

POLICY PLATFORM

LGBTQ+ EQUALITY, INCLUSION, VISIBILITY, AND SAFETY

PROGRESSIVE VALUE

Support full equality, inclusion, visibility, and safety for LGBTQ+ individuals, ensuring their right to live openly and honestly, free from discrimination and harm, as a fundamental aspect of civil rights and self-determination.

ROOTED IN JUDAISM

We are all created in the image of G-d. We should honor all people. And yet, conservative traditions point to scripture which says homosexuality is an abomination. But those texts were written about men choosing to be with other men to partake in pagan traditions. It was not written about people who, through no choice except the choice to be honest about who they are, love someone of the same, or of expansive, genders. Jewish text did not recognize the needs of the LGBTQ+ community because it was not understood at the time. But Jewish texts do recognize the need to treat all people with honor, dignity, respect. We recognize the inherent equality amongst all people, and that we were all created in G-d's image. Therefore, we must create the same safety, opportunities, and options for all people – including members of the LGBTQ+ community.

In fact, the Reform Central Conference of American Rabbis was the first major American clergy group to support members performing same-gender religious weddings and commitment ceremonies.

Inclusion and protection of full rights for LGBTQ+ Americans is a matter of civil rights, and we support these rights as we do all other basic civil rights.

REFLECTED IN ZIONISM

Zionism is rooted in the value of self-determination, and we know that self-determination requires the ability to live honestly and openly. Self-determination, controlling ones own future, is impossible if one cannot live in a way that is healthy, open, and honest.

Zionism is rooted in liberation, and the ability to live freely as ones self, as long as it is not breaking mitzvot, commandments, is a fundamental part of liberation. The lines in Torah used by conservative Christians are not actually applicable to the LGBTQ+ community and are taken out of context. Living freely and openly as an LGBTQ+ person does not break any commandments, and is a critical piece of achieving liberation for all people.

POSITION STATEMENTS

- **We support the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ members of our communities in society – including the ability to live out in safety.**
- We oppose efforts to hide the stories of LGBTQ+ Americans, and to remove biographical and fiction stories of their lives from libraries, schools, and bookstores. Every person should grow up with stories of people they can relate to, and removing these books does not make children less gay, it just makes them feel less seen.
- **Support tracking data around hate crimes against members of the LGBTQ community, including gender identity and sexual orientation in hate crimes laws, and increasing efforts to investigate and prosecute those who commit these crimes.**
- Oppose laws that discriminate against same sex couples in adoption and parenting.
- **Oppose conversion therapy and support efforts to outlaw its use for children. These therapies have been shown to have lasting detrimental effects on people who go through the programs as children, and do not uphold our values that we are all created in G-d's image.**
- Support efforts to include gender identity and sexual orientation in nondiscrimination laws in employment and housing.
- **Ensure all individuals have access to shelters, social services, and other emergency services, regardless of their gender identity or the make-up of their family.**
- Support the inclusion of broader definitions of family in paid and protected leave laws including family leave, new child leave, and bereavement leave, so that LGBTQ (and immigrant) families can access these protections.