

Religious Identity Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Gender Expression

There are many different stances held by various religious communities. Some are supporting of people who identify as LGBTIQ+ and welcome them without reservation into their churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, or communities while other groups do not or do so under specific conditions. Many LGBTIQ+ identified people struggle with their religious or spiritual beliefs at some point in the coming out process. This section will give you some resources with which you can educate yourself about various religious and spiritual communities' beliefs regarding faith and LGBTIQ+ identified persons.

CHRISTIANITY

Christian (Non-denominational) Websites:

1. The Institute for Welcoming Resources [<http://www.welcomingresources.org/>]
The purpose of this ecumenical group is to provide the resources to facilitate a paradigm shift in multiple denominations whereby churches become welcoming and affirming of all congregants regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.
2. Gay Christians [www.gaychristians.org] Information and chat network of friends affirming God's acceptance and love of all people regardless of their sexual or affectional orientation.
3. Soulforce [www.soulforce.org] The purpose of Soulforce is freedom for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from religious and political oppression through the practice of relentless nonviolent resistance.

Christian (Denomination Specific) Websites:

1. Baptist [www.rainbowbaptists.org] Rainbow Baptists is a website providing support, information and advocacy for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer identified Baptists, their family and friends.
2. Catholic [www.dignityusa.org] DignityUSA works for respect and justice for all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons in the Catholic Church and the world through education, advocacy and support.
3. Disciples of Christ [www.gladalliance.org] The Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciples Alliance is an organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and affirming members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). They call

for the full inclusion of LGBT persons in the Church. They provide educational resources to the Church on issues important to LGBT Christians.

4. Presbyterian [www.mlp.org/] A network of people seeking the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church.
5. Methodist [www.rmnetwork.org] Reconciling Ministries Network mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform the Methodist Church and world. They are committed to supporting the integration of healthy, loving expression of sexuality and spirituality for everyone.
6. Lutheran [www.reconcilingworks.org] Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation have advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of LGBTQ Lutherans since 1974.
7. Episcopal [www.integrityusa.org] Proclaiming God's inclusive love in and through the Episcopal Church since 1975.
8. Metropolitan Community Church [<http://mccchurch.org/>] MCC is a global denomination that is a welcoming place of all of God's people. Founded in 1968, MCC has been at the vanguard of civil and human rights movements by addressing issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, economics, climate change, aging and global human rights.

Books:

1. John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality: Gay People in Western Europe from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century* (1980). (The most thoroughly researched of any treatment of the subject of church history and homosexuality along with the Bible and homosexuality printed so far).
2. Daniel A. Helminiak, *What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality* (2000).
3. Matthew Vines, *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships* (2014).
4. Jack Rogers, *Jesus, the Bible, And Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church* (2006).
5. Letha D. Scanzoni & Virginia R. Mollenkott, *Is the Homosexual my Neighbor?* (1978/1994).

6. John Shelby Spong, *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism: A Bishop Rethinks the Meaning of Scripture* (1991).
7. Robin Scroggs, *New Testament and Homosexuality* (1983).
8. John J. McNeill, *The Church and the Homosexual* (1994).
9. John J. McNeill, *Taking a Chance on God: Liberating Theology for Gays, Lesbians, and Their Lovers, Families, and Friends* (1988).
10. Mel White, *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America* (1994).
11. David Day, *Things They Never Told you in Sunday School: A Primer for the Christian Homosexual* (1987).
12. Jeff Miner, John Tyler Connoley, and David Squire, *The Children Are Free: Reexamining the Biblical Evidence on Same-Sex Relationships* (2002). (In Chapter One, the authors lead the reader through a discussion of each of the six passages traditionally used against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. They demonstrate how an anti-gay interpretation is a misapplication of these scriptures.)

Videos:

1. *For the Bible Tells Me So* (2007). An exploration of the intersections of same-sex sexuality and Christianity in the United States.
2. *Through My Eyes* (2009). Over two dozen young Christians share their feelings, struggles, and experiences with being LGBTQ and Christian.

JUDAISM

Jewish Faith Websites:

1. Keshet [www.keshetonline.org] Keshet is a national organization that works for full LGBTQ equality and inclusion in Jewish life. Led and supported by LGBTQ Jews and straight allies, Keshet cultivates the spirit and practice of inclusion in all parts of the Jewish community.
2. Jewish Gay and Lesbian Group [www.jglg.org.uk/] The purpose of this organization is to provide an atmosphere of friendship and support for Jewish gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their partners. This organization acts as an ambassador between the gay world and the Jewish world, trying to dispel ignorance and prejudice.
3. The World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Jews [www.glbtejews.org/] The organization consists of around 50 member

organizations all over the world. The World Congress wishes: to be the worldwide voice of LGBT Jews; to support, inspire, and strengthen local groups; to foster a sense of community among diverse individuals and organizations; to achieve equality and security for LGBT Jews worldwide.

4. Eshel Inclusive Orthodox Community [www.eshelonline.org]. Eshel's mission is to create community and acceptance for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Jews and their families in orthodox communities.
5. Institute for Judaism and Sexual Orientation [<http://ijso.huc.edu>]. This institute was founded in 2000 to educate students on LGBT issues to help them challenge and eliminate homophobia and heterosexism; and to learn tools to be able to transform the communities they encounter into ones that are inclusive and welcoming of LGBT Jews.
6. Resources for Gay and Lesbian Orthodox Jews [www.orthogays.org/links.html] A fantastic list of resources by the Gay and Lesbian Yeshiva Day School Alumni Association.
7. Coming Home to Judaism and to Self [www.hrc.org/resources/coming-home-to-judaism-and-to-self] Human Rights Campaign Foundation guide aimed at LGBTQ Jewish Americans who are on the journey toward living fully in their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and in their faith and its traditions.

Books:

1. The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, *The HILLEL LGBTQ Resource Guide* (2007). This resource can be downloaded for free at www.keshetonline.org/resource/the-hillel-lgbtq-resource-guide/
2. David Shneer and Caryn Aviv (eds.), *Queer Jews* (2002). *Queer Jews* describes how queer Jews are changing Jewish American culture, creating communities and making room for themselves, as openly, unapologetically queer and Jewish
3. Rebecca Alpert, *Like Bread on the Seder Plate* (1997).
4. Christie Balka and Andy Rose (eds.), *Twice Blessed: On Being Lesbian or Gay and Jewish* (1991).
5. Evelyn Torton Beck (ed.), *Nice Jewish Girls: A Lesbian Anthology* (1982/1989).
6. Steven Greenberg, *Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition* (2005).

Videos:

1. *Trembling Before G-D* (2001). An American documentary film about gay and lesbian Orthodox Jews trying to reconcile their sexuality with their faith.
2. *Keep Not Silent* (2004). A documentary about three Orthodox Jewish lesbians in Jerusalem that are part of a group called OrthoDykes.
3. *Jerusalem is Proud to Present* (2008). A documentary about the 2006 Pride Festival in Jerusalem, centered on members of Jerusalem's LGBT community center.
4. *Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School* (2005). Chronicles the story of a student's attempt to establish a gay-straight alliance at a Jewish high school in Boston.

ISLAM

Muslim Faith Websites:

1. LGBT Muslims [<http://islamandhomosexuality.com/>] This website discusses the issues surrounding Islam and sexual, as well as gender, diversity.
2. Imaan (UK) [www.imaan.org.uk] Established in 1998 by a group of LGBT Muslim Londoners, this is a support group for individuals and families seeking to reconcile sexuality with faith.
3. Inner Circle (South Africa) [www.theinnercircle.org.za] Established in 1996, and describes itself as “the longest standing, largest and most influential human rights organization in the world that deals with Islam, gender and sexual diversity from an Islamic theological perspective.”
4. Muslims for Progressive Values Resources [<http://www.mpvusa.org/lgbtqi-resources>] Resources include a video lecture series, worldwide organizations, and links to informative websites.
5. Is There Room in Islam for LGBT Muslims? [<http://www.mpvusa.org/sexuality-diversity>]. An adapted chapter by Dr. Scott Siraj al-Haqq Kugle which shows that Islam supports many kinds of diversity – and that sexual and gender diversity in particular were acknowledged in the Qur'an and by the Prophet Muhammad.
6. Coming Home to Islam and Self [<http://www.hrc.org/resources/coming-home-to-islam-and-to-self>] The Human Rights Campaign's guide aimed at LGBTQ American Muslims who are on the journey toward living fully in their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and in their faith and its traditions.

Books:

1. Afdhere Jama, *Queer Jihad: LGBT Muslims on Coming Out, Activism, and the Faith* (2014).
2. Stephen Murray and Will Roscoe, *Islamic Homosexualities: Culture, History and Literature* (1997).
3. Badruddin Khan, *Sex, Longing, and Not Belonging: A Gay Muslim's Quest for Love and Meaning* (1997).
4. Scott Sirij Al-Haqq Kugle, *Living Out Islam: Voices of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Muslims* (2013).
5. Scott Siraj Al-Haqq Kugle, *Homosexuality in Islam: Critical Reflection on Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Muslims* (2010).
6. Afdhere Jama, *Illegal Citizens: Queer Lives in the Muslim World* (2008).
7. Samar Habib (ed.), *Islam & Homosexuality* (2009).
8. Pepe Hendricks, *Hijab: Unveiling Queer Muslim Lives* (2009).
9. Samar Habib, *Female Homosexuality in the Middle East: Histories and Representations, Research in Gender and Society* (2007)

Videos:

1. *Gay Muslims* (2006) An exploration of how many gay and lesbian Muslims attempt to integrate their religion with their sexuality.
2. *I am Gay and Muslim* (2012) This documentary follows a number of young Moroccan gay men in their exploration of their religious and sexual identity.
3. *A Jihad for Love* (2007) A documentary on gay, lesbian, and transgender Muslims across the Muslim and Western worlds.

ADDITIONAL RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES**Atheist/Humanist Websites:**

1. LGBTQ Humanist Alliance [<http://lgbthumanists.org/>] Operating at the intersection of humanism and social justice to advocate humanist education, LGBTQ cultural competency, and community outreach.
2. Q-Spirit [<http://qspirit.net/>] Q-Spirit is dedicated to catalyzing the necessary conditions for queer people to fully claim our spiritual roles of service,

leadership and community enrichment in the world.

3. GALHA [www.galha.org] For over 30 years Galha LGBT Humanists have promoted humanism as a rational, naturalistic worldview, campaigning for equality and diversity, particularly relating to sexual orientation and identity.

Other Religion Websites:

1. Unitarian Universalist [www.uua.org/directory/organizations/interweave] Interweave is an organization actively working to end oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity, guided by Unitarian Universalist principles.
2. Wicca [www.wicca-spirituality.com/gay-wicca.html] This website answers questions about why Wicca appeals to LGBTQ folk, and how Gay Gardnerianism would work,
3. Hindu [www.galva108.org/about-galva-108] Provides information and support for LGBTI Vaishnavas and Hindus.

General Website on Religious Tolerance:

1. Religious Tolerance [<http://www.religioustolerance.org>]