

SOGIE

sexual orientation, gender
identity & gender expression

NEWS & RESOURCES



July 2020

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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.

ProjectQ Provides Hundreds of Free Haircuts to LGBTQ Homeless Youth



ProjectQ is more than a hair salon, it is a terrific black-queer-owned community center, collective, and nonprofit organization. It creates a safe space for all LGBTQIA+, QTPOC, and BIPOC folks to feel safe, seen, and supported. Five days a week, it operates as a full-service, full-paying salon. Every second Sunday, it provides free gender-affirming haircuts, clothing, self-empowering workshops, internships, job placement, mentorship, and so much more. ProjectQ provides a place where LGBTQIA+ youth who are experiencing homelessness can thrive. Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it has been dropping off food and hygiene boxes to LGBTQIA+ youth and low-income families. To become a ProjectQ

supporter, visit its [website](#) and follow it on [social media](#).

Practical Tools

Harvard Law School LGBTQ+ Advocacy Network Puts Out Trans Youth Handbook

The Trans Youth Handbook is a legal resource guide that covers the rights of trans youth across a wide spectrum of situations, including identity documents, school, health care, nonaffirming care environments, and work. This handbook was created in a partnership of the Harvard Law School LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Salesforce, Baker McKenzie, and Equal Justice Works. [Read more](#)



LGBTQ+ Families for Black Lives Toolkit



Family Equality published the LGBTQ+ Families for Black Lives toolkit to empower families and children of different age levels to deepen their anti-racist work and continue these conversations in their households. The toolkit seeks to empower families to deepen their anti-racism work through tangible, age-appropriate action ranging from coloring book pages to writing elected officials. It is our hope that with this toolkit you may start or continue conversations in your household and community that will continue long after the hashtags and protests end. [Learn more](#)

Webinars/Virtual Events

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 transgender and gender-diverse youth living in the United States. If you are between 14 and 29 years old and identify as trans, you could participate and be eligible to win a gift card for completing this study. [Complete survey](#)



Articles/Research

Higher Asthma Rate Among Challenges LGBTQ Youth Face During Pandemic



Higher rates of asthma and other health issues among LGBTQ people are adding to the unique mental and physical stresses the community faces during the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary symptoms of the disease are respiratory. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends those with moderate to severe asthma take extra precautions, stating, “COVID-19 can affect your respiratory tract [nose, throat, lungs], cause an asthma attack, and possibly lead to pneumonia and acute respiratory disease.” The CDC found that 22 percent of

non-LGBTQ youth had asthma, compared with 29 percent of LGBTQ youth, according to a 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance report. “We don’t really know why there is a higher prevalence rate of asthma among LGBT people,” said Dona J. Upson, MD, a pulmonologist who is a co-chair of the American Thoracic Society’s LGBTQ and Allies Interest Group. [Read more](#)

Health Insurance Nondiscrimination Rules Linked to Lower Suicidality in Gender Minority Patients

New research published in *JAMA Psychiatry* finds as much as a 50 percent drop in suicidality among gender-minority individuals in states that have adopted nondiscrimination requirements for private health insurance. [Read here](#)



U.N. Expert Calls for Global Ban on 'Cruel' Conversion Therapy



A top United Nations expert has called for a global ban on conversion therapy, noting that it takes place in at least 68 countries and possibly all countries, and “can amount to torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.” In a survey of 8,000 individuals completed as part of the report, nearly 98 percent reported suffering damage from conversion practices, including post-traumatic stress symptoms and suicidality. [Learn more](#)

Illinois LGBTQ Inclusive Curriculum Law Goes into Effect

Students in Illinois public schools will learn about the contributions of LGBTQ people in state and national history because of the Inclusive Curriculum Law, which took effect July 1, 2020, for the 2020-2021 school year. The law is an initiative of Equality Illinois, the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (a program of the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago), and the Legacy Project, and was sponsored by State Rep. Anna Moeller (D-Elgin) and State Sen. Heather Steans (D-Chicago). The law passed the Illinois General Assembly last year with bipartisan support and was approved by Gov. JB Pritzker on Aug. 9, 2019. An inclusive curriculum can have positive, affirming benefits and help counteract some disturbing trends. Illinois is one of five states to enact such a law, joining California, New Jersey, Colorado, and Oregon. [Read here](#)



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