

LGBTQQIAP2S Stonewall 50th Anniversary Position Statement

The North American Drama Therapy Association wishes to commemorate, recognize, and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Inn Riots. In 1969 in Greenwich Village in New York City, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a bar that catered to the gay community. Raids in the 1960s were routine, however, officers did not anticipate that people would fight back through several days of rioting and protesting. Many people designate this as a landmark event that mobilized efforts for gay/lesbian/trans communities, and within six months two gay rights activist groups were created.

In June of 1970, the first Pride Marches took place in New York City, San Francisco, and Chicago, commemorating the riots. Within these various communities there was new unity and hope. However, friction and criticism surfaced that more marginalized queer communities were not being represented: lesbians (in particular women of color), transgender people, gay people of color, younger communities, lower-income, and houseless communities. As the gay rights movement grew so did the need to be more inclusive of diverse communities. Today, advocacy and activism in queer communities has led to great progress while continuing to work towards intersectionality and diversity. In 2016, the Stonewall National Monument was established as a way not only to commemorate but honor the history and accomplishments of LGBTQQIAP2S communities. This year, "Stonewall 50-World Pride NYC" is poised to be the largest international Pride Celebration.

The NADTA would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize the contribution of our own LGBTQQIAP2S and gender non-conforming (GNC) drama therapy communities. In the past, the Cultural Humility, Equity & Diversity Committee (CHEDC, formerly Diversity Committee) has held calls discussing issues within the LGBTQQIAP2S community and released position statements. Topics have ranged from opposing the rescinding of Title IX protections in schools by the Trump Administration, to condolences and outrage for the Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting, to education on the ever evolving nature of the community.

Most recently, on April 12th, 2019 the Trump Administration banned open service for transgender service members. On May 17th, 2019, however, the US House of Representatives passed the Equality Act. According to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), this "crucially important, bipartisan legislation will finally provide clear, comprehensive non-discrimination protections for LGBTQQIAP2S people across the country in employment, housing, public spaces, education, jury services, credit, and federal funding." The bill awaits Senate approval.

In May 2016, an act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code (C-16) was introduced in Canada to add and include "gender identity or expression". In 2017, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a formal apology in Parliament to members of the LGBTQQIAP2S community in reference to past discriminatory laws and policies. Both within Canada and the United States, as well as in other countries, considerable progress has been made, but more can and should be done.

Please join Alexis Powell and Truc Nguyen on Wednesday, June 19th 8:30PM- 9:45PM EST/ 5:30PM-6:45PM PST, who will facilitate a call for queer identifying NADTA members, discussing Stonewall's legacy and how those who identify as queer drama therapists have fared in a predominately heteronormative society and found their identities.

Resources:

- Human Rights Campaign
<https://www.hrc.org>
- National Center for Transgender Equality
<https://transequality.org>
- Mapping LGBT Equality by State (www.transgenderlawcenter.org)
- PFLAG: www.pflag.org
- Egale Canada <https://www.prevnet.ca/partners/organizations/egale-canada>
- Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Issues in Counseling: (Queer & Trans People of Color) <http://www.algbtic.org/queer---trans-people-of-color.html>
- Center for Black Equity: <https://centerforblackequity.org/> (Improving the Lives of Black LGBT People Globally)
- Black Lesbians United: <http://blacklesbiansunited.org>
- GLAAD: <https://www.glaad.org/issues/people-color>
- Muslims for Progressive Values: <http://www.mpvusa.org/lgbtqi-resources/>
- LGBTQ Nation Daily Brief: newsletter@lgbtqnation.com www.lgbtqnation.com