

PFLAG ORLANDO

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends.

Page 1

Oct 06

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends. This is done through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Support meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the Month at the First United Methodist Church of Downtown Orlando 142 East Jackson Street, Orlando, FL, Wesley Building, Room 205 at the start at 7:30pm

National Coming Out Day
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

National Coming Out Day logo designed by Keith Haring

National Coming Out Day is observed on October 11 by members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities and their allies. It is highly encouraged for participants in this movement to wear red to signify to the world their desire for everyone to know who they are and what they believe in.

The day commemorates October 11, 1987, when 500,000 people marched on Washington, USA, for gay and lesbian equality. National Coming Out Day events are aimed at raising awareness of the LGBT community among the general populace in an effort to give a familiar face to the LGBT rights movement.

In the United States, the Human Rights Campaign manages the event under the National Coming Out Project offering resources to LGBT couples, parents and their children as well as straight friends and relatives to promote awareness of LGBT families living honest and open lives.

Candace Gingrich became the spokesperson for the day in April 1995.

en.wikipedia.org

New Website Campaign Fights Dehumanization of the GLBT Community Encourages More Active Allied Support

Summary: "I Am Your Neighbor" is a grass-roots campaign providing coming-out resources for the gay community, and encourages straight allies to help in the fight against religious and political leaders who dehumanize us all.

<http://www.iamyourneighbor.us>

The central European nation of Slovenia witnessed its first same-sex civil partnership Tuesday when Mitja Blazic and Viki Kern registered their union in the capital city of Ljubljana.

planetout.com

Gay unions get nod from ANC October 08 2006 By Moshoeshoe Monare

The African National Congress has finally accepted the recognition of gay marriage after intense, heated debate and resistance from within the leadership. iol.co.za

Many 'Straight' Men Have Gay Sex By Daniel DeNoon
WebMD Medical News Reviewed By Louise Chang, MD

Sept. 18, 2006 -- Nearly one in 10 men who say they're straight have sex only with other men, a New York City survey finds.

And 70% of those straight-identified men having sex with men are married.

In fact, 10% of all married men in this survey report same-sex behavior during the past year.

This means safe-sex messages aimed at straight and gay men are likely missing this important subgroup, suggest Preeti Pathela, DrPH, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and colleagues. webmd.com

Birds and bees may be gay - museum exhibition

By Alister Doyle, Environment Correspondent

OSLO, Oct 12 (Reuters) - The birds and the bees may be gay, according to the world's first museum exhibition about homosexuality among animals.

With documentation of gay or lesbian behaviour among giraffes, penguins, parrots, beetles, whales and dozens of other creatures, the Oslo Natural History Museum concludes human homosexuality cannot be viewed as "unnatural".

"We may have opinions on a lot of things, but one thing is clear -- homosexuality is found throughout the animal kingdom, it is not against nature," an exhibit statement said. today.reuters.com

California court rejects gay marriage

Yesterday afternoon, the Court of Appeals ruled that California State's ban on same-sex marriage does not violate the constitutional rights of gays and lesbians gaynz.com

Gay Animal Exhibit Argues Homosexuality Is Natural
10.13.06 By Troy Espera

A new exhibition at a Norway museum asserts that evidence of homosexuality in the animal kingdom means that homosexuality in humans is natural.

Geir Soeli, the project leader of the exhibition, told Reuters, "Homosexuality has been observed for more than 1,500 animal species, and is well documented for 500 of them." gaywired.com

UM study seeks lesbian, gay, bisexual teenagers

Posted September 10 2006

The University of Miami Department of Psychology is seeking volunteers for a research study about lesbian, gay and bisexual teenagers and their parents.

The study involves filling out some questionnaires and having a discussion. To be eligible, at least one parent and the LGB teen, age 13 to 21, must agree to participate. Interested families will be offered group support sessions free. For more information, call 305-284-6986. sun-sentinel.com

Program Makes Schools Safe Zone For Gay Students By Carla M. Collado Staff Writer

Students who are teased or bullied at school typically have counselors to help them deal with their problems and teach them how to defend themselves.

But who shows the teachers how to handle such situations, which in some cases can escalate into more serious confrontations?

The Gay and Lesbian Center of Greater Long Beach is launching a program that will train local high school teachers, administrators and students to fight harassment and hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Project Safe Zone — a program that already has been implemented at numerous colleges nationwide — will kick off with a pilot project at Cabrillo High School on Oct. 21 gazettes.com

Library focuses on gay history month

By Jerry Libonati Posted October 1 2006

The inaugural Gay and Lesbian History Month, organized by the Broward County library system, is this month featuring a series of cultural and historic programs and films that highlight gay and lesbian issues.

sun-sentinel.com

Gay rights pioneer presents archive to nation

Longtime gay rights activist Franklin Edward Kameny officially presented in excess of 70,000 letters, documents, and other artifacts to the nation on Friday. Kameny's personal papers will be housed by the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, while several protest and picket signs will go to the collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History as well as other gay and lesbian history archives across the country.

"Nearly 50 years ago, the United States government banned me from employment in public service because I am a homosexual," Kameny said in a statement. "This archive is not simply my story; it also shows how gay and lesbian Americans have joined the American mainstream story of expanded civil liberties in the 20th century. Today, by accepting these papers, the nation preserves not only our history but marks how far gay and lesbian Americans have traveled on the road to civil equality."

advocate.com

Transgender residents may get new birth certificates

Eyewitness News (New York - AP, September 26, 2006)
- Transgender New Yorkers may soon be able to get new birth certificates that accurately reflect their current sexual identity.

Under the proposed new plan, new birth certificates would only indicate a person's current sexual identity.

abclocal.go.com

Vietnam may allow sexual transformation operation

www.chinaview.cn 2006-10-09 11:33:20 HANOI, Oct. 9 (Xinhua) -- Vietnam will, under a draft decree, permit transgender people to undergo sexual transformation operation, from next January, according to local newspaper Saigon Liberation on Monday.

Under the draft decree recently submitted to the government by the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, transgender people, whose psychological self differs from the social expectations for the physical sex they were born with (for example, a female with a masculine gender identity or who identifies as a man), and people having unclear gender identity, can undergo the operation. After the operation, they will have new gender identity. news.xinhuanet.com

PALM BEACH GARDENS TO CONSIDER DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS by: Rand Hoch, OIA Newswire

Palm Beach Gardens Vice Mayor Jody Barnett is asking the city to offer employees with domestic partners the same family benefits currently enjoyed by married city employees. These include, medical and dental insurance, life insurance, accidental death insurance, disability benefits, accrued illness leave, family medical leave, and an employee assistance program.

"Palm Beach Gardens is a progressive community, recognizing diverse familial relationships," Vice Mayor Barnett said. "One way to ensure that all persons are treated fairly and equitably is to provide all city employees and their families the same benefits."

outinwestpalmbeach.com

More employers have gay-friendly policies -

Gay-friendly policies are being added at a greater number of companies, where they are a draw to prospective employees gay and straight, according to the Human Rights Campaign, a lobby group.

orlandosentinel.com

Gay R.I. couple marries in Mass.

Court had ruled in their favor

ATTLEBORO, Mass. (AP) | Oct 10, 9:00 AM

A gay Rhode Island couple who successfully fought to allow same-sex couples from that state to marry in Massachusetts tied the knot today in Attleboro. southernvoice.com

Young Nationals back gay unions

The Young Nationals have passed a motion at their federal council meeting in Canberra supporting civil unions for same-sex couples.

The Western Australian branch put forward the motion

abc.net.au

NEW: California court hands defeat to advocates of marriage for same-sex couples

By Lisa Leff, Associated Press Writer Article Last Updated:10/05/2006 03:09:59 PM PDT

SAN FRANCISCO - A state appeals court ruled Thursday that California's ban on gay marriage does not violate the constitutional rights of gays and lesbians, a critical defeat for a movement hungry for a win after high courts in New York and Washington state upheld similar bans.

<clip>

"We conclude California's historical definition of marriage does not deprive individuals of a vested fundamental right or discriminate against a suspect class," the court said. "The time may come when California chooses to expand the definition of marriage to encompass same-sex unions. That change must come from democratic processes, however, not by judicial fiat."

insidebayarea.com

Pro-GLBT Christian Leaders Announce Anti-Homophobia Gathering 09.08.06 By Troy Espera

(Dallas, TX) - A council of bishops, elders and Christian leaders committed to equal rights and inclusion for all will meet in Dallas Sept. 10-11 to address religious discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and how to counter it.

Over 30 faith leaders from across the United States will assemble as part of the three-day event to worship, pray and strategize on how to remove homophobia and hate from our churches, and replace them with hospitality, justice and equality for all.

247gay.com

Catholics losing faith over gay adoption

The bill aims to counter a significant reduction in families available for vulnerable children by allowing gay and unmarried couples to adopt

Religious leaders have lost faith in Scotland's First Minister over controversial plans to allow gay couples to adopt

pinknews.co.uk

Colorado Church Groups Support Gay Partner

Registry by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

September 15, 2006 - 3:00 pm ET

(Denver, Colorado) Three statewide organizations representing more than a dozen denominations have endorsed a referendum that would create a domestic partner registry and give same-sex couples many of the rights of marriage.

The Colorado Council of Churches, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado and Colorado Clergy for Equality in Marriage announced their support for the measure, called Referendum 1, in a joint statement on Thursday. 365gay.com

History of constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage. The following states will have referendums on bans next month: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin.

Year	State	Approved
1998	Alaska	68%
2000	Nebraska	70%
	Nevada	70%
	California	61%
2002	Nevada{+1}	67%
2004	Arkansas	75%
	Georgia	76%
	Kentucky	75%
	Louisiana	78%
	Michigan	59%
	Mississippi	86%
	Missouri	71%
	Montana	67%
	N. Dakota	73%
	Ohio	62%
	Oklahoma	76%
	Oregon	57%
	Utah	66%
2005	Kansas	70%
2006	Alabama{+2}	82%

1 Nevada's constitutional amendments must be approved twice

2 Alabama voted in June primary

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

Survey: 7 of 10 Americans know someone gay

published Tuesday, October 10, 2006

As gay men and lesbians celebrate another National Coming Out Day on Wednesday, a new survey reports seven out of 10 straight adults in the United States say they know someone who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

The nationwide Harris Interactive online survey of 2,932 U.S. adults also found that 83 percent of those who self-identify as gay or lesbian consider themselves out. gay.com

Archbishop demands diverse gay view

The Archbishop of Cape Town has given his backing to pro gay laws ahead of a conference in Rwanda next week on the controversial relationship between the church and homosexuality.

Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, who is in charge of 24 bishops in the Province of Southern Africa said it was importance for the church to embrace diversity and find solutions to their differences. pinknews.co.uk

Ndungane on gay unions

September 15, 2006 Edition 1

Homosexuals are God's children, said Anglican Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane yesterday, ahead of a conference in Rwanda with the contentious issue of gays in the church on its agenda.

"We should try to find solutions of living with difference and otherness. Diversity is the creation by the Almighty ... we need to embrace, all of us, in our differences and seek to walk together," said Ndungane.

dailynews.co.za

Legal recognition for gay couples in Uruguay

Uruguay is expected to become the latest country to recognise the legal rights of gay couples.

The country of 3.6m people will become the first nation in South America to grant such protections, although many cities and regions throughout the continent have made similar legal provisions

pinknews.co.uk

Episcopal priest blesses denomination's first gay union in Ark.

LITTLE ROCK An Episcopal priest who was the first to bless a gay couple in Arkansas says it was not his intent to be the first to perform such a ceremony. wreg.com

Angelina Jolie wants more lesbian scenes

LOS ANGELES: Angelina Jolie adores performing love scenes with women - as she gets a chance to chat about shopping between takes.

According to the web site contactmusic.com, Jolie, 31, admitted that she misses girl-to-girl discussions whenever she has to get steamy on screen with a man. com

Nepal government begins crackdown on gays-

KATHMANDU: Nepal's vulnerable gay community, who had taken part in the popular protests against King Gyanendra's regime, are now being targeted by the new "democratic" government they supported to power, a gay rights organisation said.

The new government of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, that was sworn in May and pledged to uphold democracy and human rights, has now started a cleansing drive against homosexuals in the capital, arbitrarily arresting them, detaining them illegally and beating them up in police lock-ups, according to the Blue Diamond Society, Nepal's most prominent gay rights organisation

timesofindia.indiatimes.com

India's anti-gay law faces challenge - Asia - Pacific - International Herald Tribune

NEW DELHI Amid a climate of growing sexual tolerance within urban India, a campaign to force the government to decriminalize homosexuality is rapidly gaining momentum.

About 150 of India's most influential figures - from the novelist Vikram Seth to the Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen - have joined their voices in a protest letter demanding the repeal of "cruel and discriminatory" legislation banning gay sex.

The letter brings together senior names from India's traditionally conservative elite - business, civil service and judiciary - alongside the more expected representatives of human rights groups iht.com

Right to marry does not apply to gays, court told Wednesday, 11th October, 2006

Marriage is an institution involving two people of the opposite sex which is given "special protection," under the Irish Constitution but the Constitution does not give same sex couples the right to marry, lawyers for the State argued in the High Court today

home.eircom.net from Ireland.com

Latvian parliament committee strikes blow for gay rights Sep 12, 2006

The Social and Labor Affairs committee in Latvia's parliament upheld amendments to the labor law banning discrimination based on the sexual orientation of employees, on Sept. 12. baltictimes.com

NO TO GAY LESBIAN CONFERENCE IN GHANA

The government of Ghana has banned the organising and hosting of a Gay and Lesbian conference in Ghana. The Conference, which had been scheduled for Accra in the third week of September was to have been attended by Gays and Lesbians from all over the world.

africanecho.co.uk

Several news sites move articles behind firewall creating broken links. Please go to their site and use the search boxes to find more on articles found here.