



News & Views

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

Volume 17, Number 5

September/October 2016

The 'B' in LGBT: Why Bisexual Awareness Week Matters

The week of September 19-26, 2016 was designated Bisexuality Awareness Week by GLAAD in recognition of Bi-visibility Day on September 23rd. So it seems fitting, if slightly belated, to provide some information about what it means to be bisexual.



What is bisexuality?

Leading bi advocate and author Robyn Ochs defines bisexuality as "the potential to be attracted – romantically and/or sexually – to people of more than one sex and/or gender, not necessarily at the same time, not necessarily in the same way, and not necessarily to the same degree."

Some people who have the capacity to be attracted to people

of any gender choose other words to describe their sexual orientation, such as: bisexual, pansexual, polysexual, omnisexual, fluid, or queer. Some people prefer to avoid any label at all.

The following opinion piece was written by Zachary Zane and originally appeared on Out.com on September 23, 2016. Zachary Zane is a writer whose work focuses on sexuality, gender, and relationships. His work can be seen at zacharyzane.com, and you can follow him on twitter @ZacharyZane_.

Bisexual Awareness Week, draws attention to public policy concerns—while also celebrating the resiliency—of the bisexual community.

When I was 15, I confided in my psychiatrist that I was questioning my sexuality.

"I think I might be gay," I told him.

He responded by asking, "Do you like women?"

I replied truthfully, "Yes, I do."

"Then you're not gay."

"Well, maybe I'm bisexual."

"Bisexuality doesn't exist in men."

That was the end of the conversation. No further questions allowed or needed. I cannot be bisexual, because bisexuality did not exist in men. This wasn't opinion. It was fact.

Three years after this talk with my psychiatrist, I hooked up with my first man in college. It was my second week of freshman year, and I told myself I needed to experience the touch of a man. I had been questioning my sexuality now for years and had sexually fantasized about men more times than I cared to admit. Roughly 2,500 miles away from my hometown, I felt that now was the time to safely explore without word getting back to my friends and family.

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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



Christopher Lauth, Executive Director of Youth Pride, Inc. at our August meeting

Greater Providence Chapter Update

We had a great turn out at both our August and September meetings. We know people can't make every meeting; but we do love to see you when you can make it. So, if you haven't been in awhile, consider attending one or more of our next few meetings. We have Janet Grapentine from the LGBTQ Caregivers Group based in Middletown, RI as our October speaker and in December we anticipate having a male couple and their daughter speak about their experiences as a family. Our August meeting featured Christopher Lauth, the new Executive Director of Youth Pride, Inc. as our guest speaker. Chris described the issues and needs of LGBTQ youth in Rhode Island and provided our attendees with information about all the great programs offered by YPI, as well as discussed some ways we might work together with them, such as exploring the opportunity of having a couple of PFLAG parent volunteers be available at one of their meetings to offer support to parents who are waiting for their child.

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. It is not unusual for us to meet with someone at a mutually agreed upon location.

PFLAG Northeast Regional Conference

Two of our PFLAG chapter board members, Sandra Richard and Jill Duff attended the PFLAG Northeast Regional Conference in Hartford, Connecticut on October 1st hosted



by the Hartford PFLAG chapter. Lori Davison, Hartford chapter president, their board members and numerous volunteers did a great job in making sure everything ran smoothly during the day!

The PFLAG Northeastern Regional Conference is held every two years. It is generally a one-day conference held in one of our New England chapter cities under the direction of the Northeast Regional PFLAG Director, Amy Mesirow; and it is open to any PFLAG member to attend. The fee is very reasonable. This year it was only \$30 to attend. The conference consisted of three plenary sessions on Chapter Leadership, Grants 101, and Advanced Facilitation Skills and a choice of two workshops: Social Media and Supporting Trans Families.

Our chapter president Sandra Richard participated as a panel member on the Chapter Leadership session along with Hartford chapter president Lori Davison and Regional Director Amy Mesirow, with PFLAG National Field Director Jamie Curtis moderating the panel. We discussed how we became involved in PFLAG and our individual roads to leading our chapters, as well as our challenges and successes in managing our chapters and the importance of strategic planning.

All the sessions provided valuable information on how we can improve our chapter operations and the quality of our meetings for our membership, increase our visibility and outreach efforts, and potentially obtain funding for specific programs/projects by doing our homework and applying for specific grants that match both our needs and that of the grantor.

As a bonus, we made a number of new PFLAG friends, several of whom had Rhode Island connections! All in all, a valuable experience!



Read Any Good Books Lately?

We continue to want 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.

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

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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 pflag-providence@gmail.com.



2015-16 Summary of Chapter Operations

As you've read in previous newsletters, our PFLAG chapter operates with an all-volunteer Board of Directors who are dedicated to fulfilling the mission of PFLAG for its members. Everything in which our chapter is involved is accomplished 100% by volunteers.

We have no paid staff, and we do not receive any funding from the national PFLAG organization. All of our funding comes from you, our members, through your annual membership fees and donations. We operate on a small budget of approximately \$4,000 a year. So far, our income has kept up with our expenses. Although we have nearly 275 people on our mailing list, only about 60 individuals/families are actual paid member donors.

Anyone can attend our meetings, and you need not become a paid member to continue to do so, even though we do encourage membership. So, those of you who do attend understand why we pass the "hat" at our meetings for donations to help support our chapter.

So how do we spend your membership fees and donations? The majority of our income (72%) is nearly equally divided among our marketing materials/publications, donations we make to support the work of other LGBTQ organizations in Rhode Island, expenses for Pride Fest and the Illuminated Night Parade, and our required share of membership fees that go to PFLAG National. Another 9% is spent on

consumables (office & meeting supplies), 8% on advertising in Options and other LGBTQ organization event program guides, 5% on administrative fees (State, website, etc.) and 3% each on publishing our newsletter and to attend conferences or training sessions. (See the pie chart on this page.) Our Board takes their fiduciary responsibilities very seriously and does its very best to carefully manage our expenses and be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, our board conducted its first strategic planning session this past April. At that time we reviewed our history, what our current external and internal environments are like and what future challenges and opportunities face us. We also established both short and long-term goals for our chapter, as follows:

Short Term Goals:

1. Find speaker coordinator
2. Establish a welcoming committee for new comers
3. Increase & improve volunteerism
4. Educate wider community about PFLAG

Long Term Goals:

1. Develop board
2. Leadership development with job descriptions (3 Years)
3. Development partnerships
4. Established a speaker's bureau

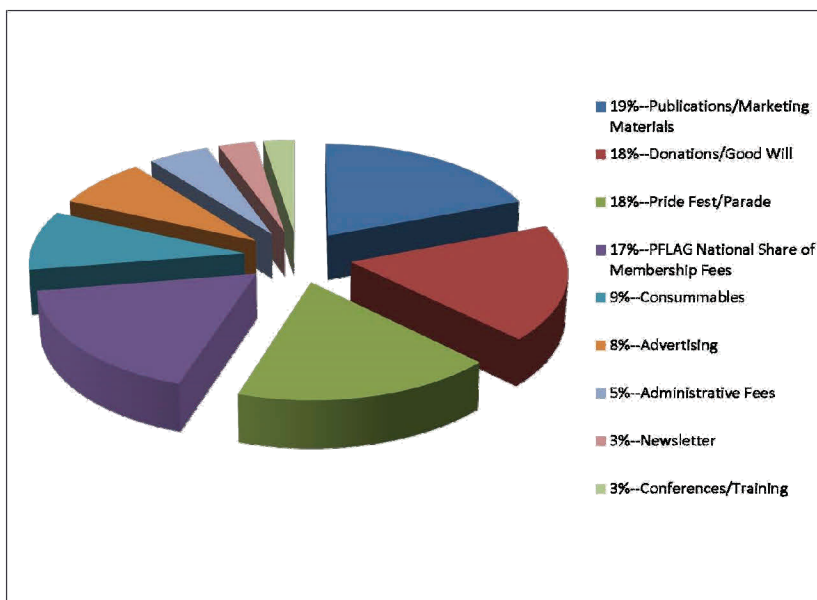
So far we have completed the first short-term goal of securing a volunteer to coordinate speakers for our meetings every other month; and we are in the process of completing our 2nd short-term goal of establishing a welcoming committee for our monthly meetings.



This brings me to our 3rd short-term goal which is of great importance to all of us. PFLAG's very foundation is based upon the volunteer efforts of moms and dads, sisters, brothers, other family members, friends, allies and members of the LGBTQ community itself to provide much needed support to those who are struggling with under-

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Summary of 2015-16 PFLAG Greater Providence Chapter Expenses



2015-16 Summary of Chapter Operations

(Continued from Page 3.)

standing and accepting a loved one who has come out as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or gender fluid or for someone who identifies as such and is struggling with how to come out to their family, friends, or employer.

Our chapter was founded by a single volunteer, Myra Shays, when as a PFLAG mom in New York, she moved to Rhode Island and discovered there was no PFLAG chapter. With a small board to support her, she single-handedly managed our chapter for over 15 years.

When Myra decided to step down as chapter president, Barb Metz agreed to serve one year as president to oversee the transition to a Board-operated chapter. We also expanded the number of Board slots to a maximum of 12, in order to allow for both some continuity and some "new blood" on the Board. We were also hoping to attract some people who might take over some of the various tasks needed to operate our chapter. Sandra Richard came on board as Chapter president after Barb completed her term and has since worked together with the Board to formulate a formal budget, further define the roles and responsibilities of the Board, and develop a strategic plan for our chapter moving forward. One of the short-term goals of our strategic plan is to increase volunteerism for our chapter.

Finding volunteers to either serve on our Board (we meet 4 times a year) or even to take on small tasks, is crucial to our survival as an organization. We currently have 12 Board positions, but only 7 are filled. Within the next year, we anticipate 3 of these members will be stepping down from the Board. We also have several Board members managing multiple tasks that could be spun off and given to other volunteers who do not necessarily have to be Board members.

Some of the tasks include such things as coordinating refreshments for meetings, managing our lending library, managing our publications, representing PFLAG at outside events as part of our education and outreach efforts, putting together our newsletter, writing articles for the newsletter, managing our website and/or social media accounts, handling our phone line and or email inquiries, picking up copies of Options magazine for our meetings, distributing our brochures, serving as group facilitator during our support meetings, helping with set-

ting up and/or closing up after a meeting, etc.

We are also looking for individuals with interest and/or skills in finance or accounting, membership management, fundraising, grant writing, legal issues, and technology.

Also, you don't have to be a parent to volunteer or serve on our board. We only ask that you are a paid member and have a commitment to the core values of PFLAG to provide support, education and advocacy for the families and members of the LGBTQ community. Our current and past board members have included parents, relatives, allies and members of the LGBTQ community.

We anticipate having applications available both at our meeting and on-line through our website in November for volunteers and board positions. In the interim, please let Sandie Richard or any of our board members know if you are interested in volunteering in any capacity or interested in being considered for a board position. You can email us at pflagprovidence@gmail.com or call us at (401) 307-1802.



Transgender Bay Staters Officially Protected as #TransBillMA Became Effective on October 1, 2016

Today, for the first time in the history of the Commonwealth, transgender people are fully equal under Massachusetts' state law.

#TransBillMA went into effect on October 1, 2016—becoming #TransLawMA and guaranteeing transgender Bay Staters are now protected from discrimination in public places like restaurants, public transportation, doctors offices, and government buildings.

For our own campaign co-chair Mason Dunn, protections in public accommodations is personal: "For me, as a transgender man living and working in Massachusetts every day, this law has a deeply personal impact on me and my loved ones," he said. "For the first time in the history of our Commonwealth, I can leave my house knowing that I will be treated equally, without fear of discrimination."

The implementation of this law is the culmination of a decade-long fight that united lead businesses, New England's championship sports teams, hundreds of faith leaders across diverse traditions, iconic universities, and an unprecedented grassroots movement—all singularly committed to making Massachusetts a fairer and more equal place to live, work, and do business.

Transgender Bay Staters, who were at the forefront of the fight for their equal protections, are celebrating today. A 2014 report found that 65% of surveyed transgender people reported experiencing discrimination at a business or other public place.

For these brave and resilient residents—who shared their stories countless times even when it meant risking harassment and discrimination—#TransLawMA means they are freer, safer, and more equal.

Transgender people have been protected from housing and employment discrimination under state law since 2011.

Credit: www.freedommassachusetts.org



Senator Donna Nesselbush Breaks Silence on Catholic Church's "flawed view" of Gay Marriage

Rhode Island State Senator Donna Nesselbush released a statement in response to the recent firing of Michael Templeton, the Music Director at the Church of St. Mary in Providence due to his same-sex marriage. Nesselbush was instrumental in getting marriage equality passed in the Senate.

"Sponsoring the marriage equality legislation in the Senate will always be my most cherished accomplishment in the Rhode Island Senate. I grew up staunchly Catholic, attending eight years of Catholic school at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. My father did not go to church every Sunday; he went every single day.

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news from all over

Senator Donna Nesselbush Breaks Silence on Catholic Church's "flawed view" of Gay Marriage

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Although Catholicism is in my bones and I will always be a Catholic at heart, I stopped going to church years ago after I realized I was gay. I never wanted to cause a problem, embarrass my family or the church and religion I love," said Senator Nesselbush.

"The time, however, has come for me to speak out about the Catholic Church's flawed view of gay marriage. The Church persists in placing 'form over substance.' I always say, we Christians should worry more about the quality of our love, rather than the gender of the person we love. I hear Pope Francis gently advancing this cause when he repeats the words of Jesus: 'Who am I (the Pope) to judge,' paraphrasing the well-known... 'judge not lest we be judged.' Interestingly, the parishioners at Saint Mary's seem also to be upset, crying out for justice for their beloved music director, as I suspect most Catholics are. If the church stays true to the real teachings of Jesus, the answers are right there. Love is love, and love is all we need, not the Church's rules and regulations that actually, ironically, belie Christianity," added Senator Nesselbush.

In an excellent break-down of the story, Bob Shine of New Ways Ministry wrote, "The Diocese of Providence took over the administration of the parish from the Franciscan Friars two years ago. The administrative shift means the parish is now overseen more directly by Bishop Thomas Tobin, who has a very LGBT-negative record."

Credit: Steve Ahlquist, www.RIFuture.org, September 27, 2016



You Are Invited to Attend A Community Forum to Discuss the New Pride Center

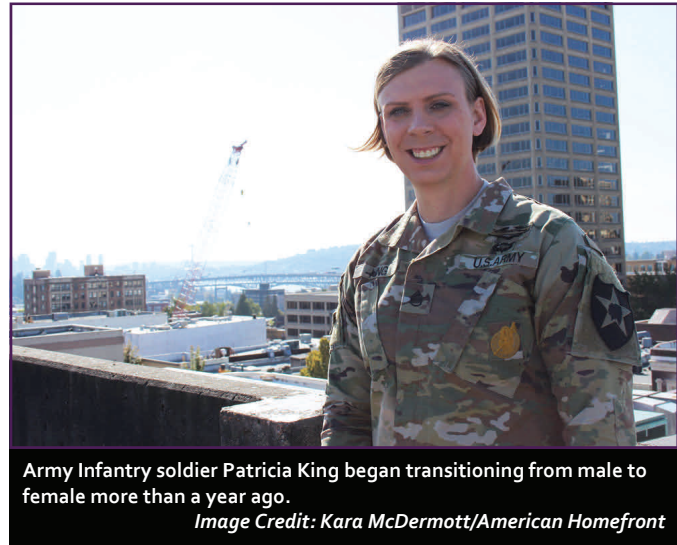
RI Pride and the LGBT Center invite one and all to a community forum to discuss the direction of the newly

formed Pride Center of RI. Big changes are in store for RI Pride and the fledgling Center. We'll make the most of this forum if we hear a wide variety of perspectives.

The next community meeting will be held Sunday, October 16th from 3-5 pm at Youth Pride Inc., 743 Westminster Street, Providence.

Help shape the future of your local Pride Center!

For questions or info: info@prideri.com.



Army Infantry soldier Patricia King began transitioning from male to female more than a year ago.

Image Credit: Kara McDermott/American Homefront

New Pentagon Rules for Transgender Troops Became Effective Monday, October 3, 2016

It was more than a year ago that Staff Sergeant Patricia King began her transition from male to female, and just about everything about military life became more complicated.

"Everything was an issue, whether it be restroom use or the uniform that I wear, where I was housed," King said. "All of those things were an issue."

King was a woman in life, but according to the military, she was a man on paper. She had to conform to male grooming standards and uniform requirements. King remembers her command puzzling over who would oversee a routine urinalysis. (They went with a female medical provider.)

"It was uncharted territory for so many people, so we went through a learning process together," King said. "I think what they discovered is that trans people are just people."

The new protocol from the Department of Defense is designed to address those kinds of issues. Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced in June that transgender troops could serve openly in the armed forces. The protocol — which takes effect Oct. 3 — sets down rules for transgender service members and their commanders. It says King and other service members whose gender transition is complete should be treated as their new gender. It also allows troops with gender dysmorphia can receive medical care in the military system.

Aaron Belkin is the director of the Palm Center, an independent research institute that focuses on gender, sexuality and the military. He anticipates few problems with the new policies.

"This is not rocket science. This is about allowing people to be honest and open about who they are," Belkin said. "This is not a heavy lift and this is not going to be difficult to implement."

The British, Australian, and Canadian armed forces already have inclusive policies for transgender personnel. But people who've followed the integration efforts in those countries say just having a policy isn't always enough.

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Why Bisexual Awareness Week Matters

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So I went to a party, got hammered, picked a random guy, and decided that he was the lucky winner. Midway through hooking up, I ran to the bathroom to vomit. That's how drunk I was. That's how drunk I needed to be to be intimate with another man.

The next day, I didn't feel anything, besides my huge hangover. I didn't have a revelation that I was gay or bisexual. I didn't have an "aha" moment, like I was expecting. I thought I would kiss a man and my sexual identity would become crystal clear. I'd either think to myself, "This is what I've been missing my whole life," or "I'm definitely not into it," but when I felt no polarizing response, I felt more ambivalent about my sexuality than ever before.

It was only after I saw a specialized LGBTQ therapist once I had graduated college that I began to realize and fully embrace my bisexuality.

Unlike my old psychiatrist, this therapist said point-blank during our second session that he thinks I'm bisexual. When I told him, "No, I'm confused," he asked me why I kept saying this when I stated that I had clear sexual attractions towards both men and women.

I told him why: I had never met another genuine bisexual man in my life. Every bisexual man I knew identified as bisexual for a brief stint, and then shortly after identified as gay. Not once had I read, heard, met, or seen a bisexual man.

Bisexual men were mythical creatures out of fairy tales. Being a real, grown-ass man, I figured I couldn't be bisexual. He told me that bisexual men do indeed exist, and after coming out as bisexual myself, I'd meet more and more bi men.

He was 100% correct. Since coming out as bi, I've met a number of people who also identify as bi.

If only I had seen some representation of bisexuality in the media that didn't reinforce negative stereotypes, or met an out bisexual man in my four years of college. I can only imagine how much quicker I would have embraced my sexual orientation. How much happier I would have been years earlier. How many nights of tossing and turning I could have avoided.

Even though roughly half of the LGBT community identifies as bisexual, we're seldom represented in the media. Nevertheless, more and more millennials are beginning to view themselves as bisexual and sexually fluid. A recent YouGov study discovered that a third of 18-24 year olds in the U.S. and Israel put themselves along a continuum of sexuality, rather than at either end. In the UK, roughly 50% don't view themselves as 100% gay or straight.

Even though there are a huge number of us, and the number of bisexual-identifying people is growing, we often feel invisible. We often feel alone.

This feeling of isolation contributes to a slew of mental health issues that highly correlate with bisexuality. Bisexuals have high rates of depression, suicidality, self-harm, smoking and alcohol abuse, and intimate-partner violence. Recent data from a Human Rights Campaign study revealed that bisexual youth are less likely than lesbian and gay youth to feel there's a supportive adult they can talk to.

These feelings of isolation also keep us closeted because we don't feel as if we have a bi community. We don't think people will accept us. It's estimated that only 28% of bisexuals come out. Research from Dr. Eric Schrimshaw of Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health revealed that most bisexual men know their sexuality. Their reasons for not disclosing it don't arise from confusion, but rather they don't come out because they fear rejection from their partners and ostracization from their families and communities.

Bisexuals face additional hardships that monosexuals (either gay or straight) don't experience. The only way to change this is through visibility.

This is why this week—Bisexual Awareness Week—is so important. This is why bi-visibility matters. This is why it's crucial that we come out as often and to as many people as we can. Not only will your decision to come out create more visibility for others, you will also start to meet other bi folks, and can become an integral member of the bisexual community. So please, come out and share your story. Let's make it easier for the next, growing generation of bisexuals to be out, comfortable, and proud of who they are.

Credit: Zachary Zane, Out.com, September 23, 2016

New Pentagon Rules for Transgender Troops Became Effective Monday, October 3, 2016

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Alan Okros at Canadian Forces College in Toronto says strong leadership and clear expectations and education are essential.

"If there isn't a concerted effort to get this information out, to define terms, to explain processes, etc., then people who are less comfortable with it, people who chose not to understand it, people that do have biases or prejudice can use the lack of clarity to cause problems or cause confusion," Okros said.

Patricia King is confident that U.S. military personnel will embrace the new policy with professionalism. That's how she says she was treated at Fort Carson in Colorado and at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State.

"The great thing about the Department of Defense is that we are all about standards and discipline. We have a box for everything and everything goes in its box," King said.

"All it really took was for this policy to allow them to move me to that other box labeled female. And from there, things really aren't all that complicated because women have been serving in the military for a very long time."

In fact, she thinks the military is ahead the rest of society in accepting transgender people.

"I would not want to be stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina right now," she said. "While I think that Fort Bragg is probably going to do an amazing job implementing these policies and procedures, with HB2 North Carolina is not a very friendly place for a transgender person to be right now."

The Pentagon has estimated there are about 2,500 transgender troops in the active military. By next July, the military plans to accept transgender recruits for the first time.

This story was produced by the American Homefront Project -- a collaboration of North Carolina Public Radio-WUNC, Southern California Public Radio, KUOW-Seattle, and WUSF-Tampa.

Credit: Patricia Murphy, American Homefront Project, www.scpr.org, October 02 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 to join or donate on-line!





movement advancement project

New Report: Bisexual People Face Invisibility, Isolation, and Shocking Rates of Discrimination and Violence

A new report previewed recently at the White House in a groundbreaking policy meeting found that while more than half of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community identifies as bisexual, bisexual people experience alarming rates of invisibility, societal rejection, violence, discrimination, and poor physical and mental health—often at rates higher than their lesbian and gay peers.

Invisible Majority: The Disparities Facing Bisexual People and How to Remedy Them

Them examines the “invisible majority” of the LGBT community, the nearly five million adults in the U.S. who identify as bisexual and the millions more who have sexual or romantic attraction to or contact with people of more than one gender.

The report shows how bias, stigma, discrimination, and invisibility combine to create serious negative outcomes for bisexual people, and it provides concrete recommendations for change.

The report was authored by the Movement Advancement Project (MAP) in partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, BiNet USA, Bisexual Organizing Project, Bi Queer Alliance Chicago, Bisexual Resource Center, Center for Culture, Sexuality, and Spirituality, Los Angeles Bi Task Force, National Black Justice Coalition, National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, and the National LGBTQ Task Force. It is available at www.lgbtmap.org/invisible-majority. - See more at: <http://www.lgbtmap.org/news/invisible-majority-release#sthash.Vls5lJf.dpuf>

“Bisexual people account for half of the LGBT population, yet they are often isolated and overlooked,” said Ineke Mushovic, executive director of the Movement Advancement Project. “As a result, bisexual people experience pervasive bias and discrimination and lower rates of social acceptance, which in turn means fewer bisexual people feel comfortable being openly bisexual.”

There are more bisexual people than lesbian and gay people:

- People who identify as bisexual comprise more than half of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in the United States (52%).
- Analysis of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) found that 5.5% of women and 2% of men identify as bisexual.
- Furthermore, 8% of male adult respondents to the NSFG and almost 20% of female respondents said they were not attracted only to the opposite sex. Among respondents to the NHIS who identified as heterosexual, 13% of women and 3% of men reported having had same-sex sexual contact.

Analysis of the 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System found that people of color are more likely to identify as bisexual,

compared to their white counterparts. Men of color comprised 27% of heterosexual male respondents, but 35% of male bisexual respondents. Among women, women of color comprised 36% of bisexual women, compared to 26% of heterosexual women.

“Bisexual people’s sexuality is often invisible in broader society as we are frequently assumed to be gay, lesbian, or heterosexual based on the gender of our partner,” said Faith Cheltenham, president of BiNet USA. “Yet when bisexual people are open about our sexuality, we face increased levels of violence from intimate partners; rejection by our communities, families, and peers; and skepticism from the people and organizations to whom we turn for help, resources, and services.”

Bisexual people experience pervasive bias and higher rates of discrimination and violence:

- **Lack of societal recognition and acceptance:** A recent study of bias towards bisexual men and women revealed that 14% of Americans felt that bisexuality was not a legitimate sexual orientation. Only 20% of bisexual people say that there is social acceptance of LGB people where they live, compared to 31% of lesbians and 39% of gay men. Only 28% of bisexual people say that all or most of the important people in their life know they are bisexual, compared to 77% of gay men and 71% of lesbians.
- **Employment discrimination:** In a study of the employment discrimination experiences of bisexual people, nearly two-thirds of respondents reported experiencing some form of harassment or discrimination at work, including being fired, being sexually harassed, or hearing homophobic jokes at work. The Pew Research Center found that only 11% of bisexual respondents reported their closest co-workers know that they are bisexual, while half of gay men and lesbians say that their co-workers know their sexual orientation.
- **Violence:** A 2013 CDC report found that 61% of bisexual women and 37% of bisexual men reported experiencing rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime. The same study found that 46% of bisexual women had been raped, as had 17% of heterosexual women and 13% of lesbian women.
- **Suicide:** Bisexual youth and adults have poorer mental health and higher self-reported rates of suicidal ideation and behavior than gay, lesbian, and heterosexual youth and adults. Nearly a quarter of bisexual adults reported having attempted suicide, four times the rate of heterosexual adults. Lesbian and gay adults were more than twice as likely to report having attempted suicide as heterosexual adults.

“Research shows that bisexual people face discrimination from both heterosexual people and gay and lesbian people” said Kate Estrop, co-president of the Bisexual Resource Center. “This results in a wide array of disparities, especially impacting bisexual people’s physical and mental health. It is time to recognize the unique needs of bisexual people.”

This report serves as a clarion call to policymakers and service providers across the country: in order to fully serve the LGBT community, they must also fully serve the bisexual community.

Founded in 2006, the Movement Advancement Project is an independent think tank that provides rigorous research, insight and analysis that help speed equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Learn more at www.lgbtmap.org

See more at: <http://www.lgbtmap.org/news/invisible-majority-release#sthash.Vls5lJf.dpuf>

Credit: Movement Advancement Project, Denver, Colorado
September 27, 2016

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

October 5, 2016
November 2, 2016
December 7, 2016
January 4, 2017
February 1, 2017

Contact Us

PFLAG/Greater Providence
PO Box 41344, Providence, RI 02940
Phone/Text: (401) 307-1802
www.pflagprovidence.org
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.

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
sagerinfo@gmail.com

TGI Network of Rhode Island

PO Box 40365, Providence, RI 02940
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
<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
(401) 848-4119
1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month from 10:00—11:00 a.m.

Options Magazine

www.optionsri.org

GLAD (LGBT Legal Advocates)

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
Greater Providence, RI](http://www.Facebook.com/PFLAGGreaterProvidence,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.

☐

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).



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