

# SOGIE

sexual orientation, gender  
identity & gender expression

## NEWS & RESOURCES



December 2019

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The SOGIE Newsletter is a publication of [The Institute for Innovation and Implementation](#), University of Maryland School of Social Work.

## Community Corner

Community Corner is a place where you can share news about work you are doing with young people with diverse SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression). To submit information about your program to be highlighted in this newsletter, please email [theinstitute@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:theinstitute@ssw.umaryland.edu).

### YES Institute



THE SOURCE FOR KNOWLEDGE ON GENDER & ORIENTATION®

[YES Institute](#) is a nonprofit that has operated since 1996 and whose mission is to prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of all youth through powerful communication and education on gender and sexual orientation. It delivers groundbreaking, cutting-edge education for youth and their families, schools,

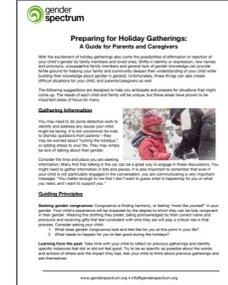
universities, therapists, health care providers, religious communities, and systems of care. It connects with communities across South Florida, the United States, and Latin America through videoconferencing and travel, and makes its work available in Spanish as well. YES Institute uses a powerful model of communication to engage people in authentic and open discussions that include all viewpoints and beliefs. Once misinformation and fears have been addressed, people begin to generate solutions and take actions to ensure the healthy development of all youth. *“When I came out as transgender, my parents were confronted by their personal beliefs, didn’t know where to go or how to support me; it was all new. When we attended YES Institute’s educational courses, my parents were met with understanding and support from the staff, throughout my entire transitioning process. I’m now 21, and not only are things great with my parents, but I also found my voice here and the courage to be myself and best of all the opportunity to make a difference for other youth.”* — Victorino Marti, Youth Advisory Leadership Council member [Learn more](#)

## Practical Tools

### Preparing for Holiday Gatherings: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers

With the excitement of holiday gatherings also come the possibilities of affirmation or rejection of your child’s gender by family members

and loved ones. Shifts in identity or expression, new names and pronouns, unsupportive family members, and general lack of gender knowledge can provide fertile ground for helping your family and community deepen their understanding of your child while building their knowledge about gender in general. Unfortunately, these things also can create difficult situations for your child as well as parents/caregivers. The suggestions in this guide are designed to help you anticipate and prepare for situations that might come up. The needs of each child and family will be unique, but these areas have proved to be important areas of focus for many. [Learn more](#)



## Preparing for Holiday Gatherings: Webinar (Recorded)

Gender Spectrum staff recently held a webinar designed to help caregivers anticipate and prepare for situations that might come up at holiday gatherings. The webinar included practical tips and guidance that you can use before, during, and after the holidays to help the child and family enjoy the holidays together. Watch this recording for tips to help you through the holidays! [View here](#)



## Upcoming Events & Webinars

### Seeking Trans Participants for the SnapshoT Photo Elicitation Study



Loyola University Chicago is conducting a national online study called **SnapshoT** using photos on the experience of trans, gender-fluid, and non-binary youth living in the United States. If you are between 14 and 29 and identify as trans, you could participate and be eligible to win a gift card for completing this study! [Complete survey](#)

## Articles/Research

### Nine Young People on How They Found Out They Are Intersex

Hans Lindahl shares the stories of nine young intersex people, including Johnny, a black, indigenous, plus-size intersex trans femme. As Johnny says of the intersex community: *"We are here. Our bodies are not wrong. Our bodies break the binary. Our bodies are whole. Our stories may seem to always live in the world of sadness, but we are thriving and fighting in a society that constantly erases us. I have to remember to tell myself that my body is powerful, and it is full of the groundbreaking fight for liberation. I am proud to be intersex and live my truth authentically and fully."* [Read more](#)



### Study Shows Transgender Kids Express Their Gender the Same as Cisgender Kids of Their Gender Identity | University of Washington

In a new study, researchers from the University of Washington found that transgender children are just as likely to associate with the trappings of their chosen gender as their cisgender counterparts. The study, published in

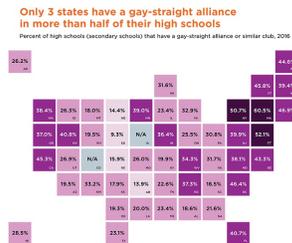


the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, looked at more than 300 transgender children between the ages of 3 and 12, as well as nearly 200 of their cisgender siblings. An additional 300 cisgender children were included as a control group. “The most surprising finding is, overall, just how similar transgender and cisgender kids looked,” Selin Gülgöz, the co-author of the study, told *Newsweek*. “What this means is that, if I saw the data of any random participant, I would not be able

to tell if that child is transgender or cisgender.” Gülgöz added, “Within both transgender and cisgender children, we find a wide range in the strength of their identity and preferences. For example, we had some ‘tomboy’ transgender girls in the study, just as we had ‘tomboy’ cisgender girls.” [Read more](#)

## Policy News

### Only Three States Have GSA in More Than Half of Their High Schools



In a recent review of LGBT-focused school policies and practices, researchers noted that, of all reviewed interventions, gay-straight alliances (GSAs) are supported by the most consistent evidence showing that they improve school climate and academic outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Unfortunately, in 45 states and the District of Columbia (D.C.), less than half of all high schools report having a GSA (also known as a gender and

sexuality alliance), according to 2016 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Among the 48 states (and D.C.) that provide data, only three states (New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts) can claim that more than half of their high schools have a GSA. LGBTQ youth who participate in GSAs report that the clubs are a source of community, a gateway to LGBTQ-friendly resources, and a marker of safety. [Learn more](#)

### American Medical Association Calls for Conversion Therapy Ban

The American Medical Association (AMA) adopted several LGBTQ-supportive policies at a meeting in November, endorsing bans on conversion therapy and backing inclusion of more information on transgender patients in electronic health records. The group also pledged to address racial pay gaps in medicine. AMA has long opposed the use of conversion therapy, but now it will support federal and state bans on the practice, for both children and adults, and will develop model legislation for this purpose. Eighteen states and numerous cities and counties prohibit licensed therapists from subjecting minors to conversion therapy, but no jurisdiction in the U.S. bans its use on adults. [Read here](#)



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