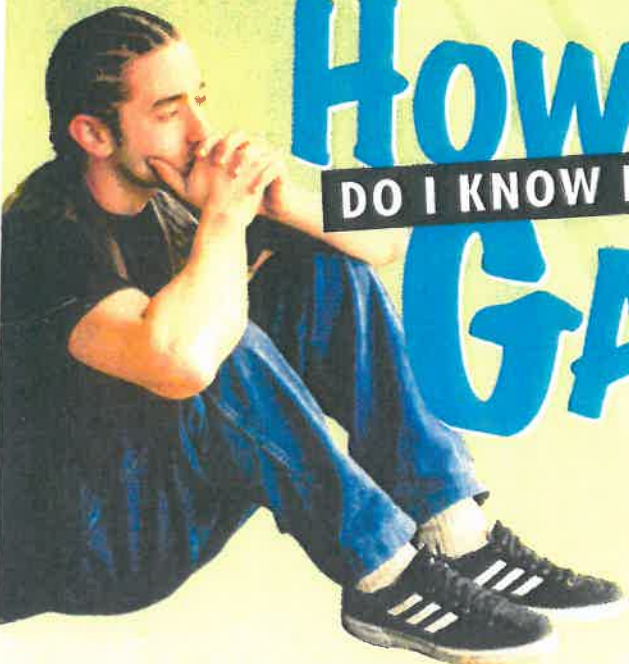


HOW DO I Tell My Parents?



I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL Understand



HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M GAY?



I FEEL SO Alone

GLBT National Youth Talkline

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender
And Questioning Callers

1-800-246-PRIDE

www.YouthTalkline.org

One-on-One Online Private Peer-Support Chat
www.GLBTHelpCenter.org/chat

TALK TO PEERS • CONFIDENTIAL • FREE



About the Youth Talkline

We talk with young people from all across the country about important issues affecting their lives. We talk about coming-out issues, relationship concerns, parent problems, school, HIV/AIDS questions and lots more!

Plus, we have information on thousands of local resources, including youth groups, social and support organizations, gay-friendly religious groups, sports leagues, student groups and more.

We're here to talk when no one else is. And our services are always totally free and completely confidential!



Contact Information

GLBT National Youth Talkline
toll-free phone:
1-800-246-PRIDE
(1-800-246-7743)

One-on-One Online Private Peer-Support Chat:
www.GLBTNationalHelpCenter.org/chat



Resource Website:
www.GLBTnearMe.org

Administrative Phone:
415-355-0003
Fax: **415-552-5498**

Email address:
youth@GLBTNationalHelpCenter.org

www.YouthTalkline.org

Mailing address:
GLBT National Help Center
2261 Market Street, PMB #296
San Francisco, CA 94114

Donate

We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, which means that all donations to us are tax-deductible. Please help support our work by mailing a contribution to the address above or you can make a donation online at www.GLBTNationalHelpCenter.org/donate

We rely on the support of the community that we serve.

GLBT National Youth Talkline

FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL,
TRANSGENDER AND
QUESTIONING CALLERS



TALK TO PEERS • CONFIDENTIAL • FREE

1-800-246-PRIDE

www.YouthTalkline.org
A PROGRAM OF THE GLBT NATIONAL HELP CENTER

PROGRAMS

The only nationwide, around-the-clock crisis intervention and suicide prevention lifeline for LGBTQ youth. 866-4-U-TREVOR (866-488-7386)

A free, confidential and secure online messaging service that provides live help through The Trevor Project website.

An online, social networking community for LGBTQ youth, their friends and allies.

An online, confidential Q&A forum for young people to ask non time-sensitive questions to our counselors via our website: www.TheTrevorProject.org

Through a structured, age-appropriate curriculum for schools, the trained facilitators of Trevor Lifeguard Workshops address topics including sexual orientation and gender identity, the impacts of language and behavior on LGBTQ youth, and suicide prevention skills.

An educational kit distributed to schools and youth service providers to facilitate discussions about suicide, gender identity and sexual orientation.



"Thank you so much for just sitting here and helping me through this. It's been really hard the past couple of years, but being able to finally talk to someone who really understands where I'm coming from, I feel like a ton of bricks have been lifted off my shoulders. Really, thank you."

- Shawn, 21, FL

Y-CARE: HOW YOU CAN HELP A SUICIDAL PERSON

You are never alone. You are not responsible for anyone who chooses to take their own life. As friends, family and loved ones, all you can do is listen, support and assist the person in getting the help they need.

YOU -

CONNECT the person to resources and to a supportive, trusted adult.

ACCEPT and listen to the person's feelings and take them seriously.

RESPOND if a person has a plan to attempt suicide and tell someone you trust.

EMPOWER the person to get help and to call The Trevor Lifeline (866-488-7386).



Follow @TrevorProject on Twitter
'Like' us at Facebook.com/TheTrevorProject
Subscribe to our channel at
YouTube.com/TrevorProjectMedia

 Please text TREVOR to 85944 to make a \$5 donation to The Trevor Project

Remember you must reply YES to confirm your gift. A one-time donation of \$5 will be added to your mobile phone bill or deducted from your prepaid balance. Standard messaging & data rates may apply.

www.TheTrevorProject.org

The Trevor Project
Administrative Offices
9056 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 208
West Hollywood, CA 90069
T 310.271.8845
F 310.271.8846
Info@TheTrevorProject.org

SAVING YOUNG LIVES



"Thank you so much for all your help. I was really hating my life and wished that it ended but I have a great life now. Thank you so much." - Jessica, 17, MA

**SAVING LIVES.
BUILDING COMMUNITY.
CHANGING SOCIETY.**

The Trevor Project is the leading national organization focused on crisis intervention and suicide prevention among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth.

Every day, The Trevor Project saves young lives through its free and confidential Lifeline, in-school workshops, educational materials, online resources and advocacy. The organization was founded in 1998 by three filmmakers whose film, "Trevor," a comedy/drama about a gay teenager who attempts suicide, received the 1994 Academy Award® for Best Short Film (Live Action).

i Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people ages 15 to 24 and accounts for 12% of the deaths every year in that age group (2009 CDC, "Suicide: Facts at a Glance").

LGB youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers (Massachusetts 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey).

LGB youth whose families reject them are more than 8 times as likely to attempt suicide than LGB youth who experience little or no family rejection (2009 Family Acceptance Project).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are the backbone of The Trevor Project. Our dedicated team of volunteers help in every aspect of the organization from programs to communications, to development and special events in these roles:

- ★ Lifeguard Workshop Facilitators
- ★ Lifeline Counselors
- ★ "Dear Trevor" Authors
- ★ TrevorSpace Administrators
- ★ Event Volunteers
- ★ Special Projects
- ★ National Ambassadors Council

If you are interested in volunteering in any of these capacities, please visit TheTrevorProject.org and click "Volunteer" for more information.

"I owe a special thanks

to [Trevor]Space! and the people on it right now. A few days back I told everyone that I came out to my mom and she accepted me, but the next day I found that wasn't such the case. I want to thank all of you who gave me support, shared your stories and who have helped me when I'm down. I want to thank those who work for and support this site and help it grow, because I know it's helped more than just me." - Cassy, 16, PA



We invite you to **INVEST** in our life-saving and life-affirming work for LGBTQ youth across the country. An investment in The Trevor Project is an investment in LGBTQ youth.

Yes! I want to support The Trevor Project.

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT

Answering one call on The Trevor Lifeline costs only \$15.

- \$30 (2 calls)
- \$45 (3 calls)
- \$75 (5 calls)
- \$150 (10 calls)
- \$225 (15 calls)
- \$_____ Other

I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MONTHLY LIFELINE CLUB DONOR
Members make monthly contributions via credit or debit card.

- \$15 monthly
- \$30 monthly

I WISH TO ENROLL IN THE CIRCLE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope donors make an annual pledge of \$500 or more to The Trevor Project. Payments can be scheduled monthly, quarterly or can be paid in full.

- \$500
- \$1,000
- \$2,500
- \$5,000
- \$10,000

I authorize The Trevor Project to charge me Monthly Quarterly All at once to the credit or debit card indicated below.

PAYMENT INFORMATION (please complete all fields)

Name _____

Partner/Spouse Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Primary Phone _____

Email Address _____

Who introduced you to The Trevor Project _____

PAYMENT METHOD

- ★ Check included with my pledge, made payable to The Trevor Project
- ★ Please charge my Visa Mastercard AMEX Discover

Name as it appears on card _____

Card Number _____

CCV / Authorization Code _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Inter/Act is a national project led by young people with DSD/intersex conditions, ages 14-25.

WE FEEL IT IS TIME WE **TOLD OUR OWN STORIES** AND **SPOKE OUR OWN TRUTHS.**

In 2012, we started a series of conversations about what we wish our doctors knew, and what we are glad our doctors knew. We're sharing that with you, and we hope you'll *pass it on.*



Support Groups

- * I need you to keep me informed about existing peer support.
- * Being part of a community of women with DSD really gave me a sense of belonging.
- * My doctor gave my parents a pamphlet for a support group, but advised them not to go because they were "crazy."
- * The fellowship I found with other women going through this struggle really helped me grow.
- * The mental health aspect of having a DSD is bigger than the physical aspect.
- * My parents never told anyone else, and their silence affected my entire family.
- * The support groups are great because they are just that: support! A unique support that we can't get from our doctors or families.
- * Some of the best healing I have done is through support groups.



Disclosure

- * Be honest. Why would you not want to tell me something about myself? Why should you know when I don't know? Honesty makes this not shameful.
- * I knew when I was 16, but my parents thought I didn't.
- * I wish that I had known about everything at age 13, and had gone to conferences immediately.
- * My peers were experimenting sexually while I was scared of my own body.
- * I don't think my parents knew they had a choice.
- * We aren't fragile. Tell us the truth.

Communication & Therapy

- * Do not tell me you know how I'll turn out. My DSD doesn't mean I'll be gay/straight or identify as a boy/girl. Just tell me the facts about my body.
- * Do not lie to me.
- * Do not lie to my parents.
- * Do not speak in absolutes, i.e. "This vagina will never be sufficient for marital relations."
- * If you know I don't get my period, don't ask me when I had my last period.
- * Do not assume I want a husband at all.
- * Do not assume I am heterosexual.
- * Know what you're talking about. We shouldn't have to educate our doctors.
- * Do not try to convince me how terrible it is to have a period.
- * Please tell me what's good about having my condition. For example, not having to shave my armpits.
- * Do not emphasize how rare this is.
- * My doctors told me I'd never meet anyone else like me, but it was a big turning point for me when I did.
- * I wish my parents could have had access to therapy. They felt so alone.
- * Do not ask me if I feel like a boy/girl.
- * Do not question me like I'm an anomaly, or a once in a lifetime opportunity.
- * Do not ask young kids if they have any questions right after they've been shell-shocked from the genital exam you just gave them.
- * Encourage us to email you. Encourage us to express ourselves. Draw, write, paint—anything. Sometimes it feels impossible to ask someone, "Where did my clitoris go?"



“I remember THE FIRST TIME I said the words ‘I have PAIS.’ ***I was so jealous.*** All these girls had known about themselves at a much younger age and *I had been stuck in this dark place.*” -Shana

Surgery

- * Do not tell a child a surgery is the only way they will be able to have “normal sex with their husband.”
- * Always offer a nonsurgical solution. Surgery is a last resort for everyone else. Why should it be different for us?
- * Surgery on my genitals wrecked my sense of self, my confidence as a partner and a lover.
- * It's painful to have something happen to you that you don't want.
- * I had surgery done in 1990, when I was 3. I still wish my parents were given more options. I regret that I have a huge scar and I regret that I had no say about having my gonads removed.
- * There are times I think that if they had been more realistic about the surgical successes of what they wanted to do with me, my parents would have cautioned me regarding the extent of what I wanted done, and how soon I wanted it done. We all made mistakes.
- * Do not tell us that only a professional medical eye could tell the difference between “normal” women and us. It's devastating to learn that it's completely untrue.

“I know plenty of people who've had **POOR EXPERIENCES** with intersex surgeries. **Doctors need to be honest about the frequency of failures and complications.**”

-Sarah



Examination Room

- * Brief the nurses who are going to work with me.
- * Have a pediatric speculum nearby.
- * Ask the patient how they would like the exam to go.
- * It's crazy to think genital exams wouldn't bother a child. Even grown women hate them!
- * Engage with patients as experts on their own experiences.
- * Do not patronize us by speaking to our guardians instead of us.
- * Do not stick your fingers up a little girl's vagina if it's not required.
- * It can be hard for a child to distinguish between a standard genital exam and molestation.

“After **MANY YEARS OF COMPLICATIONS**, I was referred to a doctor who was one of the finest people I've ever met. **SHE CARED FOR ME.** She would sit with me for an hour and just talk... What was I feeling? What did I want? What worked and what didn't? **It made all the difference in the world.**” -Monica

This brochure was produced with support from the Ms. Foundation

For more of our thoughts on medical care, see [The Writing on the Wall](#)

interactyouth.tumblr.com/the-writing-on-the-wall

Contributors:
Abby, Izogen, Lexy,
Lucy White, Monica,
Pidgeon, Sarah, and Shana

Thanks for listening!



THE BOOK NOOK

Welcome to Family Equality Council's Book Nook, home to all things LGBTQ family and literary! If you've been scouring the stacks for books that represent your family, or show diverse family constellations in a loving and respectful way, you know they aren't always easy to find. That's why the Book Nook is here - to bring together LGBTQ family-friendly books the whole family can enjoy, from the first picture book your child opens to young adult literature your tween can read on their own. Beyond our virtual bookshelves, the Book Nook will also feature interviews with authors who write the stories you'll find right here on this page!

Click the buttons below to see our recommended books for people of every age group:



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AUTHOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

CRAIG POMRANZ



Craig is an internationally known singer/song-stylist, actor... and author. *Made By Rafi* is his first children's book with illustrations by award-winning artist Margaret Chamberlain. The book is published in six languages and distributed in eleven countries to date. The Chinese edition was just released and he is thrilled to see the Korean version in the next few months.

As a performer Craig received New York's MAC Award for *Best Male Vocalist* in 2012. His popular CDs "More Than A

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ARCHIVED SPOTLIGHT

BRETT JONES
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TREVOR MACDONALD
/_ASSET/2G9T3D/TREVOR-MACDONALD-ARCHIVED.PDF

ERIC ROSSWOOD
/_ASSET/MRK8NR/ERIC-ROSSWOOD.PDF

DANNIELLE OWENS-REID AND KRISTIN RUSSO
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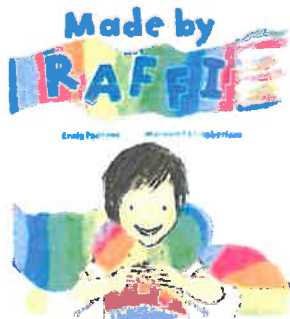
SEAN MICHAEL O'DONNELL
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SUZANNE DEWITT HALL
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Seasonal Thing" and "My Heart Don't Skip A Beat" can be heard on radio stations around the world and are available on iTunes, CD Baby and his website www.CraigPotomans.com (<http://www.craigpotomans.com/>).

Originally from St. Louis, MO Craig got his professional start at the age of 12 performing at The MUNY (the largest outdoor theater in the country). Craig attended Carnegie-Mellon and The Goodman Theatre - The Art Institute of Chicago.

Craig lives in New York City and travels the world performing in nightclubs and theatres. He is busy working on his next series of books hoping to empower children.



http://moodle.cornell.edu/Made-by-Raffi-Craig-Potomans/dp/1847804330/ref=sr_1_1?h=books&ig=UTFR&id=1442598653&sr=1-1&keywords=made-by-raffi

[Potomans/dp/1847804330/ref=sr_1_1?h=books&ig=UTFR&id=1442598653&sr=1-1&keywords=made-by-raffi](http://moodle.cornell.edu/Made-by-Raffi-Craig-Potomans/dp/1847804330/ref=sr_1_1?h=books&ig=UTFR&id=1442598653&sr=1-1&keywords=made-by-raffi)

What motivated you to write a book that is specifically inclusive of LGBTQ families?

I am delighted when parents tell me they welcome a book that addresses the experience of their child. Our society starts stereotyping children at a very young age with media and advertising. Children are labeled and categorized according to what they like to wear or their hobbies. Even the most evolved parent or caregiver has trouble navigating this problem because it is so pervasive. And of course they want to protect their kids from ridicule, teasing and bullying. With "Made by Raffi" I want to help children find their own place in the world and not be a victim of outside pressure. I want every family to be comfortable enough to support their children's interests whatever they may be.

What do you personally feel makes a family?

Marriage equality is finally here, but marriage alone doesn't make a family. I am old enough to remember a period when most birth families rejected their children for "coming out" -- and of course that still happens today. People can create our families from dear friends. These loving, intimate relationships became our support system. I understood early on that we create our own families by surrounding ourselves with unconditional love, respect and support, whether we are related or not.

What does "equality" look like to you?

Ideally you are who you are all of the time wherever you go, living life openly without controversy. But sometimes we are in an environment where we don't see people like us; we are intimidated, and in small ways change our behavior. Perhaps we don't hold hands with the person we are with because it is uncomfortable. True equality would be the inner freedom that permits us to be the same wherever we go. "Made by Raffi" portrays a young boy who stays true to himself despite pressure from the outside world, with the support of his family and friends.

Whose books do you admire and why?

Mostly I read non-fiction: biographies and theatrical tomes. However, I adore Willa Cather and did find my way to Truman Capote, Christopher Isherwood, James Baldwin, Federico Garcia Lorca, and Michael Cunningham. Laura Hobson's "Gentlemen's Agreement" showed me the dangers of bigotry. Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" portrayed the strength of the individual. As a kid, Mark Twain's "The Adventures Of Huckleberry Finn" was an early influence, especially having grown up in Missouri. Also "The Diary of Anne Frank" and the play about Helen Keller "The Miracle Worker" were powerful stories

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[A GOOD LAUGH](#)

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PRESS BOX

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<http://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/8285592>