



UDRUŽENJE ZA UNAPREĐENJE MENTALNOG ZDRAVLJA

IV International Gender Workshop

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Mental Healthcare for LGBT persons in Serbia: **Challenges and Solutions**

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Issues

- LGBT mental healthcare in the healthcare system
- Discourses about homosexuality in medical education
- Clinical practice and LGBT experiences
- Steps towards a „LGBT epidemiology“
- Steps towards better education

LGBT mental healthcare in the healthcare system

OR

What's not there?

- No mention of LGBT persons in preventative strategies
- No screening programs
- No data on incidence and prevalence of mental health problems for LGBT persons

Discourses about homosexuality in medical education

- Pathologization of homosexuality in psychiatric textbooks
 - Homosexuality classified along with zoophilia and pedophilia
 - „Not a disorder anymore, *but...*“
- Silence
 - In psychotherapy training completely ignored as a subject

Discourses on homosexuality in medical education

„It is also necessary to recognize possible sexual perversity which may appear in certain sexually disturbed persons. Causes may be widely varying, starting from hormonal disorders, fears of sexual activity, wrong education within the family, aberrant identification models, etc. First of all there is homosexuality, which is treated differently in different countries. There are also other disorders of urges – transvestitism, fetishism, pedophilia, zoophilia, sadomasochism, voyeurism, sodomy, gerontophilia and exhibitionism. All disorders of sexual urge require serious treatment.“

Clinical practice and LGBT experiences

- Explicit homophobia
- „Subtle“ homophobia (silence, skipping over the subject, diminishing importance of sexual identities, etc.)
- Serious professional errors (reparative therapy)
- Lack of knowledge

Steps towards an „LGBT epidemiology“

Depression PHQ-9 scores

- LGB: avg. 10.42 (mean value for bisexuals 12, for lesbians and gay men 10)
- Heterosexuals: avg. 7.95

Anxiety GAD-7 scores

- LGB: avg. 9.98 (bisexuals 15, lesbians and gay men 9)
- Heterosexuals: avg. 8.56

Steps towards better education



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Thank you for your attention