



## Ohio Psychological Association: Official Resolution

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### **OPA Board Social Action Agenda**

February 13, 1993

Written by: Ohio Psychological Association Board of Directors

In accordance with the American Psychological Association Ethical Principle D, in which psychologists “accord appropriate respect to the fundamental rights, dignity, and worth of all people... strive to be sensitive to cultural and individual differences, including those due to age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status” the Ohio Psychological Association adopts the following resolution regarding the basic rights of lesbian and gay persons:

Whereas, lesbians, gays and bisexuals in the United States occupy a social position that is subject to derision similar to that experienced by African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans and other non-mainstream ethnic and cultural groups;

Whereas, hate crimes against the aforementioned groups, particularly lesbians, gays and bisexuals, have increased dramatically since 1980, and whereas lesbians, gays and bisexuals are often excluded from equal legal protection afforded heterosexual individuals, solely on the basis of affectional affiliations;

Whereas, the mental health of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals subjected to publicly sanctioned hatred and derision, isolation, denial of basic human rights (e.g. public accommodations, employment, housing), and other forms of prejudice by individuals, groups, academic institutions, and others, including the profession of psychology, is seriously jeopardized despite three decades of psychological research showing that homosexuality is not related to psychological adjustment or maladjustment;

Whereas, lesbians, gays, and bisexuals hold positions of trust in the community, hold similar moral and family values as heterosexuals, and are indistinguishable from other individuals, except by affectional affiliations;

Whereas, the American Psychological Association has taken a strong antidiscrimination stance regarding gays, lesbians, and bisexuals, in all its internal and external policies, and has urged mental health professionals to take the lead in removing the stigma that has long been associated with homosexual orientation;

Whereas, current available treatment suggests a person’s sexual orientation is a basic and unyielding characteristic, in the same way as eye/skin color, or height, and is not a matter of choice;

Therefore, the Ohio Psychological Association reaffirms the fundamental dignity and worth of all individuals, including lesbians, gays, and bisexual persons, the rights of those individuals to equal and integrated protection under the law, and to fair and just treatment in all aspects of human life. The association deplors efforts of political, religious, academic, or other factions, which portray sexual orientation/affectional affiliation as disordered, unnatural, perverse, or otherwise outside the normal variations of the human condition. OPA affirms the APA position that a person’s sexual orientation should be accepted and respected, in all areas of human life, including psychotherapy. (Approved-2/13/1993)