue to support, educate and advocate for families just like yours.

PFLAG makes the world better, family by family. Become a member of our family. Use the form on the back page to join today or visit our website at

[www.pflagprovidence.org](http://www.pflagprovidence.org) to join or donate on-line!



Enjoy some of our photos from Pride Fest and the Illuminated Night Parade of 2016! You can find more when you visit our website at [www.pflagprovidence.org](http://www.pflagprovidence.org) under the Events tab.



## Chapter Meetings

PFLAG/Greater Providence meets the first Wednesday of each month from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.:

**The MET School (Unity Building)**  
325 Public Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

## Upcoming Meetings

August 3, 2016  
September 7, 2016  
October 5, 2016  
November 2, 2016  
December 7, 2016

## Contact Us

**PFLAG/Greater Providence**  
PO Box 41344, Providence, RI 02940  
Phone/Text: (401) 307-1802  
[www.pflagprovidence.org](http://www.pflagprovidence.org)  
[pflagprovidence@gmail.com](mailto:pflagprovidence@gmail.com)



### Ideas for Topics/ Speakers?

Do you have a specific topic you would like to have addressed by a speaker or know of anyone whom you would like to recommend as a speaker for our Chapter? If so, please contact us via email at [pflagprovidence@gmail.com](mailto:pflagprovidence@gmail.com).

## Member Resources

### Rhode Island Bi Resource Network

<http://www.ribinetwork.org>  
<http://www.facebook.com/TheOtherBWord>

### SAGE Rhode Island

235 Promenade Street, Suite 500, Box 18  
Providence, RI 02908  
401-528-3259  
[sageriinfo@gmail.com](mailto:sageriinfo@gmail.com)

### TGI Network of Rhode Island

PO Box 40365, Providence, RI 02940  
[info@tginetwork.org](mailto:info@tginetwork.org)  
(401) 441-5058 (voicemail)  
Family Support Group meets 2nd Monday each month from 6:30-8:30 pm at Bell Street Parish House, Bell Street, Providence

### Youth Pride, Inc.

743 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 421-5626  
[info@youthprideri.org](mailto:info@youthprideri.org)  
<http://www.youthprideri.org>

### LGBT Caregiver Support Group

Child & Family Elder Care  
Calvary United Methodist Church  
200 Turner Road, Middletown, RI 02842  
[jgrapentine@childandfamilyri.com](mailto:jgrapentine@childandfamilyri.com)  
(401) 848-4119  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month from 10:00—11:00 a.m.

### Options Magazine

[www.optionsri.org](http://www.optionsri.org)

**GLAD (LGBT Legal Advocates)**  
[www.glad.org](http://www.glad.org)

## Blogs of Interest

### Faith Topics

**Susan Cottrell**  
<http://www.FreedHearts.org>

### Kathy Baldock

<http://www.canyonwalkerconnections.com>

### LGBTQ Issues

#### Think Progress

<http://thinkprogress.org/lgbt/issue/>

#### The Huffington Post

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tag/lgbt-blogs>

### Parenting a Transgender Child

#### Gender Mom

<http://gendermom.wordpress.com/>

#### Raising My Rainbow

<http://raisingmyrainbow.com/>

## Facebook Groups of Interest

### Interweave Channing

### Parents of Transgender Children

(Closed Support Group)

### The Facebook Transgender Alliance

(Closed Support Group)

### Rhode Island Pride



Check us out on Facebook at  
[www.Facebook.com/PFLAG](http://www.Facebook.com/PFLAG)  
Greater Providence, RI



**Greater  
Providence  
Chapter**

## Membership Application

**Yes! I want to be a supporting member of PFLAG.**

Please provide the information requested below and make your check payable to: **PFLAG/Greater Providence.** You may bring this form with your payment to the next chapter meeting or mail to: **PFLAG, P. O. Box 41344, Providence, RI 02940.** You can also join or donate on-line by visiting our website at [www.pflagprovidence.org](http://www.pflagprovidence.org).

Household \$40       Individual \$30       Student/Limited Income \$20

Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in  Honor or  Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

We're doing our part to help save trees. We deliver the newsletter via email. (.pdf format).



**Memberships and contributions to PFLAG are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG does not sell, lease or lend mailing lists to any person or group.**