



# Interfaith LGBTQ Toolkit

*Resources to empower Michigan faith groups to strengthen their welcoming, advocacy and service on behalf of people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ)*



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



**RAINBOW FLAG IN CHURCH WINDOW:** The photograph of a rainbow flag in a church window offers a symbol of hope that underlies the creation of this Interfaith LGBTQ Toolkit. The hope is that, with knowledge and love, our most sacred places can more effectively welcome and stand up for the dignity of all people. Special thanks to photographer Jennifer Scott Schlick, who gave permission for the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) to use her rainbow flag photograph on this Toolkit's cover. This flag hangs in the window at the church she attends, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jamestown, New York. To view more photography by Jennifer Schlick, visit her website:

[www.JenniferScottSchlick.com](http://www.JenniferScottSchlick.com)



**INTERFAITH SYMBOL:** The green interfaith symbol on this Toolkit cover portrays how people from a variety of faith groups share one world with a diversity of people. In this Toolkit are links to websites created by many faith groups. Each group offers a variety of resources for people from LGBTQ communities and their straight allies.



**THE AUTHOR:** With input from many people, this Toolkit was assembled by Randy A. Block, Director and founder of the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN). Randy has a B.A. in journalism and an M.S.W. specializing in community organizing. MUUSJN is a statewide network of people from 26 Unitarian Universalist congregations and their allies who seek to promote dignity for all people. It organizes for action on a range of justice issues, including LGBTQ rights and welcoming. For more information, go to: [www.uujustice.org](http://www.uujustice.org).

**WHO SHOULD USE THIS TOOLKIT?** Religious leaders, people from LGBTQ communities, and organizational representatives will find this Toolkit useful. It provides a broad range of resources for faith groups who seek to become more inclusive and justice driven, for LGBTQ persons looking for resources, and for organizations interested in partnering with faith groups for social change.

## PREFACE

Hope, knowledge, and working relationships are needed to support positive changes. By working together on common goals, faith groups and their LGBTQ\* allies bring hope that change is possible for our congregations and our communities. The words “Knowledge Is Power” are chiseled over the door of the Detroit Public Library. As these words suggest, the need for good information is both timeless and essential for those who would make personal or societal change. Faith groups need at least two broad categories of LGBTQ-related information: information about resources and strategies to make their communities more inclusive and information about how to impact broader public policy issues. The LGBTQ Advocacy Toolkit will provide both kinds of information to LGBTQ organizations and their faith group allies.

According to an ARCUS Foundation study, “Finding Common Ground with People of Faith” (June 10, 2010) “Michigan is poised to make real gains on equality for lesbians, gay, bisexual, and transgender residents of the state.” This study states that in spite of very reactionary laws, progressive majorities exist among Michigan’s people on most LGBTQ issues. However, the public is often not aware that states’ laws are so regressive. In July 2010, ARCUS invited LGBTQ organizations and faith groups to meet to hear about the findings. At this meeting, ARCUS indicated that LGBTQ organizations need to do outreach and build common ground with faith groups as strategic allies in changing hearts and minds. This Interfaith LGBTQ Advocacy Toolkit is intended to be a tool for building relationships between the faith community and advocates to promote inclusion and advocacy within Michigan faith groups and within their broader communities. Creation and distribution of an Interfaith LGBTQ Advocacy Toolkit is considered to be a valuable resource by our partner organizations that seek greater partnerships with faith groups.

Many people contributed to the development of the Toolkit. Insights were shared by partner organization staff, members of MUUSJN’s LGBT Task Force, and many members of Michigan gay and faith communities.

**\* LGBT, LGBTQ, LGBTQQIA, or...?** What word or words should be used in this Toolkit to identify people who have a non-traditional sexual orientation or gender identity? According to the Equality Michigan Style Guide, “gay” is the preferred term to describe men and women who are attracted to the same sex, although “lesbian” is the most common term for women. The most common acronym describing diverse groups of people who are gay is “LGBT” (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender). However, as society has evolved, the terms “queer,” “questioning,” and “intersex” have also been used to describe a more diverse picture of people who have a non-traditional sexual orientation or gender identity. The Director of KICK indicated his organization has used the term “bi” or “bi-attractual” in place of the word “bisexual” to acknowledge that individuals may be attracted to, but not have sexual relationships with, people from both genders. Also, the letter A has been added to recognize the important role of LGBTQ Allies. “Queer,” a term traditionally used by anti-gay individuals as a put-down, is being reclaimed by some younger people to more radically embrace their own identity. “Questioning” represents a life stage in which an individual is not sure of her or his sexual identity. “Intersex” is a term that represents a variety of biological combinations of what traditionally are considered to be male and female. For more information on Intersex, see: <http://oiiusa.org/>. Rev. Sharon Jano, a local minister who has done research on Queer Theology, suggested that this Toolkit use the term LGBT-IQ. Other movement leaders recommended using the LGBT term to make it easier for the broader community to pronounce. An Equality Michigan policy staff recommended that this Toolkit use the term LGBTQ to recognize that Queer identity is important to younger activists. Perhaps none of these abbreviations will tell the whole story. Society’s capacity to honor diversity will be influenced by how well people of faith transcend labels and embrace all people as having worth and dignity.

## PROJECT GOALS

This Toolkit seeks to promote LGBTQ welcoming and advocacy activities within Michigan faith groups. The project will distribute copies of this Interfaith LGBTQ resource guide to the 350 faith groups in Southeast Michigan. A limited number of copies will be provided to partner organizations serving the LGBTQ community. The project also includes outreach to faith groups to get document feedback on the Toolkit's usefulness and to learn what changes may be desired for future editions. This project is a step toward the centralized collection, updating and sharing of LGBTQ resources for all of Michigan.

Another project goal is to assure that the resource information in the Toolkit is widely available. It has been published on the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) website: [www.uujustice.org](http://www.uujustice.org). Other organizations, particularly religious groups, are ENCOURAGED to create links to this Toolkit on their websites or Facebook pages. These groups are requested to inform the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) before such links are created. Other organizations are invited to submit Toolkit additions or corrections for inclusion in future on-line updates of the Toolkit. Contact information and services of for profit organizations or other income generating projects typically will not be accepted for listing in the Toolkit. All requests for Toolkit updates should be sent to Randy Block at 248-549-5170 or [randyblock@yahoo.com](mailto:randyblock@yahoo.com). No changes should be made to the Interfaith LGBTQ Toolkit without the express permission of MUUSJN.

# TOOLKIT INFORMATION AND POTENTIAL FAITH GROUP BENEFITS

**1. LGBTQ Community Resource Agencies and Services within Michigan:** Examples of services in this section of the Toolkit include specialized counseling, crisis intervention, family support, health resources, legal services, education, recreation, and specialized services for youth.

**Uses:** Community Resource Information can assist congregations to respond to the individual needs of LGBTQ people and their families within their communities. These community agencies can be sources of informational programs that may be of interest to the LGBTQ community and their allies.

**2. Welcoming Resources:** This information can assist faith groups to be more welcoming to people from LGBTQ communities.

**Uses:** By enhancing its capacity for welcoming, congregations will become more known within LGBTQ community as safe places for a diverse group of people to become affiliated with a congregation. In addition to fulfilling a spiritual call to “love your neighbor,” becoming more welcoming of the LGBTQ community can be seen as a membership growth strategy.

**3. Guidance on how to organize for social change:** Policy, program, and justice issue resources in this Toolkit will support faith groups who choose to respond to the call to be advocates on behalf the LGBTQ community. For example, information will be available on strategies for amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to bring equal rights to people from the LGBTQ community. Working for equal rights has a long tradition within faith community activists during the civil rights movement.

**Uses:** A faith group that takes on social change as part of its religious mission can create opportunities for its members to “live their faith.” Having justice work as part of its mission sends a message to the broader community that this organization includes people who “walk the walk,” not just “talk the talk.” Community organizations can be tapped to provide educational programs via speakers, films, and training. Advocacy groups included in this Toolkit could become partners with faith groups seeking social change.

**4. Links to Specialized LGBTQ Ethnic or Cultural Groups:** People from various cultural groups who also happen to be gay may experience double jeopardy. Not only do they feel unsafe due to their LGBTQ identity, but they may feel they don’t fit in because of their race or cultural identity. People who are not comfortable in a faith group will likely go elsewhere.

**Uses:** It is valuable for faith groups to know that there are LGBTQ-centric organizations that provide additional outlets for people who share common racial or cultural heritages, e.g., African American, Arab American, or Hispanic. These organizations potentially can become resources for faith groups that want to expand their cultural capacities and that want to benefit from expanded cultural diversity within their community.

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



**Equality Michigan** is an organization that works to achieve full equality and respect for all people in Michigan, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Equality Michigan aspires to make sure that our state reflects the equality we all deserve. Its programs include victim services, policy and legislation, community events, and education and outreach. For more information: 313-537-7000 / [www.equalitymi.org](http://www.equalitymi.org)



**The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion** is a nonprofit civil rights organization located in Detroit working to overcome discrimination and racism by crossing racial, religious, ethnic, and cultural boundaries. It brings together community leaders from government, law enforcement, education, faith, grassroots organizations, and business to understand different points of view and then take action to overcome structural impediments to inclusion and equity. It recently expanded its mission to promote the inclusion of LGBTQ people in faith communities and to advocate for full equality for all Michigan citizens.

For more information: 313-870-1500 / [www.miroundtable.org](http://www.miroundtable.org)

**Inclusive Justice** is a statewide coalition of leaders from a variety of faith communities, e.g., Jewish, Methodist, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist, Quaker, and Unitarian Universalist, who seek to promote LGBTQ welcoming and advocacy.

For more information: 734-846-3578 / [www.inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org/home](http://www.inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org/home)



**KICK** is a nonprofit organization for Lesbian, Gay, Bi, and Transgender African-American LGBTQ people. Kick program areas include Receive and Restore health and wellness workshops, Live and Learn educational workshops, and Help and Heal faith-based support and action for HIV-positive African American males.

For more information: 313-285-9733 / [www.e-kick.org](http://www.e-kick.org)



**Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN)** is a statewide network of people from 26 Unitarian Universalist congregations and their allies who seek to promote dignity for all people. It organizes for action on a range of justice issues, including LGBTQ rights and welcoming.

For more information: 248-549-5170 / [www.uujustice.org](http://www.uujustice.org)

## INCLUSION AND WELCOMING RESOURCES



**Institute for Welcoming Resources (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force)** offers a broad range of resources for congregations, such as coming out, marriage equality, pastoral care, worship resources, youth resources, and training for faith-based community organizing. Their site includes a free “Building an Inclusive Church” toolkit.

[www.welcomingresources.org](http://www.welcomingresources.org)

It provides a national search for Welcoming Congregations at:

[www.welcomingresources.org/michigan.htm](http://www.welcomingresources.org/michigan.htm)

**Institute for Welcoming Resources** has a network of religious leaders called the Religious Leadership Roundtable, from pro-LGBT faith, spiritual, and religious organizations that work with the Welcoming Church movement in eight mainline Protestant denominations.

[www.thetaskforce.org/issues/faith](http://www.thetaskforce.org/issues/faith)

**Religious Institute: Faithful Voices on Sexuality and Religion** is a national multi-faith organization dedicated to advocating for sexual health, education, and justice in faith communities and society.

[www.religiousthought.org](http://www.religiousthought.org)

This site has many resources for religious leaders at:

[www.religiousthought.org/acting-out-loud/resources-welcoming-congregations](http://www.religiousthought.org/acting-out-loud/resources-welcoming-congregations)



# FAITH GROUP RESOURCES BY DENOMINATION



## BAPTIST

**Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists** (national) welcomes and affirms all persons without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity and has joined together with Baptist communities of faith to advocate for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

[www.wabaptists.org](http://www.wabaptists.org)

**Rainbow Baptists** is a national outreach ministry of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.

[www.rainbowbaptists.org](http://www.rainbowbaptists.org)

## BUDDHIST

**Gay Buddhist Fellowship** (national) supports Buddhist practices in the gay community and brings together the diverse Buddhist traditions to address the spiritual concerns of gay men.

[www.gaybuddhist.org](http://www.gaybuddhist.org)

**Gay Buddhist Sangha** is a group of LGBT folk who support each other as they explore their Buddhist way.

[www.gaybuddhistsangha.org](http://www.gaybuddhistsangha.org)

**Queer Dharma** is a New York-based community of meditation practices for all people founded by LGBTQ people. A broad range of Buddhist traditions are represented in their membership and visiting teachers.

[www.queerdharma.org](http://www.queerdharma.org)

## CATHOLIC

**Dignity USA** (national) works for respect and justice for all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons in the Catholic Church and the world through education, advocacy, and support.

[www.dignityusa.org](http://www.dignityusa.org)

**New Ways Ministry** (national) is a gay-positive ministry of advocacy and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ) Catholics and reconciliation within the larger Christian and civil communities.

[www.newwaysministry.org](http://www.newwaysministry.org)

**Fortunate Families** (national) are Catholic parents who love their gay and lesbian sons and daughters.

[www.fortunatefamilies.com/listenold.htm](http://www.fortunatefamilies.com/listenold.htm)

## **CHRISTIAN** (no specific denomination)

**Gays in Faith Together (GIFT)** (Grand Rapids area) provides spiritual support for Christian LGBTQ persons.

616-774-0446 / [www.gaysinfaithtogether.org](http://www.gaysinfaithtogether.org)

**Gay Christian Network (national)** links to Christian resources and support groups for LGBTQ and allies.  
[www.gaychristian.net](http://www.gaychristian.net)

## **CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)**

**Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciples Alliance (GLAD)** (national) is an organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and affirming members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with a prophetic voice calling for the full inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the Church.

[www.gladalliance.org](http://www.gladalliance.org)

## **EPISCOPAL**

**Integrity USA** (national) works for the full inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the Episcopal Church using integrity as the leading grassroots voice.

[www.integrityusa.org](http://www.integrityusa.org)

**Oasis** (Southeast Michigan) assists churches to become more welcoming, advocate for TBLG people, and build coalitions.

734-846-3578 (Rev. Joe Summers) / [www.oasisministrymi.org](http://www.oasisministrymi.org)

**Spirit of Hope** is affiliated with Episcopal and Lutheran faiths.

[www.spiritofhopedetroit.org](http://www.spiritofhopedetroit.org)

## **EVANGELICAL**

**Evangelicals Concerned** (national) encourages and affirms lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Christians in their faith.

[www.ecinc.org](http://www.ecinc.org)

## **INTERFAITH**

**Inclusive Justice** (statewide) is a coalition of faith groups supporting LGBTQ welcoming and advocacy.

734-846-3578 (Rev. Joe Summers) / [www.inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org/home](http://www.inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org/home)

**Human Rights Campaign** provides links to “stances of faith on LGBTQ issues” by African Methodists, Buddhists, Mormons, Episcopalians, American Baptists, the Church of God in Christ, the Church of the Nazarene, Evangelical Lutherans, Hindus, the National Baptist Convention, Jews, Pentecostals, Quakers, the Salvation Army, the Southern Baptist Convention, Metropolitan Community Churches, Old Catholics/Independent Catholics, the Presbyterian Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church.

[www.hrc.org/resources/category/religion-faith](http://www.hrc.org/resources/category/religion-faith)

## **ISLAMIC (See MUSLIM.)**

## **HINDU (Vaishnavas)**

**Gay and Lesbian Vaishnava Association** (national) educates Vaishnavas, Hindus, and the public in general about the “third sex” as described in Vedic literature.

[www.galva108.org](http://www.galva108.org)

## JEWISH

**World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Jews: Keshet Ga'avah** (national) holds conferences and workshops representing the interests of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Jews around the world.

[www.glbti Jews.org](http://www.glbti Jews.org)

**Jews for Marriage Equality** (national) educates the Jewish community of the importance of equal civil marriage rights for gay and lesbian people.

[www.jewsformarriageequality.org](http://www.jewsformarriageequality.org)

**Jewish Gay Network of Michigan** serves all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Jews, their families, and their friends by providing community, information, empowerment, and education in an environment of respect. It is volunteer-run.

[www.ignmi.org](http://www.ignmi.org)

**Jewish Gay Youth** is a social/support group of GLBT Jews ages 17-30 with an anonymous discussion group.

[www.jqyouth.org](http://www.jqyouth.org)

**Jewish Mosaic: The National Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity** has merged with **Keshet** to create a fully inclusive Jewish community for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Jews.

[www.jewishmosaic.org](http://www.jewishmosaic.org)

[www.keshetonline.org](http://www.keshetonline.org)

## LUTHERAN

**Evangelical Lutheran Diversity Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Gender Expression** seeks to provide a safe place for issues surrounding gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex people. The Task Force has been in operation for many years and meets at Zion Lutheran Church in Ferndale.

248-398-5510

**Goodsoil** (national) is a collaboration of allies working for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families in the full ministerial and sacramental life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

[www.goodsoil.org](http://www.goodsoil.org)

**Lutherans Concerned North America** (national) works for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church and congregations.

[www.lcna.org](http://www.lcna.org)

**Spirit of Hope** is affiliated with Lutheran and Episcopal faiths.

[www.spiritofhopedetroit.org](http://www.spiritofhopedetroit.org)

## MENNONITE/CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**Gay Mennonites League** (national) provides information and news about issues related to gay and lesbian Mennonites who share the goal of building a more inclusive Mennonite Church.

[www.gaymennonite.wordpress.com](http://www.gaymennonite.wordpress.com)

**Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interests** (national) has a website with many films, brochures, other resources.

[www.bmclgbt.org](http://www.bmclgbt.org)

## **METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Metropolitan Community Churches** has been at the vanguard of civil and human rights movements by addressing important issues such as racism, sexism, homophobia, ageism, and other forms of oppression. The website offers links to MCC churches in 37 countries.

[www.mccchurch.org](http://www.mccchurch.org)

**Metropolitan Community Church** (Ferndale) is an LGBTQ Christian church.

248-399-7741 / [www.mccdetroit.org](http://www.mccdetroit.org)

**Divine Peace Metropolitan Community Church** (Pontiac) is an LGBTQ Christian Church.

248-332-1186 (Rev. Beth Rakestraw) / [www.divinepeacemcc.org](http://www.divinepeacemcc.org)

## **MORMON**

**Mormons for Marriage** (national) voices support for same-sex marriage and respectful opposition to California's Proposition 8.

[www.mormonsformarriage.com](http://www.mormonsformarriage.com)

**Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons** (national) works to remove barriers to acceptance and promote dignity and respect for sexual minorities, focusing on issues relevant to those from a Mormon background.

[www.affirmation.org](http://www.affirmation.org)

## **MUSLIM**

**Al-Bab** (international) provides many links to Arab LGBTQ groups and to the Arab world.

[www.al-bab.com/arab/background/gay.htm](http://www.al-bab.com/arab/background/gay.htm)

**Al-Fatiha Foundation** (national) advances the cause of gay, lesbian, and transgender Muslims.

[www.tegenwicht.org/16\\_imams/al\\_fatiha\\_en.htm](http://www.tegenwicht.org/16_imams/al_fatiha_en.htm)

**American Islamic Fellowship** (national) is an open forum for spiritual community based on Islamic principles that values gender equality.

[www.americanislamicfellowship.org](http://www.americanislamicfellowship.org)

**Safra Project** (international) works on issues relating to lesbians, bisexual, and/or transgender women who identify as Muslim religiously or culturally.

[www.safraproject.org](http://www.safraproject.org)

## **NON-DENOMINATIONAL**

**Agape Ministries** (Berkley)

248-825-6149 (Rev. Darlene Franklin)

**Whosoever Ministries**

313-259-0000 (Rev. Dr. Selma Massey)

## PENTACOSTAL

**Gay Pentacostals** are “out, proud, on fire for the Lord!”

[www.gaypentecostals.org](http://www.gaypentecostals.org)

**The Affirming Pentecostal Church** (international) is a network of gay-affirming Pentecostal churches.

[www.myapci.xbuild.com](http://www.myapci.xbuild.com)

## PRESBYTERIAN

**Covenant Network of Presbyterians** (national) is a broad-based group of clergy and lay leaders working for a church that is faithful, just, and whole.

[www.covnetpres.org](http://www.covnetpres.org)

**More Light Presbyterians** (national) is a network of people seeking the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church.

[www.mlp.org](http://www.mlp.org)

**That All May Freely Serve** (TAMFS) The national group is dissolving, but Michigan group is active.

Grassroots organization to educate, advocate and care for LGBT sisters and brothers in Detroit Presbytery and greater Michigan.

[www.tamfs-michigan.org/](http://www.tamfs-michigan.org/)

**Detroit Presbytery's All GOD's Children: Gender and Orientation Diversity Work Group**

248-722-3240 (Rev. Ellen Acton)

## QUAKER

**Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns** (national)

<http://flgbtqc.quaker.org>

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**LGBTQ Ministries** (national) says, “Whoever you are, you are welcome here!”

[www.ucc.org/lgbt](http://www.ucc.org/lgbt)

**United Church of Christ Coalition for GLBT Concerns** responds to calls to expand what “Open and Affirming” means as they strive to include and advocate for all diversities and to empower themselves to act for social change.

[www.uccoalition.org](http://www.uccoalition.org)

## UNITED METHODIST

**Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns** (national) is an organization of LGBTQ activists independent from the Methodist Church.

[www.umaffirm.org](http://www.umaffirm.org)

**Rainbow Crossing:** A First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor group that seeks to be more welcoming of people from LGBTQ and intersex communities.

[www.fumc-a2.org/rainbow.cfm](http://www.fumc-a2.org/rainbow.cfm)

**Reconciling Ministries Network** (national) mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform the Church and world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love.  
[www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)

**Central United Methodist Church (Detroit) LGBTQ Ministries** – 313-269-8701 (George Jonte) /  
[www.cumcdetroit-reconciling.weebly.com/initiatives.html](http://www.cumcdetroit-reconciling.weebly.com/initiatives.html)

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

**Unitarian Universalist Association** (national) has a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Ministries department of Multicultural Growth and Witness and provides links to UU history, outreach, and public witness for LGBT rights, Welcoming and inclusive congregations, Identity 101, and books and videos.  
[www.uua.org/directory/staff/multiculturalgrowth/lesbiangay](http://www.uua.org/directory/staff/multiculturalgrowth/lesbiangay)  
[www.uua.org/lgbt/index.shtml](http://www.uua.org/lgbt/index.shtml)

**Standing on the Side of Love** (national) is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression, including that of LGBT people.  
[www.standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org)

**Interweave, First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor**  
[allenr@washtenaw.org](mailto:allenr@washtenaw.org) (Roberta Allen)

**Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN)** is a statewide network of people from 26 Unitarian Universalist congregations and their allies who seek to promote dignity for all people. It organizes for action on a range of justice issues, including LGBTQ rights and welcoming.  
248-549-5170 (Randy Block) / [www.uujustice.org](http://www.uujustice.org)

## UNITY

**Unity LGBTQ Spiritual Resource Center** (national) is dedicated to inclusiveness and offers a variety of resources specifically for LGBT people and their family and friends.  
<http://content.unity.org/LGBTQ>

**Renaissance Unity** (Warren) is an inclusive spiritual community.  
586-353-2300 (Rev. Richard Beattie) / [www.renaissanceunity.org](http://www.renaissanceunity.org)



## EDUCATIONAL FILMS



***Out in the Silence*** tells the story of a small American town confronting a firestorm of controversy ignited by a same-sex wedding announcement in a local paper. This award-winning video is available on loan from MUUSJN. (56 min.)

248-549-5170 (Randy Block)

***Fences*** (new) focuses on the important role faith plays throughout the LGBT movement as it relates to marriage equality and the moveable middle. This film reminds us that the faith community can be both our greatest obstacle and our greatest ally. A Michigan film produced by Antonio David Garcia, Director of Affirmations, on behalf of the Affirmations Board of Directors.

248-398-7105 / [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

***Growing Up Gay and Lesbian*** by Brian McNaught, award-winning freelance writer, educational consultant, and counselor, provides an insightful, first-hand account of his experience growing up gay. He uses comedy and his skills as a counselor to present an overview of gay sexual orientation that is at once disarming and heart-warming. (57 min.)

[www.brian-mcnaught.com](http://www.brian-mcnaught.com)

***Straight from the Heart*** by Dee Mosbacher and Frances Reid explores parents' journeys to a new understanding of their lesbian and gay children by presenting simple stories about real people. From the police chief father of a lesbian daughter to the Idaho Mormon couple sharing about their gay son, the stories in this Academy Award-nominated documentary are genuine, very moving, and truly straight from the heart. A *Woman Vision* production. (24 min.)

[www.unlearninghomophobia.com](http://www.unlearninghomophobia.com)

***There's a Wideness in God's Mercy: Dr Lewis Smedes on Romans 1*** begins with an introduction by Rev. Mel White. This talk by Dr. Smedes traces his alternative view of Romans 1, a view which is embracing of GLBT people. This film is a good conversation starter for discussions with those who hold a more traditional view of scripture. (30 min.)

[www.soulforce.org](http://www.soulforce.org)

***How Can I Be Sure that God Loves Me, Too?*** is a very powerful sermon address by Rev. Mel White to a welcoming Michigan congregation, offering assurance of God's love for those GLBT people who continue to struggle from the ill-effects of Bible abuse. (24 min.)

[www.soulforce.org](http://www.soulforce.org)

***All God's Children*** is about the Black Church's embracing African-American lesbians and gay men as members of its spiritual family. Prominent leaders, family members, and activists speak out about the importance of a commitment to equal rights and social justice for all people. Interwoven with music, the speakers weigh in

with heartfelt stories about exclusion and discrimination, then about inclusion and the call for healing. A *Woman Vision* production. (26 min.)  
[www.unlearninghomophobia.com](http://www.unlearninghomophobia.com)

***De Colores: Lesbian and Gay Latinos: Stories of Strength, Family and Love*** is a bilingual documentary about how Latino families and communities are replacing the deep roots of homophobia with the even deeper roots of love and tolerance. A *Woman Vision and EyeBite* productions collaboration. (28 min.)  
[www.unlearninghomophobia.com](http://www.unlearninghomophobia.com)

***Trembling before God*** offers a very intriguing and enlightening look at the lives and experiences of Orthodox and Hasidic Jews who also happen to be gay or lesbian. An interview with the first openly gay Orthodox Jewish rabbi is included in this film, along with the stories of others who are cautiously opening their closet doors and embracing both their faith traditions and their gay or lesbian sexual orientations. This is a real gem of a film.  
[www.tremblingbeforegod.com](http://www.tremblingbeforegod.com)

***I Exist: Voices from the Lesbian and Gay Middle Eastern Community in the U.S.*** was the winner of “Best Documentary” at the New York Lesbian and Gay film festival. These touching and ground-breaking interviews shed light on the joys and pains of growing up gay and Middle Eastern, a community once rendered voiceless by the fear of shame and ostracism. *EyeBite* productions. (57 min.)  
[www.unlearninghomophobia.com](http://www.unlearninghomophobia.com)

***That’s a Family*** is a highly entertaining documentary for kids about family diversity. This one will touch your heart, no matter what your age. With blunt and sometimes hilarious candor, the children who star take us on a tour through their lives and speak movingly about their unique family experiences. By *Women’s Educational Media*. (30 min.)  
[www.womedia.org](http://www.womedia.org)

***Sticks and Stones*** is a video for children, parents, and educators in which young children ages 5-12 describe how they feel when they hear put-downs of themselves or their families. They describe how it feels to be teased when their families don’t follow traditional gender roles. They talk about why bullies indulge in name-calling and what they think should be done about it. Using interviews, animation, and documentary footage to spark discussions, this film encourages all children to feel empathy and respect for their playmates. By *National Film Board of Canada*.  
1-800-542-2164 (USA) / 1-800-267-7710 (Canada) / [www.nfb.ca](http://www.nfb.ca)

***It’s Elementary: Talking about Gay Issues in School*** shows how many adults don’t see why or how schools should address lesbian and gay issues with young children. Using inspiring classroom footage, this film urges educators and parents to re-think their assumptions. This beautifully crafted film shows what actually happens when teachers lead class discussions that address anti-gay prejudice. It makes a powerful case that kids need to be taught respect for all and that this kind of education needs to start in elementary school. A production of *Women’s Educational Media*. (78 min.)  
[www.womedia.org](http://www.womedia.org)



## ADVOCACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

**Affirmations Civic Engagement Program** creates opportunities to engage people to stand up and advocate for themselves and the LGBTQ community.

248-398-7105 / [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**American Civil Liberties Union Michigan** (Detroit) fights to preserve civil liberties.

313-578-6800 / [www.aclumich.org](http://www.aclumich.org)

**BiNet USA** (national) advocates for the bisexual, pansexual, and fluid communities.

[www.binetusa.org](http://www.binetusa.org)

**Equality Michigan** works to achieve full equality and respect for all people in Michigan, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. See Appendix C for fact sheets and issue briefs.

313-537-7000 / [www.equalitymi.org](http://www.equalitymi.org)

**Family Equality Council** (national) supports and advocates for gay and lesbian parents.

[www.familyequality.org](http://www.familyequality.org)

**Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)** (national) tells the stories of LGBTQ people and assists organizations to advocate for equality.

[www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org)

**Holland Is Ready** supports a non-discrimination ordinance in Holland.

[www.facebook.com/hollandisready](https://www.facebook.com/hollandisready)

**Human Rights Campaign** (national) offers a broad range of LGBTQ human rights resources including a faith advocacy resources section with Faith Advocacy 101, political guidelines for nonprofit faith groups, hate crimes talking points, etc. and a guide to LGBTQ laws by state.

[www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

[www.hrc.org/laws-and-legislation/state/c/michigan](http://www.hrc.org/laws-and-legislation/state/c/michigan)

**Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality** works toward obtaining equal rights for the LGBTQ community in the Kalamazoo Metro area and beyond.

[www.kalamazooalliance.org](http://www.kalamazooalliance.org)

**National Center for Lesbian Rights** (national) is a lesbian legislative advocacy group.

[www.nclrights.org](http://www.nclrights.org)

**Inclusive Justice** (statewide) is a coalition of faith groups supporting LGBTQ welcoming and advocacy.  
734-846-3578 (Rev. Joe Summers) / [www.inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org](http://www.inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org)

**Kick** is the agency for LGBTQ African Americans.  
313-285-9733 / [www.e-kick.org](http://www.e-kick.org)

**Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund** (national) advocates for civil rights of LGBTQ people and those with HIV. The website features a toolkit to assist LGBTQ youth.  
312-787-4264 / [www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)  
[www.lambdalegal.org/es/node/19844](http://www.lambdalegal.org/es/node/19844)

**Lansing Association for Human Rights (LAHR)** makes meaningful the Lansing Human Rights Ordinance, which includes LGBTQ gender expression, supports pride events, and reports monthly news.  
517-484-4512 / [www.lahronline.org](http://www.lahronline.org)

**Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes** coordinates with law enforcement to ensure effective responses to hate crimes and provides outreach and education to promote hate crime reporting and enforcement.  
517-241-7909 / [www.miaahc.com](http://www.miaahc.com)

**Michigan Fairness Forum** supports progressive change on LGBTQ issues in civil leadership and lists information about member organizations.  
248-403-6404 / [www.michiganfairnessforum.org](http://www.michiganfairnessforum.org)

**Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy** educates the public and policymakers on LGBTQ issues based on scientific research, with public policy fact sheets and educational programs.  
248-302-6774 / [www.mpipp.org](http://www.mpipp.org)

**Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion** helps build sustainable inclusive communities.  
313-870-1500 / [www.miroundtable.org](http://www.miroundtable.org)

**Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN)** is a statewide network of Unitarian Universalists and allies working for dignity and justice for all with legislative LGBTQ advocacy and the promotion of Welcoming in UU congregations.  
248-549-5170 (Randy Block) / [www.uujustice.org](http://www.uujustice.org)

**National Black Justice Coalition** (national) is a civil rights organization dedicated to empowering Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.  
[www.nbjc.org](http://www.nbjc.org)

**Perceptions of Saginaw Valley** (Midland) offers educational, social, and networking opportunities for residents of the Tri-Cities (Midland, Bay City and Saginaw) and surrounding areas. Perceptions strives to foster a positive image for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community and allies.  
989-891-1429 / [www.perceptionsSV.org](http://www.perceptionsSV.org)

**Riot Youth** (Ann Arbor) is a youth-led advocacy group.  
734-214-9995 / [www.neutral-zone.org/programs/43/riot-youth](http://www.neutral-zone.org/programs/43/riot-youth)

**Ruth Ellis Center, Inc.** (Highland Park) serves and advocates for LGBTQ youth.  
313-252-1950 / [www.ruthelliscenter.org](http://www.ruthelliscenter.org)

**Soul Force** (national) works for freedom from religious or political oppression for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people through nonviolent resistance.  
[www.soulforce.org](http://www.soulforce.org)

**Southern Poverty Law Center** (national) offers resources to fight injustice and prejudice, including the Teaching Tolerance curriculum.  
[www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)

**Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse** is Rev. Rembert S. Truluck's "response to the abusive use of the Bible against gays and lesbians and all others oppressed by religion."  
[www.otkenyer.hu/truluck/index.html](http://www.otkenyer.hu/truluck/index.html)

**Student Organizing** (national) is dedicated to assisting students to be LGBTQ activists.  
[www.studentorganizing.org](http://www.studentorganizing.org)

**Unitarian Universalist Association** offers a **Social Justice Empowerment Program Handbook** to support congregational action for transformational change.  
[www.uua.org/documents/aw/sje\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/aw/sje_handbook.pdf)

**Unity Michigan Coalition** supports local organizing efforts to update nondiscrimination protections to include sexual and gender identity and expression. It offers one-to-one consultation to assess your municipality's current legal and political situation. See Appendix D for a Legislative Advocacy Toolkit.  
[www.unitymichigan.org](http://www.unitymichigan.org)

# COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATORS

## Finding your legislators:

**Federal:** (via Human Rights Campaign) [www.hrc.org/apps/yourelectedofficials/index.php](http://www.hrc.org/apps/yourelectedofficials/index.php)

**State Senator:** [www.senate.mi.gov/FindYourSenator/michiganfys.asp](http://www.senate.mi.gov/FindYourSenator/michiganfys.asp)

**State Representative:** [www.house.mi.gov/mhrpublic](http://www.house.mi.gov/mhrpublic)

## Tips for Communicating with Your Legislator

Adapted from RESULTS (national) for the Interfaith LGBTQ Toolkit  
[www.results.org/skills\\_center/advocacy\\_how\\_tos/working\\_with\\_congress](http://www.results.org/skills_center/advocacy_how_tos/working_with_congress)

### Send an Email

Email is a great first step in starting a conversation with a legislator, registering your concerns and interests, and building courage regarding your power as an advocate. The process of crafting an email to your legislator is also a good way to begin getting to know how to research your elected official. The EPIC format (Engage, state the Problem, Inform about a solution, give a Call to action) is very useful to the process of crafting an advocacy message to your legislator.

### Make a Phone Call

Making a phone call to your state legislator or member of Congress can be an intimidating prospect, but it will be the next step in creating a solid relationship with your legislator and his or her office staff, as well as the next step in building your advocacy muscles.

- 1. Be clear on the reason for your call.** If you can't speak with the legislator, ask to speak with an aide who may work on this issue.
- 2. Ask yourself:** Where has she taken an action on one of my organization's issues? What are his particular interests and areas of leadership? This could give you an idea on how to form your question or thank-you.
- 3. Script out your call.** Try to personalize what you say. If possible, relate a story about you or someone you know to the issue you are discussing. Practice, practice, practice!
- 4. It's okay to be nervous.** Even the most seasoned advocates still get nervous making calls to a legislator.

### Write a Letter

Writing a letter and making a follow-up phone call only takes a few minutes of your time, but it ensures that the people who make decisions on your behalf every day know how you want to be represented. Send handwritten letters to policymakers. They will "weigh" your opinions more seriously than those submitted in form emails. Be sure to introduce yourself and share why you care about the issue. In your letter, be sure to request a reply and include all of your contact information.

### Ask a Question at a Town Hall Meeting or a Candidate Forum

The media are often at these events and cover the questions asked. By presenting carefully prepared and powerful questions at the event, you and your group have the chance to influence the legislator, educate the community in the room, and make the pages of the local paper – a super triple play!

**1. Find out where your legislator is.** Visit the Michigan House and Senate calendars found at [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov) to find out when your legislators are scheduled to be in home districts. Locate the websites of your elected officials and subscribe to their newsletters via email. Call the local office and ask when and where your representative or senator will be speaking or holding a candidate forum.

**2. Prepare questions ahead of time.** Make your question concise. Use powerful words and imagery to really engage your listeners. Gather supporting materials on your issue and contact information for your group to leave with staff accompanying the member or candidate.

**3. Work in teams.** Arrive early. Someone from your group might arrive early enough to assess the procedure. Is there a sign-in sheet for constituents? Have group members sit in different areas of the room as close to the front as possible to maximize your impact. Get seats near microphones so you can be first in line. Designate a note-taker to jot down all information and promises made by the members of Congress or candidates. Raise your hands or get in line immediately when it's time to ask questions. You have to be quick!

**4. Identify yourself as a member of an organization or as an individual speaking for yourself.** Begin with a brief thank-you or acknowledgement. Be respectful, assertive, and concise. Ask a specific question to help ensure a direct response.

**5. Do your follow-up.** Seek out media after the meeting to talk about your issues if they were not covered or to expand on them if they were. Approach the legislator or candidates after the meeting to introduce yourself and follow up on your questions, or ask them your questions if you were not able to do so during the meeting. Even if it is a handshake line, take a moment to stop and ask your questions. Seek out their staff; introduce yourself and your issue. Provide them with your contact information and any supporting materials you brought with you. Leave the event with a clear plan to follow up with their staff – and do it! Send written follow-up. Within a few days, fax or email a letter to the legislator or candidate and the staff person.

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR LGBTQ PEOPLE, THEIR ALLIES, AND FAITH GROUPS



## Aging

**Affirmations** (Ferndale) hosts social and support groups for ages 45 and older.  
248-398-7105 / [www.goaffirmations.org/site/PageServer?pagename=programs\\_olderadults](http://www.goaffirmations.org/site/PageServer?pagename=programs_olderadults)

**Lansing Association for Human Rights (LAHR)** provides a guide for aging services in the Lansing area for LGBTQI persons.  
517-484-4512 / [www.lahronline.org](http://www.lahronline.org)

## AIDS/HIV

**Affirmations** provides a welcoming space for support and unconditional acceptance.  
248-398-7105 / [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**AIDS Partnership Michigan** (Detroit) provides leadership and education regarding AIDS/HIV.  
313-446-9800 / [www.aidspartnership.org](http://www.aidspartnership.org)

**Community AIDS Resource and Education Services (CARES)** (Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo)  
269-381-2437 / [www.caresswm.org](http://www.caresswm.org)

**HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC)** provides HIV services in Washtenaw, Jackson, Livingston, and Lenawee Counties.  
800-578-2300, 734-512-9355 / [www.hivaidresource.org](http://www.hivaidresource.org)

**Higher Ground** (Royal Oak) provides volunteers to support people living with HIV/AIDS.  
586-427-1259 / [www.hghiv.org](http://www.hghiv.org)

**Lansing Area AIDS Network** delivers services and programs designed to meet the needs of those living with HIV/AIDS and to prevent the further spread of the virus.  
517-394-3560 / [www.laanonline.org](http://www.laanonline.org)

**Michigan AIDS Coalition** (Ferndale) offers AIDS support and prevention and LGBTQ sensitivity training for police and others.  
248-545-1435

**Michigan AIDS Hotline**  
800-872-AIDS

**Midwest AIDS Coalition (MAC)** promotes healthy lifestyles, provides and invests in evidence-based, innovative programs, and provides advocacy and education to prevent HIV/AIDS in Michigan.  
[www.michiganidscoalition.org](http://www.michiganidscoalition.org)

**Tolerance Equality and Awareness Project (TEAM)** a.k.a. **Lesbian and Gay Network of Western MI**  
616-528-TEAM / [www.humanrightsteam.org/tag/the-lesbian-and-gay-network-of-west-michigan](http://www.humanrightsteam.org/tag/the-lesbian-and-gay-network-of-west-michigan)

### **Business-Related**

**Ford GLOBE** is a grassroots network of gay, lesbian, and bisexual employees of Ford Motor Company.  
[www.fordglobe.org](http://www.fordglobe.org)

**GM PLUS** (Royal Oak) is a General Motors LGBT employee resource group.  
[www.gm.com/company/aboutGM/diversity/GM\\_and\\_the\\_LGBT.html](http://www.gm.com/company/aboutGM/diversity/GM_and_the_LGBT.html)

**Metro Detroit Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce** is a business organization for LGBTQ persons.  
313-759-7894

**People of Diversity of DaimlerChrysler** (Auburn Hills)  
248-576-0909

**Ties Like Me** (metro Detroit) is a network of LGBTQ businesses.  
[www.tieslikeme.org](http://www.tieslikeme.org)



### **College/University LGBT Resource Centers**

**LGBT Friendly Campus Climate Index** (national) rates colleges on LGBT friendliness.  
[www.campusclimateindex.org](http://www.campusclimateindex.org)

**Central Michigan University Office of LGBT services**  
989-774-3637 / [www.cmich.edu/x21776.xml](http://www.cmich.edu/x21776.xml)

**Eastern Michigan University LGBT Resource Center**  
734-487-1075 / [www.emich.edu/lgbtrc](http://www.emich.edu/lgbtrc)

**Grand Valley LGBTQ Resource Center**  
616-331-5000 / [www.gvsu.edu/lgbtrc](http://www.gvsu.edu/lgbtrc)

**Kalamazoo College Kaleidoscope**  
k03pg01@kzoo.edu (Paul) / [www.kzoo.edu/scopes/kscope.htm](http://www.kzoo.edu/scopes/kscope.htm)

**Lansing Community College Gay-Straight Alliance**

517-483-1200 / [www.lcc.edu/studentlife/clubs and organizations](http://www.lcc.edu/studentlife/clubs_and_organizations)

**Lawrence Technical University LGBT Resource Center**

[www.ltu.edu/student\\_affairs/lgbt.asp](http://www.ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp)

**Michigan State University LBTA Organizations**

517-353-950 / [www.lbgtrc.msu.edu/student-faculty-staff-and-alumni-organizations/student](http://www.lbgtrc.msu.edu/student-faculty-staff-and-alumni-organizations/student)

**Michigan Technical University Keweenaw Pride**

906-487-3192 / [www.involvement.mtu.edu/organization/keweenaw-pride](http://www.involvement.mtu.edu/organization/keweenaw-pride)

**Northern Michigan University Gay/Lesbian Multicultural Resource Center**

906-227-1554

[webb.nmu.edu/centers/multiculturaleadandres/sitesections/gaylesbian/gaylesbian.shtml](http://webb.nmu.edu/centers/multiculturaleadandres/sitesections/gaylesbian/gaylesbian.shtml)

**Oakland University Gender and Sexuality Center**

248-805-6322 / [www.oakland.edu/gsc](http://www.oakland.edu/gsc)

**University of Michigan Dearborn Women's Resource Center**

313-593-5000 / [www.umd.umich.edu/153801](http://www.umd.umich.edu/153801)

**University of Michigan Flint Ellen Bommarito LGBT Center**

810-237-6586 / [www.umflint.edu/lgbt](http://www.umflint.edu/lgbt)

**University of Michigan Pride Network** (employee resource and patient advocacy group)

734-936-4000 / [www.med.umich.edu/pridenetwork](http://www.med.umich.edu/pridenetwork)

**University of Michigan Spectrum Center**

734-763-4186 / [www.spectrumcenter.umich.edu](http://www.spectrumcenter.umich.edu)

**Western Michigan University LBGT Student Services**

269-387-2123 / [www.wmich.edu/lgbt](http://www.wmich.edu/lgbt)

**Community Centers**

**Affirmations**

248-398-7105 / [www.goaffirmations.com](http://www.goaffirmations.com)

**Jim Toy Community Center** (Ann Arbor) provides information, education, social events, and advocacy by and for the Queer and Ally community in the Washtenaw County area.

734-995-9867 / [www.wrap-up.org](http://www.wrap-up.org)

**Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center**

269-349-4234 / [www.kglrc.org](http://www.kglrc.org)

**Karibu House** (Detroit) is for LGBTQ people of color.

313-865-2170 x 3

**KICK** (Detroit) is the agency for LGBTQ African Americans.

313-285-9733 / [www.e-kick.org](http://www.e-kick.org)

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center** (Ypsilanti)

749-487-4149 / [www.emich.edu/LGBTQrc](http://www.emich.edu/LGBTQrc)

**OutCenter** (Benton Harbor) provides personal and social support to LGBTQ and allied persons and their families.

269-925-8330 / [www.outcenter.org](http://www.outcenter.org)

**Ruth Ellis Center** (Highland Park)

313-252-1950 / [www.ruthelliscenter.org](http://www.ruthelliscenter.org)

**Tolerance Equality and Awareness Project (TEAM)** a.k.a. **Lesbian and Gay Network of Western MI**

616-528-TEAM / [www.humanrightsteam.org/tag/the-lesbian-and-gay-network-of-west-michigan](http://www.humanrightsteam.org/tag/the-lesbian-and-gay-network-of-west-michigan)

**Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project** provides information, social events, and advocacy by and for the Queer and Ally community in the Washtenaw county area.

734-995-9867 / [www.wrap-up.org](http://www.wrap-up.org)



### **Communities of Color LGBTQ Organizations**

**Al-Gamea** is the Association of GLBT Middle Eastern Americans and includes women's groups.

[info@algamea.org](mailto:info@algamea.org) / [www.algamea.org](http://www.algamea.org)

**Ambiente Joven** (national, in Spanish) is dedicated to assisting LGBTQ Hispanic youth with their sexual and emotional health.

[www.ambientejoven.org](http://www.ambientejoven.org)

**Detroit Latin@z** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to cultivate the voice, presence, and leadership of the Latino Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Attractual, and Transgender (LGBT) community in Michigan, empowering action toward full human rights and equality.

734-474-2372, [eaorourke1@yahoo.com](mailto:eaorourke1@yahoo.com) (Tony O'Rourke)

**Detroit PFLAG Family Reunion** is for families of color.

[www.pflag-fr-detroit.org](http://www.pflag-fr-detroit.org)

**KICK** is the agency for LGBT African-Americans.

313-285-9733 / [www.e-kick.org](http://www.e-kick.org)

**Michigan Diversity Council** fosters diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

248-991-6234 / [www.michigandiversitycouncil.org](http://www.michigandiversitycouncil.org)

**National Black Justice Coalition** is dedicated to empowering Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.

[www.nbjc.org](http://www.nbjc.org)

**The Fellowship** (national) is a multi-denominational group of primarily African-American Christian leaders and laity representing churches and faith-based organizations from the USA, Africa, and Mexico that supports religious leaders and laity in moving toward a theology of radical inclusivity.

[www.radicallyinclusive.com](http://www.radicallyinclusive.com)



### **Counseling/Crisis Intervention/Mental Health Services**

**Affirmations LGBTQ Community Center**

248-398-7105 / [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Clark Institute for Infants, Children, and Adolescents** (Grand Rapids area) offers private practice counseling and psychotherapy for gay, lesbian, and transgender youth.

616-690-5437 / [www.theclarkinstitute.com](http://www.theclarkinstitute.com)

**Families United Against Hate** (national) provides support, guidance, and assistance to individuals, families, and communities dealing with incidents based on bias.

[www.fuah.org](http://www.fuah.org)

**GLBT National Help Center** provides a hotline for callers of all ages, peer counseling, and local resources in San Francisco.

1-888-843-4564 / [www.glnh.org](http://www.glnh.org)

**Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy** leads the Know Us Project involving guided (educational) conversations between gay and straight people.

248-302-6774 / [www.mpipp.org](http://www.mpipp.org)

**The Trevor Project** (national) provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services.

[www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)

**Treatment4Addiction.com** (national) is an online resource directory for drug, alcohol, sex, and gambling addiction recovery.

[www.treatment4addiction.com](http://www.treatment4addiction.com)

**Turning Point Youth Center** offers highly structured residential treatment designed to assist males who require psychiatric treatment.

800-762-3742, 989-224-1177 / [www.turningpointyouth.net](http://www.turningpointyouth.net)

## Education/Scholarships

**Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)** (national) is focused on ensuring safe schools for all students. It provides a Safe Space Kit for schools and a national Jump-Start Guide for Gay-Straight Alliances.

[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)

[www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/1641.html](http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/1641.html)

[www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/2226.html?state=toolsandtype=student](http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/2226.html?state=toolsandtype=student)

**Point Foundation** (national) provides scholarships and leadership training to meritorious LGBTQ individuals.

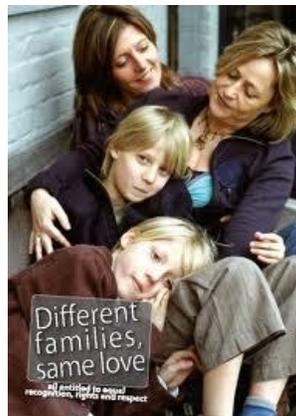
[www.pointfoundation.org/index10.html](http://www.pointfoundation.org/index10.html)

**Safe Schools Coalition** (national) provides resources for educators, parents, and youth.

[www.safeschoolscoalition.org/safe.html](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/safe.html)

**The Forum Foundation** (national) provides scholarships for LGBTQ youth.

[www.theforumfoundation.org](http://www.theforumfoundation.org)



## Family Support

**Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)** (national) is for people with an LGBTQ parent.

[www.colage.org](http://www.colage.org)

**Family Equality Council** (national) supports gay and lesbian parents.

[www.familyequality.org](http://www.familyequality.org)

**Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)**

[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

**Michigan chapter search:** [www.pflag.org/map/index.php?state=MI](http://www.pflag.org/map/index.php?state=MI)

**Ann Arbor:** 734-741-0659 / [www.pflagaa.org](http://www.pflagaa.org)

**Battle Creek:** 269-664-6892 / [www.pflagswm.org](http://www.pflagswm.org)

**Detroit:** 248-656-2875 / [www.pflagdetroit.org](http://www.pflagdetroit.org) (based in Royal Oak)

**Detroit PFLAG Family Reunion** (for families of color): [www.pflag-fr-detroit.org](http://www.pflag-fr-detroit.org)

**Downriver (Detroit):** 734-783-2950 / [www.pflagdownriver.org](http://www.pflagdownriver.org)

**Genesee/Flint:** 810-750-8302 / [www.pflagflint.com](http://www.pflagflint.com)

**Holland/Lakeshore:** 616-494-0765, 616-399-2161 / [www.pflaglakeshore.org](http://www.pflaglakeshore.org)  
**Jackson:** 517-750-3045 [www.community.pflag.org/jacksonmichigan](http://www.community.pflag.org/jacksonmichigan)  
**Keweenaw:** 906-482-4357 / [www.keweenawpflag.org](http://www.keweenawpflag.org)  
**Lansing:** 517-332-4550  
**Lenawee:** 517-605-4827 / [www.sites.google.com/site/pflaglenawee](http://www.sites.google.com/site/pflaglenawee)  
**Livingston County:** 517-548-0839 / [www.pflaglivingston.org](http://www.pflaglivingston.org)  
**Manistee:** [pflagmanistee@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagmanistee@yahoo.com)  
**Richland:** 269-377-9401, 269-629-3020  
[www.richlandareacc.org/Socialize/Adults/PFLAG/tabid/78/Default.aspx](http://www.richlandareacc.org/Socialize/Adults/PFLAG/tabid/78/Default.aspx)  
**St. Joseph/Berrien County:** [pflagberriencounty@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagberriencounty@yahoo.com)  
[www.community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?andpid=224andsrcid=229andchid=182](http://www.community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?andpid=224andsrcid=229andchid=182)  
**Southwest Michigan (Kalamazoo):** [www.pflagswm.org](http://www.pflagswm.org)  
**Traverse City:** 231-325-0085  
**Tri-Cities (Bay City, Saginaw, Midland):** 989-941-1458 / [www.pflag-mbs.org](http://www.pflag-mbs.org)

**Rainbow Families Great Lakes** supports the empowerment of LGBTQ families, their children, and allies.  
[www.rfgl.org](http://www.rfgl.org)

**TransYouth Family Allies** (national) promotes understanding through education.  
[www.imatyfa.org](http://www.imatyfa.org)

#### Hotlines and Switchboards

**Affirmations:** 800-398-GAYS  
**Alcoholics Anonymous:** 248-541-6565  
**Common Ground Sanctuary** (Bloomfield Hills): 248-456-0909  
**Flint Crisis Line:** 810-257-3740  
**Kalamazoo YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis Line:** 269-345-3740  
**Michigan AIDS Hotline:** 800-872-AIDS  
**Michigan Department of Community Health Cancer Hotline:** 800-922-MAMM  
**TransGender Michigan Help Line** (Berkley): 517-420-1544



#### Legal Services

**American Bar Association** (national) provides LGBTQ advocacy resources.  
[www.americanbar.org/portals/lesbian\\_gay\\_bisexual\\_transgender\\_lawyers.html](http://www.americanbar.org/portals/lesbian_gay_bisexual_transgender_lawyers.html)

**American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan** fights to preserve civil liberties. Jay Kaplan, Attorney.  
313-578-6800 / [www.aclumich.org](http://www.aclumich.org)

**Equality Michigan**

313-537-7000 / [www.equalitymi.org](http://www.equalitymi.org)

**Gay Law Blogger** (national)

[www.gaylawblogger.com](http://www.gaylawblogger.com)

**GLBT Legal Hotline** by Elder Law of Michigan, Inc. gives free Legal advice.

877-GLBT-LAW

**Human Rights Campaign** (national) provides links to Michigan laws and LGBTQ rights.

[www.hrc.org/laws-and-legislation/state/P240](http://www.hrc.org/laws-and-legislation/state/P240)

**Lakeshore Legal Aid** (Clinton Township) practices family, elderly, and immigration law.

[www.lakeshorelegalaid.org](http://www.lakeshorelegalaid.org)

**Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund** (national) advocates for civil rights of LGBTQ people and persons with HIV.

312-663-4413 / [www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)

**Online Resource Directories** (resources in this Toolkit drawn, in part, from these sources)

**Affirmations**

[www.goaffirmations.org/site/PageServer?pagename=resources](http://www.goaffirmations.org/site/PageServer?pagename=resources) links

**Center Link** (national) is the community of LGBTQ Centers.

[www.lgbtcenters.org](http://www.lgbtcenters.org)

**Equality Michigan** lists resources by region.

[www.equalitymi.org](http://www.equalitymi.org)

**Inclusive Justice** is a statewide interfaith coalition.

[www.inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org/general](http://www.inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org/general) resources

**Michigan Child Welfare Training Institute** provides job aids and other resources.

[www.michiganchildwelfaretraining.com/training/resources/jobaids.aspx](http://www.michiganchildwelfaretraining.com/training/resources/jobaids.aspx)

**Whosoever** is a magazine for GLBT Christians with 10 years of archived materials.

[www.whosoever.org](http://www.whosoever.org)

**Pride Source Directories** lists sources on AIDS, holiday gifts, health, auto, home, Pride 2011, marriage, pets, romance, travel, and worship.

[www.pridesource.com/guides.html](http://www.pridesource.com/guides.html)

**The Network** lists LGBT resources for Western Michigan.

616-458-3511 / [www.grlgbt.org](http://www.grlgbt.org)

## Publications

**Between the Lines Newspaper** is Michigan's weekly news for LGBTQ people and friends.  
[www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

**University of Michigan Library** has magazines, journals, research, history, etc. Search "LGBTQ."  
[www.lib.umich.edu](http://www.lib.umich.edu)

**Oasis Magazine** includes blogs, journals, and resources.  
[www.oasisjournals.com/magazine](http://www.oasisjournals.com/magazine)

## Recreation/Social Life/Art

**Detroit Together Men's Chorus**  
248-544-3872 / [www.dtmc.org](http://www.dtmc.org)

**Dykes on Bikes Detroit!**  
248-547-5878 / [www.dykesonbikesdetroit.com](http://www.dykesonbikesdetroit.com)

**Game Room at Affirmations** (Ferndale)  
248-398-7106 / [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Keweenaw GLBT** is a communication forum for the Keweenaw GLBT community, making it easier to meet others and come out.  
906-482-7183 / [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/keweenawglbt](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/keweenawglbt)

**Metro Detroit Softball League**  
248-544-9300 (Dr. Paul Benson) / [www.mdsl.org](http://www.mdsl.org)

**Michigan Pride** provides education, outreach, support, and events to enhance the lives of LGBTQ people and to build quality relationships with all Michigan residents.  
[www.michiganpride.org](http://www.michiganpride.org)

**Kalamazoo Pride:** [www.kglrc.org/pride](http://www.kglrc.org/pride)  
**Keweenaw Pride:** [www.keweenawpride.org](http://www.keweenawpride.org)  
**Motor City Pride:** [www.motorcitypride.org](http://www.motorcitypride.org)  
**West Michigan Pride:** [www.westmipride.org](http://www.westmipride.org)

**Motor City Bears** provides social opportunities for furry, huggable gay men.  
[officers@motocitybears.com](mailto:officers@motocitybears.com) / [www.motorcitybears.com](http://www.motorcitybears.com)

**Motor City Tennis Alliance**  
[mctamail@yahoo.com](mailto:mctamail@yahoo.com) / [www.motorcitytennis.net](http://www.motorcitytennis.net)

**Pittman-Puckett Art Gallery**  
248-398-7105 / [www.goaffirmations.org/site/PageServer?pagename=resources\\_artgallery](http://www.goaffirmations.org/site/PageServer?pagename=resources_artgallery)

**Team Detroit Aquatics**

248-682-1668 (Jack)

**WeRFamilyUSA (Sterling Heights)** is a small group that organizes social activities.  
[WeRfamilyUSA@aol.com](mailto:WeRfamilyUSA@aol.com) / [www.werfamilyusa.com](http://www.werfamilyusa.com)

### **Shelters/Transitional Housing**

**Ozone House** (Washtenaw County) provides housing and support programs and services such as intervention, training, and assistance to runaway, homeless, and high-risk youth and their families.  
Crisis Line: 734-662-2222, Business Line: 734-662-9724 / [www.ozonehouse.org](http://www.ozonehouse.org)

**Ruth Ellis Center** (Highland Park) offers street outreach, a drop-in center, transitional living, and intensive treatment.  
313-252-1950 / [www.ruthelliscenter.com](http://www.ruthelliscenter.com)



### **Transgender**

**Crossroads** (Ferndale) offers friendship and support for cross-dressing and transgender individuals. The group usually meets each month at Affirmations.  
[crossroads@crossroadsmi.com](mailto:crossroads@crossroadsmi.com) (Julea) / [www.crossroadsmi.com](http://www.crossroadsmi.com)

**Gender Nonconformists** is a social and support group for transgender individuals that meets at Affirmations.  
313-398-7105

**Michigan State University Trans-Action**  
517-353-9520 / [www.lbgtrc.msu.edu/student-faculty-staff-and-alumni-organizations/student](http://www.lbgtrc.msu.edu/student-faculty-staff-and-alumni-organizations/student)

**OutCenter of Berrien County** provides personal and social support to LGBTQ and allied persons and their families.  
269-925-8330 / [www.outcenter.org](http://www.outcenter.org)

**Ruth Ellis Center** offers street outreach, a drop-in center, transitional living, and intensive treatment.  
313-252-1950 / [www.ruthelliscenter.com](http://www.ruthelliscenter.com)

**Transgender Detroit** improves the lives of transgender citizens in the Metro Detroit area by enlightening the public.  
248-574-2688 / [www.transgenderdetroit.org](http://www.transgenderdetroit.org)

**Transgender Michigan** educates and advocates for equality and social justice and provides support for transgender persons.

## Women's Support

**Christian Lesbians Out Together (CLOUT)** is a sisterhood of lesbians from all Christian backgrounds who challenge the abuse of power based on race, class, gender and age.

[www.cloutsisters.org](http://www.cloutsisters.org)

**Detroit Area Womyn's Network (DAWN)**

[www.dawn.web.officelive.com](http://www.dawn.web.officelive.com)

**Lesbian Connection Magazine** (national) provides news about lesbians and facilitates grassroots lesbian organizing worldwide through various publications.

517-371-5257 / [www.lconline.org](http://www.lconline.org)

**National Center for Lesbian Rights** (national) provides lesbian legislative advocacy.

[www.nclrights.org](http://www.nclrights.org)

**Northern Michigan Bonfire Women** is a social and support network for lesbian women who are residents of Northwest Michigan.

231-325-3215

**Women's Out and About** lists over 80 women's groups.

[www.womenoutandabout.com](http://www.womenoutandabout.com)



## Youth/Teens

**Ambiente Joven** (national, in Spanish) is dedicated to assisting LGBTQ Hispanic youth with their sexual and emotional health.

[www.ambientejoven.org](http://www.ambientejoven.org)

**Calhoun County Coalition for Inclusion** (project of Planned Parenthood – Battle Creek) seeks to increase gay-straight alliances (GSAs) in Calhoun County, develop GSA youth leadership, and establish a service referral system for youth and families.

269-372-1205 x 6531 / [www.ppscm3ci.org](http://www.ppscm3ci.org)

**Center for Research, Training and Consultation on GLBTQ Youth Issues at Central Michigan University** promotes safe and inclusive environments for GLBTQ youth through research, training, and consultation.  
989-774-7270

**Gay-Straight Alliance** (national) is a youth leadership organization that provides a Jump-Start Guide for GSAs in schools.  
[www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/2226.html](http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/2226.html)

**GLBT National Talkline for Youth** (national) provides peer counseling for youth up to age 28 as part of GLBT National Help Center in San Francisco.  
1-800-246-7743 / [www.glnh.org/talkline](http://www.glnh.org/talkline)

**JQYouth** (national) is a social support group of Jewish LGBTQ youth ages 17-30 including an anonymous online discussion group.  
[www.jqyouth.org](http://www.jqyouth.org)

**Lambda Legal Youth OUTreach** (national)  
[www.lambdalegal.org/issues/youth](http://www.lambdalegal.org/issues/youth)

**Michigan Runaway Rapline**  
800-292-4517

**Riot Youth** (Ann Arbor) is a youth-led advocacy group.  
734-214-9995 / [www.neutral-zone.org/programs/43/riot-youth](http://www.neutral-zone.org/programs/43/riot-youth)

**People Like Us (PLUS) LGBT Youth Support Group** (Grand Rapids)  
616-458-3511

**Ruth Ellis Center** (Highland Park) offers street outreach, a drop-in center, transitional living, and intensive treatment.  
313-252-1950 / [www.ruthelliscenter.com](http://www.ruthelliscenter.com)

**The Trevor Helpline** (national) is a 24-hour, 365 days a year confidential suicide hotline for gay and questioning teens.  
866-488-7388

**Youth Guardian Services, Inc.** (national) is a membership website with lots of email lists.  
[www.youth-guard.org](http://www.youth-guard.org)

**YouthResource** (national) takes a holistic approach to sexual health and other issues of concern to queer youth.  
[www.youthresource.com](http://www.youthresource.com)



## MUUSJN Interfaith LGBTQ Toolkit

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