



The LGBTQ-Affirmative Psychotherapist Guild of Utah

www.lgbtqtherapists.com

CONVERSION THERAPY TESTIMONIALS REQUESTED

Conversion Therapy (also known as reparative therapy or now known as SOCE: Sexual Orientation Change Efforts) has received heightened attention by the news media in recent months.

California has enacted legislation that bans SOCE for anyone under age 18; similar legislation is being introduced for debate in New Jersey. All major mental-health professional associations have determined that there is insufficient evidence to support the clinical validity of SOCE. Meanwhile, many faith-based organizations continue to espouse the importance of SOCE as a viable clinical intervention.

The LGBTQ-Affirmative Psychotherapist Guild of Utah (The Guild) is a grassroots organization of licensed mental-health professionals and clinical students-in-training. Our adherence to LGBTQ-Affirmative Psychotherapy is based on the premise that LGBTQ and heterosexual identities are equally valid and that sexual and gender minorities benefit from interventions that counteract stigma.

Continued rhetoric by proponents and opponents of SOCE have intensified the debate, especially here in Utah where SOCE has been a “hot button” issue for many years.

The Guild is currently engaged in researching the impact of SOCE on the lives of individuals. We want to provide anyone who has been a recipient of SOCE therapy with a **CONFIDENTIAL** way to share your story with the Guild.

We want to hear the stories of real people who have received SOCE interventions. We want to listen to reports of people who feel they have benefitted from SOCE therapy as well as those who feel SOCE therapy was not helpful or harmful. These experiences will help us evaluate how we address SOCE here in Utah.

We invite you to share your story with us by submitting a confidential email to Kara Posner, LPC – the Guild SOCE Stories Project Coordinator – at kara@lgbtqtherapists.com - or you can leave information at our confidential voice mailbox: 801503-3066.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jim Struve, Coordinator for the LGBTQ-Affirmative Psychotherapist Guild of Utah at 801-364-5700, Ext. 1

Thank you in advance for sharing your experiences with us.