

HEALING FAITH TRAUMA IN LGBTQ COMMUNITIES

PRESENTER:
RENAIR AMIN, DMIN

CAMP

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PRONOUNS: SHE/THEY

AUTHOR

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INTERFAITH MENTOR

CERTIFIED NYS DISASTER RELIEF CHAPLAIN

GRADUATE OF NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY (MA.Re) (Dmin.)

FUN FACT:

MS. EXQUISITE FULL-FIGURED USA AT-LARGE NY
(2021)

GROUP AGREEMENTS

Be the expert of your own
experience – use “I” statements

Respect

Learning leaves, stories/names
stay here.

Take space, make space /
Share the air

Care-front vs. Confront

Don't yuck another's yum

Embrace discomfort

“Oops,” “Ouch”

Make decisions by consensus

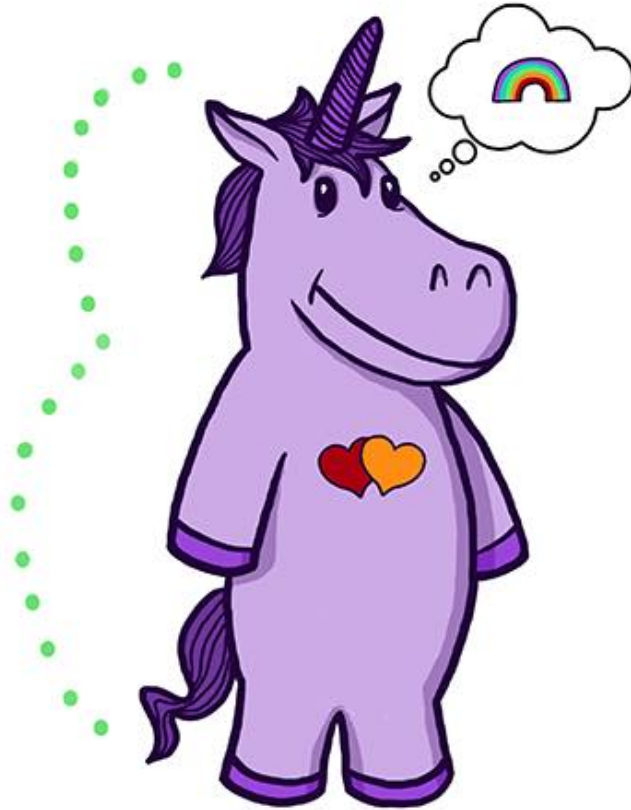
Intent and Impact both matter

Non-judgmental

Religion as a Tool vs Weapon

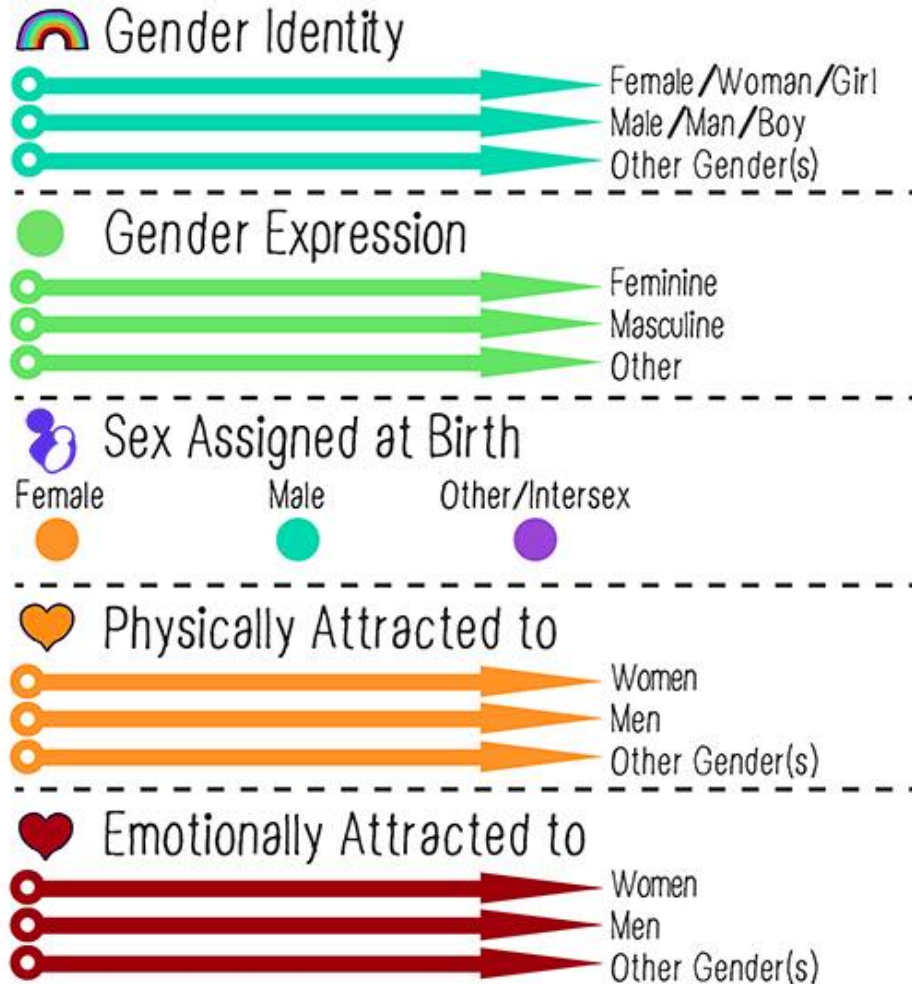
The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by:
TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources



To learn more, go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore



Keep in Mind...

Biblical conversations can be difficult to have as it may challenge someone's personal belief system.

This discussion is to designed to expand our thought process as it relates to religion and the LGBTQ conversation.

As such, it is important that we do our best to move in understanding and grace as we move in creating a safe space to have this conversation.

"Christianity was proslavery. So much of early American Christian identity is predicated on a proslavery theology. From the naming of the slave ships, to who sponsored some of these journeys including some churches, to the fact that so much of early American religious rhetoric is deeply intertwined . . . with slaveholding: It is proslavery."

Yolanda Pierce

Howard University School of Divinity, Dean

The oppressed, instead
of striving for liberation,
tend themselves to
become oppressors

Paulo Freire

PICTUREQUOTES.com

TRAUMA

A DEEPLY
DISTRESSING OR
DISTURBING
EXPERIENCE

Types of Trauma

- Acute Trauma: A single time limited event
- Chronic Trauma: Multiple traumatic exposures and/or events over extended periods of time
- Complex Trauma: Multiple traumatic events and the impact of exposure to these events
- Toxic Stress: Adverse experiences that lead to strong, frequent, or prolonged activation of the body's stress response system
- Secondary/Vicarious Trauma: Exposure to the trauma of others by providers, family members, partners or friends in close contact with the traumatized individual

FAITH- BASED TRAUMA

A DEEPLY
DISTRESSING OR
DISTURBING
EXPERIENCE THAT
OCCURS IN A
RELIGIOUS-BASED
SETTING OR FROM
A RELIGIOUS
IDEOLOGY

Faith-Based Trauma Scenarios

- A child who was raised with the belief that they are an abomination according to the Sacred Text of their families' belief system
- A parishioner who attends a church that teaching anti-LGBTQ doctrine.
- An individual is who is spiritually, emotionally, or psychologically hurt by a clergy member.
- A discriminatory action that uses a religious tenet (principle) as its basis

WORDS HAVE POWER

Homosexual Agenda

Bisexuals are confused

The Gay Lifestyle

A Sin is a Sin

The Homosexual Community

WHAT PEOPLE HEAR...

TRANSGENDER

GOD MADE A MISTAKE



Faith-Based Trauma

causes a person to
question who they are in
God and who God is to
them.

FAITH-BASED TRAUMA

REFLECTION MOMENT:

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE (OR
HAVE YOU BEEN) AFFECTED BY
FAITH-BASED
TRAUMA/DISCRIMINATION?

The oppressed, instead
of striving for liberation,
tend themselves to
become oppressors

Paulo Freire

PICTUREQUOTES.com

Faith has become a generic element of the human struggle to find purpose, which may or may not rest in religious expression. Faith is often the thread that connects the patches on the quilt that is formed by the African American historical journey, church, community and family unit.

There is a difference in how religion shows up in a race conversation vs. a conversation on sexuality, but both require a different lens.

Because there is no central Hindu authority, attitudes to LGBTQ issues vary at different temples and ashrams. The Hindu American Foundation, in its policy brief on Hindus and Homosexuality, notes that Hinduism does not provide a fundamental spiritual reason to reject or ostracize LGBTQ individuals...Nevertheless, some Hindu communities continue to be unwelcoming of LGBTQ people, often reflecting attitudes imported from conquering nations, such as the British Empire in India.

Human Rights Campaign

“More than a billion Muslims inhabit this planet, and they inhabit geographic, linguistic and cultural spaces that are enormously diverse. As a result, their beliefs on issues relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people cannot be easily summarized.... A traditional reading of the Qur’an can lead to the condemnation of same-sex relationships and thus of same-sex marriage. However, because there is no central governing authority, communities and individuals are free to make their own choices regarding this issue...”

Human Rights Campaign

Unfortunately, **American white theology has not been involved in the struggle for black liberation.** It has been basically a theology of the white oppressor, giving religious sanction to the genocide of Amerindians and the enslavement of Africans . . . The appearance of black theology on the American scene then is **due primarily to the failure of white religionists to relate the gospel of Jesus to the pain of being black in a white racist society.**

James Cone, Founder of Black Liberation Theology

Queer theology can be understood as a way of doing theology that is rooted in queer theory and that critiques the **binary categories of sexuality** (that is, homosexual vs. heterosexual) and **gender identity** (that is female vs. male) as socially constructed. In other words, queer theology argues that the discourse of classical Christian theology ultimately requires the **erasing of the boundaries** of essentialist categories of **not only sexuality and gender identity**, but also more **fundamental boundaries such as life vs. death and divine vs. human."**

Patrick Cheng, Author

DISCUSSION

1. Do you think the influence of religion is different based on ethnicity?
2. What is something you learned from religion that you feel different about today?

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In point of fact, however, every pertinent Christian text from the preConstantinian period...adopts an unremittingly negative judgment on homosexual practice, and this tradition is emphatically carried forward by all major Christian writers of the fourth and fifth centuries (Chrysostom, Ambrose, Augustine, Jerome, et al.)

Richard B. Hays, Scholar

Homosexuality

Homosexual was first coined by the Germans in 1862

Homosexuality appeared in the English Bible in 1946 (German Bible 1983)

Furthermore, in 1952, the American Psychological Association, listed homosexuality in the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual) as a sociopathic personality disturbance, which remained an accepted definition until 1973.

Many early original writings were speaking of pederasty and not homosexuality.

Question to Ponder:

If Germans were the originators of the term "homosexuality" as we have come to know it today, why is it not in their version of the Bible until 1983?

Biblical Interpretation

Philo of Alexandria (First Century A.D.)

- Jewish Philosopher
- First mistook Sodom's sin with same sexuality
- Wrote "Special Laws" condemned effeminate males and adolescent male concubines
- Paul's contemporary (lived at the same time) and may have influenced him

The Bible Says?

6 Scriptures

- Sodom of Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-11)
- Levitical Laws (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13)
- Paul's Letters to the Romans (Romans 1:26-27)
- Second/New Testament (I Corinthians 6:9-10; I Timothy 1:10)

HEALING

Healing Faith-Based Trauma

- Direct them to a trauma-focused therapist, coach, advocate
- Understand the spiritually traumatized individual's process
- Be empathetic
- Accept what one needs or requires
- Do not quote sacred text or use religious jargon as a rebuttal
 - Do not proselytize
- Be careful using comparison as a healing tool
- Ask consent before sharing their story with others
- Remind them that they are safe

Q & A

Thank you for your time...

Available Resources: <http://bit.ly/renairresources21>

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