



**Excerpt: Statement from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office
American Psychological Association**

**AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION POLICY STATEMENT
TRANSGENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, AND GENDER
EXPRESSION NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Adopted by the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives August, 2008.

WHEREAS transgender and gender variant people frequently experience **prejudice and discrimination** and psychologists can, through their professional actions, address these problems at both an individual and a societal level...

WHEREAS discrimination and prejudice against people based on their actual or perceived gender identity or expression **detrimentally affects psychological, physical, social, and economic well-being** ...

WHEREAS transgender people may be **denied basic non-gender transition related health care** ...

WHEREAS gender variant and transgender people may be **denied appropriate gender transition related medical and mental health care** despite evidence that appropriately evaluated individuals benefit from gender transition treatments...

WHEREAS gender variant and transgender people may be **denied basic civil rights and protections**... the right to obtain appropriate identity documents that are consistent with a post-transition identity; and the right to fair and safe and harassment-free institutional environments such as care facilities, treatment centers, shelters, housing, schools, prisons and juvenile justice programs;

WHEREAS transgender and gender variant people experience a **disproportionate rate of homelessness, unemployment... and job discrimination**... disproportionately report income below the poverty line... and experience other financial disadvantages...

WHEREAS transgender and gender variant people may be at **increased risk in institutional environments** and facilities for harassment, physical and sexual assault and inadequate medical care...

WHEREAS many gender variant and transgender **children and youth face harassment and violence** in school environments, foster care, residential treatment centers, homeless centers and juvenile justice programs...

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT APA opposes all public and private discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived gender identity and expression and **urges the repeal of discriminatory laws and policies**...

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT APA calls upon psychologists in their professional roles to **provide appropriate, nondiscriminatory treatment** to transgender and gender variant individuals and encourages psychologists to take a leadership role in working against discrimination towards transgender and gender variant individuals;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT APA **encourages legal and social**



recognition of transgender individuals consistent with their gender identity and expression...

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT APA supports efforts to **provide fair and safe environments for gender variant and transgender people in institutional settings** such as supportive living environments, long-term care facilities, nursing homes, treatment facilities, and shelters, as well as custodial settings such as prisons and jails;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT APA supports efforts to provide **safe and secure educational environments**, at all levels of education, **as well as foster care environments and juvenile justice programs...**

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT APA supports the provision of **adequate and necessary mental and medical health care treatment** for transgender and gender variant individuals;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT APA recognizes the efficacy, benefit and medical necessity of gender transition treatments for appropriately evaluated individuals and **calls upon public and private insurers to cover these medically necessary treatments;**

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT APA supports **access to appropriate treatment in institutional settings** for people of all gender identities and expressions; including access to appropriate health care services including gender transition therapies...

The full text of the statement and references are available on-line at

<http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbq/policy/transgender.pdf>.