Being an Ally: Working with and Advocating for LGBTQ+ Unaccompanied Youth

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ABA Children’s Immigration Law Academy (CILA)
CHILDREN’S IMMIGRATION LAW ACADEMY (CILA)

CILA is a project of the American Bar Association’s Commission on Immigration.

We are a legal resource center.

We are a capacity building organization.

We think every child should have representation.
CILA’s Services
Nationwide & in Texas

Resources
- Collaboration through Working Groups
- Social Work Program

Technical Assistance
- Pro Bono Matters for Children Facing Deportation
- Support at Emergency Shelters

Trainings
- Pro Bono Initiatives

Texas Specific Trainings & Resources
- Collaboration through Working Groups

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A project of the American Bar Association, funded by the Vera Institute of Justice.
Champions for Immigrant Youth

Advocates for children who enter unaccompanied

COURAGE

COMPETENCE

COMPASSION

CREATIVITY
# A Few Things to Note Before Starting

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<tr>
<th>Please submit questions using the Q&amp;A box rather than the Chat box.</th>
<th>A recording of this webinar will be posted on the CILA website.</th>
<th>For attorneys, 1.5 hours of Texas CLE credit will be provided. Please submit CLE survey at end of training.</th>
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<th>If you are a social worker or a social service provider, please complete the survey to request a letter of attendance.</th>
<th>Please complete the feedback survey.</th>
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A project of the American Bar Association, funded by the Vera Institute of Justice.
We want to hear from you!

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#313248
Scan QR code
Have you worked with clients who identify as LGBTQ+ or who may have an LGBTQ+ claim as part of their immigration legal relief?
How comfortable are you ASKING your client about their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression?
How comfortable do you feel working with clients who identify as LGBTQ+ or who may have an LGBTQ+ claim as part of their immigration relief?
There is still much work to be done, but through education and raising awareness we can continue to progress towards inclusiveness that accepts us all.
Learning Objectives

- Support and engagement with LGBTQ+ youth.
- Explore sexual orientation and gender identity questions with youth.
- Navigating barriers to services for LGBTQ+ youth.
- Intersectionality of religion and the challenges that could deter the youth from self-acceptance and help from others.
- Ethical considerations and tips on how to navigate them.
- Legal rights and relief available to LGBTQ+ youth.
What do the letters LGBTQ stand for?
Challenges in Home Country

“Every Day I Live in Fear!-LGBT people in the Northern Triangle of Central America face high levels of violence that their own governments appear unable or unwilling to address...”

-Human Rights Watch-
Challenges Post-Migration

Not Good:
“There has been a dangerous spike in anti-LGBTQ+ legislative assaults sweeping state houses this year.” - Human Rights Campaign

Some Good News:
“White House Plans to Combat Book Bans and Expand Mental Health Care for Queer Youth” - THEM
South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (Pro-BAR), surveyed 22,000 unaccompanied youth in 2022. Out of 22,000, 157 did not identify either as female or male.
<table>
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<th>Concept</th>
<th>Spanish Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesbiana</td>
<td>Orientación sexual que describe a una mujer que es atraída emocional y sexualmente hacia otras mujeres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay</td>
<td>Orientación sexual que describe a una persona que es atraída emocional y sexualmente hacia individuos de su mismo sexo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>Orientación sexual que describe a una persona que se siente atraída emocional y sexualmente tanto hacia personas de su propio género como hacia personas de otros géneros.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgénero</td>
<td>Persona cuya identidad de género y sexo asignado al nacer no corresponden. También usado como un término general para incluir a las identidades de género fuera de lo masculino y femenino.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queer</td>
<td>Término que algunos usan para describir a las personas cuyas identidades de género u orientación sexual se encuentran fuera de las normas sociales, con un término general que las abarque a todas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuestionándose</td>
<td>Describe a la persona que no está segura o está explorando su propia orientación sexual o identidad de género.</td>
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AVOID
1. Homosexual
2. Preferencia Sexual
3. Transgenerado/tranny
4. Hermafrodita
5. Cambio de sexo

INSTEAD
1. Gay/Lesbiana
2. Orientación sexual
3. Transgénero
4. Intersexualidad
5. Cirugía de afirmación de género
Explaining Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity to Youth

The Gender Unicorn

To learn more, go to: www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore
What does it mean to be an ally?

- Actively supporting and advocating for their rights and well-being.
- Educating oneself about LGBTQ+ issues and terminology to better understand and communicate with LGBTQ+ youth.
- Listening to and validating the experiences and feelings of LGBTQ+ youth and creating a safe and supportive environment for them.
- Challenging and speaking out against discrimination, harassment, and bullying of LGBTQ+ youth.
Building an allyship

Advocating for policies and laws that protect the rights of LGBTQ+ youth, such as anti-discrimination laws and inclusive school policies.

Supporting LGBTQ+ youth in their personal and social lives, including helping them find resources and support networks.

Being an active ally and advocate in the community, including attending LGBTQ+ events and supporting LGBTQ+ organizations.
Role Play

Advocate is conducting an intake at shelter. The advocate will explore sexual orientation and gender identity questions with youth.

The youth is a teenager who recently arrived at an ORR shelter. The youth is not sure and finds himself exploring and trying to understand his sexual orientation. Advocate provides education, understanding, and support.
Hypothetical

During his stay at the shelter Felipe expressed not being ready or comfortable disclosing their sexual orientation to their uncle (sponsor). Felipe expressed needing more time to be ready and have that conversation in person. Two months later, once reunified, Felipe disclosed to uncle. Felipe's uncle did not respond in a supportive manner.

The advocate finds out that youth was asked to leave the home for being gay.

We want to hear from you....
If you were Felipe's advocate, how would you help and support him?
Tips from CILA

Help youth connect with and navigate resources:

• Health care
• Mental Health
• Education
• Legal support
• Housing
• Community
Ana Moraga Archila,
KIND San Francisco, Supervising Attorney
Feedback Survey

CLE or Letter of Attendance (for legal and non-legal staff)
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