

Resolution on LGBTQ+ rights

An official statement from the Global Alliance on Behavioral Health and Social Justice (formerly the American Orthopsychiatry Association)

The Global Alliance embeds its work in principles of human rights, including non-discrimination, respect and dignity. We are dedicated to advocating for the protection and enjoyment of these rights for all. The Universal Declaration for Human Rights applies equally to all people, as human rights are universal and indivisible. A strong global movement has led to significant achievements in ensuring that the rights of individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) are met. **LGBTQ+ rights are human rights.**

Gains made as part of this global movement include:

- As of May 2019, at least 43 countries recognize homophobic crimes as a type of hate crime
- As of May 2018, same-sex marriage is recognized in 24 countries, and recognition is pending in additional countries
- In May 2018, the World Health Organization reclassified gender incongruence from a “mental, behavioral and neurodevelopmental disorder” to “conditions related to sexual health”
- In 2018, the European Union granted same-sex spouses of its citizens residency rights
- In 2017, Canada and in 2018, the United Kingdom recognized and apologized for historic anti-gay laws and their aftermath



Unequal or discriminatory policies and laws that remain include:

- Legal protections for LGBTQ+ people have not been passed in the United States, and in 2018, transgender individuals were banned from serving in the U.S. military
- Twenty-three European countries require transgender people to be sterilized before their gender is legally recognized
- More than 70 countries criminalize sexual acts between adults of the same sex, and same-sex relations are subject to the death penalty in at least 6 countries

The Yogyakarta Principles (2006) and the Yogyakarta Principles plus 10 (YP+10, 2017) provide an expert explanation of international human rights law. They are a well-suited framework for LGBTQ+ rights affirming that the primary obligation of States is to implement human rights. All people under the law have protections, however, the international response to violations of human rights, based on sexual orientation and gender identity, have historically been inconsistent and these principles apply the basic protections of human rights documents to LGBTQ+. The Global Alliance recognizes that attaining universal human rights without discrimination, abuse or fear of persecution is fundamental to the promotion of behavioral health.

Relevant Articles in the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*

Hatchel, T., Espelage, D. L., & Huang, Y. (2018). Sexual harassment victimization, school belonging, and depressive symptoms among LGBTQ adolescents: Temporal insights. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 88(4), 422-430. <http://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Fort0000279>

Romanelli, M., & Hudson, K.D. (2017). Individual and systemic barriers to health care: Perspectives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender adults. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 87(6), 714-728. <http://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Fort0000306>.

Scout, NFN. (2016). Transgender health and well-being: Gains and opportunities in policy and law. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 86(4), 378-383. <http://psycnet.apa.org/fulltext/2016-32685-004.pdf>

Keuroghlian, A., Shtasel, D., & Bassuk, E. (2014). Out on the street: A public health and policy agenda for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth who are homeless. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 84(1), 66-72. <http://psycnet.apa.org/index.cfm?fa=buy.optionToBuy&id=2014-06035-011>.

Additional Resources

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>
- Human Rights Watch - International Interactive Map http://internap.hrw.org/features/features/lgbt_laws/
- Yogyakarta Principles <https://yogyakartaprinciples.org/>
- ARC International: arc-international.net/global-advocacy/
- Amnesty International <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>
- OutRight Action International: Human Rights for LGBTIQ People Everywhere <https://www.outrightinternational.org/>
- The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) <https://ilga.org/>

How You Can Help

- Join our LGBTQ+ Task Force. If you are interested contact us at info@bhjustice.org
- Read more relevant articles from *AJO* here <https://www.bhjustice.org/research-on-lgbtq>
- Challenge anti-LGBTQ+ comments, behaviors and policies
- Advocate for non-discriminatory laws and policies