



The Center: 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection's Statement of Solidarity: A Call for the End of Conversion Therapy Practice for Minors in the Seven Rivers Region

The Center: 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection (The Center) Board of Directors stands in solidarity with the Student Association of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in calling for an end to conversion therapy (aka reparative therapy) for individuals under the age of eighteen. According to the Human Rights Campaign, "there is clear evidence that conversion therapy does not work, and some significant evidence that it is harmful to LGBTQ people." Many medical and professional organizations have discredited the effectiveness of conversion therapy, including the American Psychiatric Association, American Counseling Association, American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The Center's mission is to create spaces for connection, community, education and advocacy for LGBTQ+ people, our allies, and our neighbors. Conversion therapy stands in stark contradiction with our mission and values of pride, equity, and social justice. The Center is supportive of any city, county, state, and federal ordinances or statutes banning the practice of conversion therapy for minors. We urge all elected officials in the 7 Rivers Region to enact regulations making the use of conversion therapy for minors illegal similar to regulations passed in Madison, Milwaukee, West Allis, Superior, Sun Prairie, Shorewood, Sheboygan, Racine, Kenosha, Glendale, Eau Claire, Cudahy, and Appleton.

Approved by The Center Board, February 9, 2022