

PETITION to the PRESIDENT
of the
AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
and the
APA Governance

We, the undersigned members of the American Psychological Association, request our president and APA Governance to end unjustified exclusion of psychologists serving clients dissatisfied with their same-sex attractions. We believe this consumer group, which we serve, has the right to seek professional assistance to explore the origins of their unwanted attractions and to diminish feelings that they experience as ego-dystonic. Such clients also seek our resources to help them develop their heterosexual potential.

The vast majority of researchers agree that biological factors constitute only one influence on sexual-orientation development. Thus it would be a serious ethical violation to tell distressed clients that they were simply “born that way” and that they must learn to “work through their internalized homophobia.” Such a treatment approach is unjustified in the light of present-day scientific evidence, which has concluded that individuals can indeed diminish their unwanted homosexual attractions and make changes in their sexual adaptation. Simply telling clients they must “work through their internalized homophobia” constitutes a violation of the cultural or religious values of a large client population that believes our human natures to be designed by our Creator for gender complementarity.

Client autonomy is central to NARTH’s mission. NARTH’s official position is that homosexuality is an adaptation. For some men and women, this adaptation is distressful and unsatisfying. NARTH supports an individual’s right to either claim a homosexual identity or to pursue change in their adaptation in accordance with the ethical principle of client self-determination.

We hereby challenge the APA to either grant us full membership recognition, or provide us with evidence-based denial of our request. We feel confident that our practice of therapy meets every standard of ethical professionalism and treatment efficacy in comparison to any other treatment modality accepted by the APA.