

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Americans at Risk: Problems and Solutions

Project Description

(updated 5/18/2016)

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<http://www.chuckstewartphd.net/index.php/announcement>

Purpose and Scope:

In June 2013, The United State Supreme Court issued an opinion that directly impacted the lives of all LGBT Americans in *United States vs. Windsor*, the High Court struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). While many believe that this is a victory, there remains debate whether the victory is the achievement of full equality or rather another step on the journey since many scholars and activists question if civil marriage is the ultimate prize of the gay rights movement or only an illusion of full inclusion.

To be sure, LGBT individuals face a number of issues that remain unaddressed and in need of solutions. LGBT youth suffer the dehumanizing effects of school bullying and cyber-bullying, yet more and more are coming out at earlier ages. Additionally, 17 states and the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, but there are no federal laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, or public accommodations. Because of the lack of legal protections, many LGBT individuals do not have the rights to make the same medical decisions for a partner that are granted to opposite sex partners. In addition, the issues of race, gender, socio-economic class and location are crucial to the discussion. Are the voices of the rural, the economically disadvantaged, and people of color heard in an LGBT civil rights movement that's dominated by white, well-educated, wealthy men and women living in urban centers?

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Americans at Risk: Problems and Solutions will be a cutting-edge, authoritative resource for academics, activists, scholars, students, and lay people who want to examine LGBT social and political movements as well as the public policy progress and set backs on the rocky path towards full equality and liberation in modern-day America.

Tone: Praeger is ABC-CLIO's thesis-driven imprint, which means that each chapter should have a point of view and support it. The intended audience is high school and college students, and public libraries. Writing style must conform to Chicago style. A

few citations are expected in each entry but we don't want to overwhelm the reader with excessive citation. All entries are to be original and will be checked for plagiarism-- so, please, make sure the entry is completely written using your own words.

Word Count: 330,000 to 360,000 total words

Illustrations: up to 30

Topics: 41 topics — each essay needs to be about 8,000 words long (including end notes)

Delivery Schedule: Rough draft turned in by October 2016 with final delivery by December 31, 2016.

Compensation: Contributing writers will receive access to the e-book version of the 3-volume set.

Application Process:

1. Review the list of volumes and essay topics. Determine if any topics interest you and for which you have some expertise. You may write on more than one topic.
2. Submit your request by email to LGBTAmericans@sbcglobal.net:
 - a. specifying which title(s) you are interested in writing
 - b. CV
 - c. writing sample (not more than 3 pages).

Thank you for your time. I will contact you soon about topic assignment and other details from Praeger/ABC-CLIO.

Chuck Stewart, Ph.D.

Abbreviated Bio:

Proud Heritage. Editor and writer for 3-volume reference set on LGBT culture, politics, and history in the United States. December 2014. ABC-CLIO ISSN 978-1-61069-398-1

Issues: Understanding Controversy and Society, Release 2. Editor and writer for collection of essays on same-sex marriage. 2010. ABC-CLIO ISSN 978-1-59884-047-6.

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of LGBT Issues Worldwide. Editor and writer of 3-volume reference set on LGBT culture, politics, and history worldwide. December 2009. Greenwood Publishing Group. ISBN-13: 978-0-313-34231-8

Bankrupt Your Student Loans and Other Discharge Strategies. Writer of 300-page book that includes step-by-step instruction on how to file an adversary. 2005, 2009 rev. Authorhouse. ISBN 9781425928551

Gay and lesbian issues: A contemporary resource. Writer of 403-page book. 2003 ABC-CLIO Publishers. ISBN 1-85109-372-9

Homosexuality and the Law. Writer of 413-page book. 2001. ABC-CLIO Publishers ISBN 1-57607-267-

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Volume I - Children, Youth, and Young Adults - Generation "i" and Millennial

Note: As of 5/18/16, half the topics have already been assigned (see crossed out). **Items highlighted in yellow are still available.** As an author, you can negotiate a variation of the topics or even suggest a topic we may have overlooked (see the NEW items of topics suggest by academics).

This volume discusses young people in LGBT communities. The chapters examine issues related to the growing up process, including being a child in a same-sex household, coming out, and bullying, as well as delving into topics particular to the 21st century such as cyberbullying, homelessness, and transgender legal issues.

A1. Children in Same-Sex Households: Examines the issues relating to being raised in same-sex parent households.

~~NEW~~A01.1 The Sex Assignment of Intersex Infants: Why Do Medical Interventions into the Sexed Bodies of Unconsenting Children Persist? Today in the U.S., at least 1 in 150 people is diagnosed by doctors as having a "disorder of sex development." While having intermediate genitalia is not medically dangerous, American doctors continue to frame intersexuality as a social emergency, and every day, numerous infants are subjected to sex-altering genital surgery, to which they cannot consent or object. This chapter discusses why this practice persists, while it is being strictly limited elsewhere in the world.

~~A2. Coming Out: the Process of Self-Identification: Examines the issues of children at ever younger ages self-identifying as LGBT.~~

~~NEW~~A02.1 Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth: Coming Out and the Process of Self Identification

~~A3. Coming Out: On the Down Low in Communities of Color: Examines differences of the coming out process in communities of color.~~

~~A4. The Experiences of Growing up Gay in Small Towns, Farm Communities, Urban Centers and Suburban Neighborhoods: Examines the different experiences of LGBT youth growing up in various communities in America.~~

~~A5. Gay Youth at Risk: Homelessness and Hustling and Gay Youth Shelters: Focuses on the risk of gay youth homelessness and prostitution and the need for gay inclusive youth homeless shelters.~~

~~A6. Crimes Against Students: Stories of Bullying, Hazing and Bias-Motivated Violence: Examines bullying, hazing, and bias-motivated violence against LGBT youth including proposed solutions.~~

~~A7. "It Gets Better" Media Campaign and Gay Youth Suicide: Examines the rise of suicide and attempted suicides by LGBT youth, the reasons that cause LGBT to take such action and proposed ideas to decrease LGBT suicide rates.~~

~~A8. Creating Safe Schools: LGBT Gay Straight Alliance Clubs, Sex Education and Adding the Teaching of LGBT Historical Figure and Events to Public School Curricula, Gay Kids Dating and Inclusive School Proms: Explores different ideas for creating safe and gay-inclusive school policies.~~

~~A9. Social Media, iPhones, iPads and identity: How has the use of social media and devices impacted the coming out process for LGBT youth?~~

~~A10. Transgender Youth and Freedom of Expression in Schools: Explores different ideas for creating safe and inclusive school policies for transgender youth.~~

- A11. HIV and Young Gay Men: Is the Message of the Chronic Disease Bringing Another Wave of the Plague: What are the reasons for the rise HIV infections in gay youth?
- A12. Queer Youth: Why Youth Are Self-Identifying as Queer: Why are some LGBT and straight youth self-identifying as "queer"?
- A13. Transgender kids at school: the bathroom issue: Many political battles for transgender rights are shot down by the "bathroom question." For some reason the use of bathrooms by transgender kids in the school setting lights up school board meetings with screaming parents and worse. How does one respond to the "bathroom question" and transgender rights?

Volume II: Adults - Generation Y and Generation X

This volume focuses on the concerns of LGBT adults, particularly on employment and parenting, but also on the changing nature of legal and identity issues affecting this group.

- ~~B1. The Employment Nondiscrimination Act and State Nondiscrimination Laws: Examines the lack of federal nondiscrimination laws protecting LGBT employees and the progressive steps taken by individual states and corporations.~~
- ~~B2. Whose Movement is this Anymore? The Rise of Multi-Identities and the Rise of the Post-Gay Identity: Questions the "decision-makers" in the LGBT civil rights movement and the notion of a "post-gay" America.~~
- B3. Gays in the Military and the Repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell" and its Aftermath: Focuses on "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy, exposing the issues for soldiers and veterans in the aftermath of the repeal of the policy.**
- ~~B4. Will You Marry Me: Gay Marriage and Its State-by-State Status: Examines same-sex marriage and the problems created by a state-to-state approach, such as the inability to get a same-sex divorce.~~
- ~~B5. Having Children: Adoption, Insemination, Co-parenting, Foster Parenting and Custody Battles: Examines same-sex parenting and the problems created by a state-to-state approach, including same-sex second parent adoptions and custody issues.~~
- ~~B6. Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Addiction in the LGBT community: Exposes the high-rates of addiction in the LGBT community.~~
- ~~B7. Sexuality and Pornography: Considers issues of pornography and the differing views of the topic.~~
- ~~NEW B07.1 LGBT Americans in the Criminal Justice System~~
- ~~NEW B07.2 Surprisingly Straight: The Pervasiveness of Heteronormativity within BDSM and Kink Communities in the Denver Metropolitan Area~~
Description: This writing would cover the reception of queer persons and queer actions within BDSM and Kink communities in and around Denver. Focusing on the tendency toward normativity, specifically heteronormativity, in these seemingly sub-alternate spaces. The methodology would be participant research, utilizing data gathering practices of anthropology, sociology, and performance studies.
- ~~NEW B07.3 LGBTQ Elected Officials: Examines the role of LGBTQ elected officials in spearheading efforts for solutions to issues that impact the LGBTQ community. Examples from from local anti-bullying efforts on school boards to ENDA in Congress will be explored.~~
- ~~B8. Gay is the New Cool: Mass Media Images of Gay America: Questions whether and when gay became a socially accepted and "cool" social issue to support by examining and questioning the images of the LGBT community in mass media.~~
- ~~B9. Transgender: Is this an inclusive movement?: Considers whether transgender issues are fully included in the movement for LGBT equality.~~
- ~~B10. Race, Gender and Queer Theories of Difference: Discusses critical legal theories that focuses on the "outsider" approach to criticism.~~
- ~~B11. Diversity and Inclusion Beyond Acceptance and Respect to Appreciating Difference: Considers whether race and gender issues are fully included in the movement for LGBT equality.~~

B12. — The Anti-Gay Movement: Looks at the anti-gay movement and its effects on LGBT rights and safety.

B13. — "Truvada whore? How PrEP/PEP is changing the face of AIDS prevention.": Medications have been used for some time to prevent HIV infection. Only recently have insurance companies begin to underwrite and promote the use of these medications for preventative care. Some religious and conservative commentators believe providing these medications will increase risky sexual behaviors. What do we know?

B14. — Even though HIV seroconversion rates are decreasing in the United States, why are they increasing for black and Latino men?

Volume III: Middle-Aged and Seniors - The Dual Legacy of Activism and AIDS

The contributions in this volume examining the issues of middle aged and retirement age LGBTs. Shaped by decades of activism as well as the AIDS epidemic, this generation now has to contend with health and legal issues that the non-LGBT community does not face, such as lack of legal rights for partners in health care decisions.

- C1. A Lost Generation and What is Found in the Aftermath of the Plague: Examines incredible impact of the early years of the AIDS epidemic when losing a significant number of gay men left a generational void in the LGBT community.
- C2. We Were ACT UP: HIV/AIDS and the Lessons of Direct Action, Disruption and Power: Exposes the importance of the AIDS movement to the progress of the LGBT civil rights movement specifically considering the importance of a direct action approach to the AIDS epidemic and the dramatic response to disruptive political action.
- C3. When HIV is a not Terminal Disease: Considers HIV medication, healthcare and the toxic side effects of the HIV cocktail which questions the message that HIV is a chronic illness rather than a terminal illness.
- C4. Still in the Shadows: Remaining Closeted: Considers LGBT individuals who remain closeted and the message its sends to future generations.
- C5. When LGBT Issues were White Issues: A reflective essay considering the lack of inclusion of people of color in the early (and perhaps current) leadership of the LGBT Equality movement.
- C6. When the Pink Ribbon Replaced the Red Ribbon: Focuses on the contributions of lesbians to Breast Cancer Awareness and the impact of said focus on HIV/AIDS awareness.
- C7. LGBT Elder Health Care, LGBT Estate and Long Term Care Plans: Examines the unique issues that impact the LGBT community by examining the preparations or lack thereof within the LGBT baby boomer population.
- C8. LGBT Retirement Communities and Nursing Homes: An essay querying the need for LGBT inclusive or focused retirement communities and elder care facilities.
- C9. LGBT and Medical Rights: Focuses on the issues of decision making by LGBT spouses.
- C10. Being Old, Gray, and Gay in Communities across the Country: Examines the differences on aging in gay communities in various regions of America.
- C11. Religious Freedom Restoration Act: The federal government passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in 1993. It stated: "Government shall not substantially burden a person's exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability." Of course, what qualifies as "substantial" and under what conditions is open to widely different interpretations. Many states have implemented their own RFR with increasing latitude to discriminate against anyone for anything if the person holds a "strongly held belief" — such as a bakery refusing to make a cake for a same-sex marriage. The laws mostly target LGBT people and attempt to allow gross discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, and more.
- C12. Why are we still talking about inclusion within LGBT organizations?: Even after decades of existence, many gay organizations still struggle to have equal

representation of women and men on their boards; even if the membership is evenly divided. The same is true for race, gender identity, and other characteristics. Why, after all these years and decades of outreach, is this still an issue?