

# Family is Still Family. Love is Still Love.

NQAPIA



A FEDERATION  
OF LGBTQ  
ASIAN AMERICAN  
SOUTH ASIAN  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN  
& PACIFIC ISLANDER  
ORGANIZATIONS

Many parents and families have a loved one that is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). When a loved one 'comes out', it is natural for family members to have questions.

As a starting point to address your questions, here are some important facts to know:

## ♥ PEOPLE DO NOT CHOOSE WHOM OR HOW THEY LOVE.

Identifying as LGBT is not a matter of choice or accident. It does not arise from coming to the US, living in big cities, or having LGBT friends. In fact, 325,000 or 2.8% of the Asian Pacific Islander population in the US identify as LGBT, according to Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law. While no one knows exactly how sexual orientation and gender identity are determined, most LGBT people become aware of their difference at an early age.

## 👤 PARENTS AND THEIR LGBT CHILD DID NOTHING WRONG.

Guilt and shame are common initial feelings for parents of LGBTs, but parents do not cause their children to become LGBT. There are no known environmental factors that "cause" one to be LGBT. Being LGBT is simply who the child is. Research has found that family acceptance promotes health and well-being. Family love and support reduces risky, self-destructive behaviors such as substance abuse, health risk factors, and suicide.

## ★ LGBT PEOPLE HAVE HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL LIVES.

Many LGBT people can lead fulfilling and healthy lives. The US and world are changing rapidly. More states and countries recognize same-sex marriages. The Williams Institute found that 26% of 33,000 AAPIs in same-sex relationships are raising children. In addition, LGBT individuals enjoy successful careers. Many businesses, companies, agencies, and nonprofits openly support their LGBT employees.

## 🌱 MORE FAITH TRADITIONS ARE "EVOLVING" AND ARE MORE WELCOMING OF LGBT PEOPLE.

Increasingly, many faiths and religions are evolving to welcome LGBT people. Passages in some scriptures were written to describe the thinking and culture of a particular time. Many faiths now recognize that to embrace LGBT people is to emphasize strong religious and spiritual values such as compassion, love, a merciful God, and a belief to treat others how one would like to be treated.

## 🌸 MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL.

Many state and municipal civil rights laws protect LGBT people. Yet, the possibility of discrimination for those who are different is ongoing. It is our responsibility to create a world that is filled with fairness, safety and respect for one another regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, place of natural origin, immigration-status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

## 📖 EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS.

Support and resources are readily available. Groups such as PFLAG (for parents, families and friends who support their LGBT loved ones), National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) and the Asian Pride Project are resources for you and your family. Contact them at [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org), [www.nqapia.org](http://www.nqapia.org), [www.asianprideproject.org](http://www.asianprideproject.org).

You Are NOT Alone.

NQAPIA



**API Rainbow Parents**  
Supporting API Families & LGBTQ People

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