



The At A Glance Series: Family Equality Council—Who We Are, What We Do

The Family Equality Council (formerly Family Pride) is the national advocacy organization committed to securing family equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer parents, guardians and allies. Our work consists of strategically linked initiatives—broad in scope, but simple in vision—love, justice, family, equality.

History

Seeking to build a network of support, a group of gay fathers formed in 1979 what would eventually become Family Equality Council. Initially called the Gay Fathers Coalition, the organization expanded over time to include first lesbians, as the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition, and later bisexual and transgender parents, as Family Pride. In 2007, in order to better capture the full breadth and scope of our work and our collective vision of a world that treats all loving families equally, we thought it was important to change our name to Family Equality Council. Our new name and expanded vision reinforce our commitment to working across communities and issues and to joining forces with other progressive advocacy groups to create meaningful change for all loving families.

Vision and Mission: Love. Justice. Family. Equality.

Family Equality Council is absolutely committed to achieving family equality in our lifetime.

All loving families should be recognized, respected, protected and celebrated.

We believe in the freedom to define our own families in a just society.

We envision a country that celebrates the diversity of family constellations—one that respects and commends individuals for stepping up, supporting one another and creating families.

This movement is about equality for all loving families.



“WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE A
BETTER WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN—
WITH THIS STRUGGLE WILL
COME PROGRESS.”

Jennifer Chrisler, Executive Director
Family Equality Council



Our Work

Through strategic initiatives, groundbreaking programs and legislative battles we lead the national fight for family equality. Utilizing our membership base, now 35,000 members strong, we work together to make change, share information and build community.

Make Change

By increasing the visibility of our families, we are changing hearts and minds. By educating legislators and allies, we are helping to change laws. We are working to create access, to and within our community, with regards to class, race, and gender-identity. We continue to help bring about changes in our schools, in order to make them safe and inclusive for all types of families.

Share Information

Family Equality Council provides a variety of easy to access publications and other resources, including our events calendar, wikis and parents group listings by state. Our searchable online database links you directly to over 30 years of academic and scientifically credible research on LGBTQ-headed families.

Build Community

We know how important it is to stay connected. By harnessing the power of the internet, our website continues to develop, finding new and innovative ways to keep our members connected, informed, empowered, and involved – like our eNews, Action Alerts and Blog. Through unique and memorable family centered events like Family Week in Provincetown, MA and Families in the Desert in Palm Desert, CA, we give our members the opportunity to engage with other families like their own, to make friends in their respective geographic areas and to share information about issues that affect them.

Our Strategy

Building relationships with local, state, and national organizations is a fundamental part of Family Equality Council's strategy and successes. We work to help our members educate others about family equality in an effort to create policies that protect our families, make schools safe for our children and promote acceptance. Through resources such as the Rainbow Report Card, we equip LGBTQ parents with the tools needed to be allies and advocates for family equality. Our national advocacy training program, OUTSpoken Families, shows parents and allies how to tell their stories and promote the visibility of our families. When our families are talked about and portrayed in the media without our perspective, the Family Equality Council serves as a prominent source to counter misinformation and to promote positive images of our families in the public sphere.

In addition, we recognize that laws that hurt LGBTQ-headed families also tend to hurt single parents, blended families, families of lower socioeconomic statuses and many other types of families. That is why the Family Equality Council is standing strong to defeat anti-family legislation and to promote legislation that is truly beneficial to all loving families.

But we can't do it alone, so please join us!

