

## Is a Gay-Straight Alliance Acceptable?

### NO: Understanding the dangers involved

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What do you think of when you see a rainbow? Pretty Colors? Hope? Your little sister's crayon drawing? This is the symbol adopted by the activist gay movement. This movement is anything but what it is pretending to be: harmless.

Provo High has a new GSA club. These clubs are laid out and encouraged by a part of the gay activist movement called GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)). Although on the surface this may sound like a step toward inclusiveness and tolerance, it is actually a dangerous and irresponsible move based on political correctness and ignorance. No one seems to be considering that a gay club is saying to every student in the district that homosexual, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender lifestyles are acceptable, healthy, normal, and ought to be supported and encouraged.

People who want to start a gay club in their high school say it will be all about coming together because of a common interest to talk about diversity and political issues. But the teachers, administrators, and parents need to know that GSA is a youth recruitment strategy carefully laid out by gay activist groups who carefully avoid addressing the health issues involved. Parents, teachers, and students need to know about the dangers. There is no excuse for ignorance. The mainstream media won't report it, but the Internet is packed with the truth about the radical gay political agenda and lifestyle. In order to get what they want, they are targeting kids.

Putting aside politics, traditional moral values and religious beliefs, we must address the health dangers in encouraging this lifestyle. Has everyone forgotten about HIV and AIDS? These are fatal diseases spread primarily by the gay community and there are also many chronic health problems associated exclusively with homosexual behavior. ([www.corporatecouncil.org/white\\_papers.html](http://www.corporatecouncil.org/white_papers.html), "The Health Risks of Gay Sex")

People site the federal Equal Access Act as the reason a gay club must be allowed. According to Linda Harvey ([www.missionamerica.com/agenda.php?articlenum=7](http://www.missionamerica.com/agenda.php?articlenum=7)) there are many good arguments for keeping them out apart from the EAA. Utah state law states that schools are not allowed to endorse and promote homosexuality. Utah Code also says schools can deny clubs that pose any danger to students in order "to protect the physical, emotional, psychological, or moral well being of students and faculty (Utah code 53A-3-419 Limitations Regarding Access for Student Clubs and Organizations)." I think it's interesting that a few years ago, my sister who was a model student, tried to start a badminton club, which was rejected because it was "too dangerous." So, administrators

are worried about students being nicked by flimsy rackets and birdies and not worried about promoting high risk sexual behavior, or for that matter, any kind of sexual behavior for minors (also against state law)? Why not create a pro-anorexia club? Or a tattoo club? Or a make-out club? They all have a common interest, and feel misunderstood by the general public as well.

Teenagers are impressionable at this state in life. They are sponges, soaking in everything, whether it is implied or blatant. School clubs can have an effect on a student's whole life. Another of my sisters started the Culinary Club at LPHS, and is now a certified pastry chef working at a fancy bakery in Maryland. The mere existence of a gay club says to all students that deviant sexual lifestyles are healthy and acceptable and protected by authority.

One of the arguments for starting a GSA is to deal with and stop discrimination. The fact is many different groups of people experience bullying in school. Why not just teach everyone to treat each other with respect? Even gay scientists admit that science has not proven people are naturally gay. In school, people shouldn't be allowed to label themselves or other people according to a self-determined "sexuality." If kids have problems with abnormal sexual feelings, counselors should refer them to their parents and specialized psychotherapists if only on the basis that the gay lifestyle is harmful. Many people are able to overcome homosexual feelings if they want to. I personally know someone who did. He says that if there had been a gay club back when he was in high school it would have made a huge negative impact on him even if he didn't join it.

I think allowing a gay club in high schools is potentially harmful to everyone in the school. My grandpa who is a lawyer calls it child endangerment and contributing to the delinquency of minors, both of which are illegal. I have heard that school districts are worried about being sued by the ACLU if they don't allow a gay club. But maybe the schools should be more worried about being sued by students who come back to haunt them with responsibility for their addictions, health problems, and deadly diseases. For a huge amount of scientific information about homosexuality and its dangers, visit [www.narh.com](http://www.narh.com).

Rainbows are harmless. Homosexuality is not.

### YES: Acceptance is achieved through understanding

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Sure rainbows are harmless. Rainbows are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet. Side by side, these colors form a beautiful image created by nature. However, each observer sees a different rainbow.

The homosexual community now wants rights and freedoms of its own just as the African Americans did. The "homophile movement" began in the 1960s, modeled after the Civil Rights Movement.

A Gay-Straight Alliance is run by students and can be used as an activist, social, or support group. The purpose of such an organization is to provide a safe environment for students to meet and discuss issues related to gender identity, homophobia, and promoting tolerance. It could disperse the ignorance and myths that surround same-sex attraction. It is, in actuality, a healthy environment, allowing those with homosexual friends or relatives to seek help from those who understand and are experiencing the same problems. It's also especially healthy for those with same-sex attraction or are confused about their identity.

The suicide or attempted suicide rate for homosexual youth is very high. Risk factors of self-harm include, but are not limited to, confusion, rejection, shame, fear of hatred, and fear of becoming a homosexual (for lots of information on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender health risks and suicide, please see [www.personproject.org/Handbook/appendix5.html](http://www.personproject.org/Handbook/appendix5.html)). If people cannot express themselves outwardly, it can affect them inwardly. They become emotionally isolated. Many die due to self isolation and neglect and it's often overlooked.

Homosexuals are targets of violent hate crimes and many live in fear of the world and of not being accepted in society. Should they have to be afraid? Should people have to be afraid of them? No!

There are many false stereotypes regarding homosexuals that make people so afraid of them. Many people use "homosexual" as the general term, but it also refers to bisexual and transgender people. Some believe that the homosexual lifestyle is harmful. But in reality, each person chooses how they live, who they associate with, ect. Just because one person in a group lives a certain way does not mean everyone does. Although there are AIDS victims in the gay community, some believe that it is the gay community primarily responsible for the AIDS crisis, which is also not true. ACT UP is an activist group started by homosexuals in the '80s, but now includes heterosexuals, fighting for a cure for the deadly disease.

A GSA club would not be trying to pull students into a trap. Anyone can go at any time and not have to be a member if it is support they are looking for. Protecting the safety and well-being of students should be the school's top priority.

Under the Equal Access Act, no club or organization can be discriminated against. That is why Lone Peak had National Fluffy Darts Association and Ping Pong club last year. If it's against state law to promote sexual behavior of any kind, doesn't the "Unofficial" Virgin Lips Club at school last year seem a little borderline? You had to be un-kissed ("virgin" lips), attend the meetings, and as its motto says, "get in to get out." People could go and learn correct technique and the proper approach and execution of kissing. There's your make-out club. Even though LP didn't sanction it, it was tolerated. Can't GSA be tolerated?

People can either be influenced by biological factors that result in same-sex attraction (Byne & Parsons, 1993; can be found in our school's Psychology textbook, pg. 478) or choose to be gay. The physically handicapped and mentally challenged have been accepted by society and mainstreamed into public schools. Homosexuals are simply people with different preferences, but are not tolerated. It's about time for those with same-sex attraction to be accepted.

What is moral is simply a belief. This issue cannot be a battle of beliefs. No one will win and many could get hurt. People have to put aside their beliefs in order to understand. Not everyone has the same viewpoint. Parents of gay children will feel differently from those who do not. A society in which people are accepting of one another, despite everything, is a sign of achievement.

Our reasoning, by now, should have expanded to the point of understanding that homosexuals are people too. They have interests, desires, and feelings like everyone else, and they want to be treated as such. It's elementary, but people often forget.

Homosexuals live all over the world, and they aren't going away. There are gay-straight alliance organizations in schools and universities throughout the nation. To a large part of the general public in this small part of the world, however, homosexuality is not accepted, and it continues to be a sensitive topic. Here, homosexuals are afraid to be identified because they will become outcasts of society. Are homosexuals really a threat?

Is it fear of homosexuals or fear of attacking this controversial issue that hold people back from seeing a person's true color? Colors in the rainbow are different and beautiful on their own, yet able to work in harmony to make something beautiful. We need to be understanding, allowing those of other colors to let their light shine.

One needs to stop and take a look at oneself. What do you believe? Who should cast the first stone? Those with same-sex attraction may not ever change, and they will always be with us. We need to change our view on homosexuality and accept people for who they truly are as individuals.

Our goal in life is to achieve understanding...but that is, after all, just a belief.

Gay-Straight Alliance Network:  
[www.gsanetwork.org](http://www.gsanetwork.org)  
Provides plenty of information about Gay-Straight Alliance.

## The Provo Board of Education approved a policy on November 8 that allows a Gay-Straight Alliance at Provo High. Should a similar policy be established at Lone Peak?

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