

Sexual Orientation Discrimination, Homophobia and Violence against Gay and Lesbian People

A resolution adopted at the 1990 OPHA Annual General Meeting

Code: 1990-04 (RES) **Status:** Archived

WHEREAS sexual orientation is included as prohibited ground of discrimination on the Ontario Human Rights Code; and

WHEREAS the Equality Rights Sub-Committee of the Parliament of Canada has recommended that sexual orientation be included in the Human Rights Act (Canada), and the Government of Canada has not acted upon the recommendations; and

WHEREAS sexual orientation discrimination homophobia and violence against gay men and lesbians are pervasive and destructive forces in our society; and

WHEREAS acts of sexual orientation discrimination, and violence lead to physical trauma and emotional crises, and to on-going poor mental health for health for victims, and

WHEREAS homophobia and sexual orientation discrimination are factors contributing to apathy and a reluctance of the general population to endorse and accept HIV prevention efforts, and are factors in discrimination against people living with AIDS,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPHA call upon the provincial Attorney General to petition the federal Minister of Justice to introduce legislation to immediately amend the Human Rights Act (Canada) to include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground for discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OPHA forward this resolution to the Canadian Public Health Association with a request that its Board of Directors also call upon the federal Minister of Justice to immediately amend the Human Rights Act (Canada) to include sexual orientation as prohibited ground for discrimination; and

WHEREAS BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the OPHA develop or support development of health education strategies which address homophobia, sexual orientation discrimination and social violence in collaboration with organisations in the lesbian and gay community, community—based AIDS organisations and departments of public health.

Regarding resolutions, position papers and motions:

Status: Policy statements (resolutions, position papers and motions) are categorized as:

ACTIVE, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have not yet been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is currently relevant to public health in Ontario.

ARCHIVED, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is not currently relevant to public health in Ontario or is not based upon the most current evidence. The statement remains the position of the OPHA until a new statement is adopted that effectively reverses or essentially negates all or major elements of an earlier statement. In this instance, the former supersedes the latter

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