Gay and Lesbian Adoption: Not such a Queer Situation after all

Mariam Mousa
[on behalf of Vanessa McAlonan & Rhoda Scherman]

ISSUE AND CONTEXT

- Greater acceptability of gay and lesbian (G/L) people
- Still concerns over same-sex marriage, and in particular, parenting by G/L couples
- Passage of *Marriage Equity Bill* (April, 2013) means same-sex couples can legally adopt

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Gay and Lesbian Adoptive Parenting:
SYMPOSIUM ON COMPLEX ADOPTIVE RELATIONSHIPS (Rhoda Scherman, Chair)
PREVAILING MYTHS ABOUT SAME-SEX PARENTING

MYTH 1

Children raised by same-sex parents will also become gay/lesbian.
Children will be psychologically impaired and suffer social harm.

Same-sex parents are more likely to sexually abuse their children.
SUMMARY

• G/L parents still face discrimination stemming from antiquated stereotypes.
• No research evidence to suggest that any of the myths are true.
• G/L parents are successfully raising healthy and adjusted children, based on studies looking at:
  • School performance
  • Gender development
  • Psychological and behavioural adjustment

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IMPLICATIONS

- Need to support rather than restrict same-sex couples wishing to adopt
- Need to educate not only the public but also agency personnel about the value of G/L adoptive parenting

References


Raggers, M. (2012). How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the new family structures study. Social Science Research, 42(4), 752-770. doi: 10.1016/j.ssresearch.2012.09.009


