



# Faith Affirming Connections & Resources

The following faith resources are affirming of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people. While some also oppose conversion practices, it is uncertain what support they may or may not have for survivors.



*Image via Unsplash by [Michael Heuss](#)*

**[www.stopconversionpractices.ca](http://www.stopconversionpractices.ca)**

A Knowledge Centre created by and with survivors of conversion practices, for all who are working to support survivors and end these harmful practices in Canada

The Community-Based Research Centre  
in partnership with No Conversion Canada (2024)

## Organizations and Leaders Who Oppose Conversion Practices

- [The Anglican Church of Canada](#)
- [The Church of England](#)
- [The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#)
- [The Methodist Church](#) (UK)
- The Presbyterian Church in Canada
- [The United Church of Canada](#)
- [The United Church of Christ](#) (USA)
- [The Global Interfaith Commission on LGBT+ Lives](#): A 2020 declaration demanding a global ban on conversion therapy signed by over 400 international spiritual leaders (Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh) from more than 35 countries.
- In May 2021 more than 40 Jewish, Muslim and Christian faith leaders signed a letter supporting a municipal ban on conversion therapy in Calgary, Alberta
- In July 2021 more than 40 faith leaders, including Muslim, Sikh, Christian, and Jewish faith leaders, signed a letter supporting a municipal ban on conversion therapy in Regina, Saskatchewan.
- In 2019 over 350 religious leaders signed on to Pastors Stopping the Harm, which called on Canadian pastors to speak up for the prevention of SOGIECE.

## LGBTQ+ Affirming Faith Networks & Organizations

[Queer Interfaith Coalition](#) is a Canadian coalition established in 2024 to reclaim the religious voice from those who have sought to weaponize faith.

### Baha'i:

- [The LGBTQ Baha'i Experience](#) (U.S. based)

### Buddhist:

- [Dharma Friends](#) Toronto's LGBT community
- [Gay Buddhist Fellowship](#) (U.S. based)
- [Rainbow Sangha Network](#) (Europe and beyond)

## Christian

- [A Common Bond](#), Jehovah Witnesses
- [Affirm United / S’Affirmer Ensemble](#), The United Church of Canada
- [Affirmation](#) LGBTQ Mormons, Families & Friends
- [Affirming Connections](#) Central and Southern Alberta, and beyond
- [The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists](#) (U.S. based)
- [AllianceQ](#) Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (U.S. based)
- [Dignity Canada Dignité](#) Roman Catholic [DignityUSA](#)
- [Friends for LGBTQ Concerns](#) Quaker
- [In This Together](#) (Mennonite Church Canada) see also [LGBTQ Mennonites](#)
- Metropolitan Community Churches: [Toronto](#), [Windsor](#)
- [Presbyterians for LGBTQI+ Equality, Dignity & Justice](#)
- [Proud Anglicans](#) gay-positive parishes in Canada
- [Q Faith Community](#) Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- [Qu\(e\)rying Religion](#) University of Toronto
- [Reconciling Ministries Network](#), Methodist (U.S. based)
- [Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation](#) (U.S. based)
- [Seventh-day Adventist Kinship North America](#)
- [Student Christian Movement \(SCM\) Canada](#) includes Queer Christian resources
- [The United Church of Canada](#)
- [Welcoming Congregations Program](#), Unitarian Universalist

## Hinduism:

- [GALVA-108](#) Gay & Lesbian Vaishnava Association: an international mostly online organization

## Islam:

- [El-Tawhid Juma Circle: Calgary Alberta Unity Mosque](#)
- [El-Tawhid Juma Circle: London, ON Unity Mosque](#)
- [El-Tawhid Juma Circle: Montreal Unity Mosque](#)
- [El-Tawhid Juma Circle: Ottawa Valley Unity Mosque \[OVUM\]](#)
- [El-Tawhid Juma Circle: Vancouver Unity Mosque](#)

- [Masjid el-Tawhid - The Unity Mosque](#)
- [Masjid el-Tawhid - The Unity Mosque](#) Toronto
- [Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity](#) USA
- [Muslims for Progressive Values](#) USA
- [Mecca Institute](#), USA
- [Salaam Canada](#): Salaam Canada national closed in 2022, but local groups continue and resources supporting LGBTQ Muslims will be available until 2027.

## Judaism:

- [Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs](#) National LGBTQ2+ Advisory Council
- [Eshel](#) (based in U.S.) for Orthodox LGBTQ+ individuals and their families.
- [JQ International](#) (based in U.S.)
- [JQT Vancouver](#) Queering Jewish Space
- [Keshet](#) (based in U.S.) working toward full equality of all LGBTQ+ Jews.
- [Kulanu Toronto](#) a Jewish LGBTQ social group affiliated with Hillel of Greater Toronto
- [LGBTQ+ at the J](#) Toronto's LGBTQ+ Jewish community
- [Machane Lev](#) Camp for Jewish LGBTQ children and youth
- [Reform Jewish Community of Canada](#)

## Sikh:

- [Sarbat](#) (UK based)

## Two-Spirit/Indigenous:

- [2Spirits in Motion Society](#) (National)
- [Wabanaki Two Spirit Alliance](#) (Atlantic Canada)
- [2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations](#) (Toronto)
- [2Spirit Manitoba](#)
- [Two Spirit Alliance of Saskatchewan](#)
- [Edmonton Two Spirit Society](#)
- [2 Spirits of BC](#)

## Online Resources with a Religious Focus

- [A Christian Conversation Guide: Creating Safe and Inclusive Spaces for People who are LGBTQ](#) (Human Rights Campaign Foundation). Focused on Christian congregations, this guide provides practical suggestions Christians can take to build safe and inclusive communities and congregations.
- [A Guide to Improving Safety in Pastoral Care with LGBTQ+ people](#), Jones T., Despot N., Jones T., et al. La Trobe University, Melbourne (2023).
- [Aromanticism, asexuality, and Christianity](#), The Invisible Cake Society.
- [Be not afraid, help is on the way: straight for equality in faith community](#) (PFLAG National, 2012) learn more about what your GLBT friends are facing, work through any of the challenges you may face to being an ally.
- [Can Religion Give You PTSD?](#), Stephanie Russell-Kraft, The New Republic, 2021.
- [Coming Home: To Faith, To Spirit, To Self](#) (Human Rights Campaign Foundation). Guides by Religion (Catholicism, Islam, Judaism, Mormonism, Evangelicalism), aimed at folks who hope to lead their faith communities toward a more welcoming stance, and those seeking a path back to beloved traditions.
- [Egale Canada's Building Bridges Project](#): This project works to increase the understanding of anti-racism, Indigenization and faith in Canada (includes affirming faith workbooks for: Indigenous, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism).
- [Faith in Our Families: Talking About Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression](#), L. M. Rivera, L. Owen (PFLAG National, 2021) Available in English and Spanish.
- [Faith Positions](#) (Human Rights Campaign Foundation). Stances on faith and affirming resources for Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Humanism, Islam (Sunni and Shi'a), Judaism, Unitarian Universalism, and many more (search 'Stances of Faiths on LGBTQ Issues')
- [Gay Church](#), an affirming church directory of gay-friendly Christian churches around the world.
- [Helping Christian Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients Recover Religion as a Source of Strength: Developing a Model for Assessment and Integration of Religious Identity in Counseling](#). Bozard, R. & Sanders, C. (2011). Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling. 5(1): 47-54.
- [Homosexuality Is Not a Sin in Hinduism](#), Youth Ki Awaaz.
- [How to be culturally competent when supporting LGBTQ Muslims](#). Thawer, R. (2022). Medium.
- [Just As They Are, A Guide to Protecting Our Youth from Conversion Therapy](#) (Human Rights Campaign Foundation). A resource that offers information and guidance to parents.
- [Mapping the Landscape of Faith-Based Heterosexism and Transphobia in Canada](#) 2021 Report, by Brigitte Pawliw-Fry (Rainbow Faith and Freedom Movement, 2021)

- [Navigating LGBTQ Identities and Religion](#), The Trevor Project
- [Preventing Harm, Promoting Justice: Responding to LGBT Conversion Therapy in Australia](#), Jones, T, Brown, A, Carnie, L, Fletcher, G, & Leonard, W. (Melbourne: GLHV@ARCSHS and the Human Rights Law Centre, 2018).
- [Queer Islamic Studies and Theology](#), Promotes the idea that research into the matter of sexual diversity is part of human understanding and part of Islamic studies.
- [Queer. Trans. Religion](#). An open-access academic journal [QTR: A Journal of Trans and Queer Studies in Religion](#) dedicated to expanding both scholarly and public knowledge about the rich and complex connections between religion, gender, and sexuality.
- [Rainbow Faith and Freedom](#), a movement to secure inclusion and affirmation for LGBTI people around the world by ending religious-based homophobia and transphobia.
- [Religion and Faith](#) (Human Rights Campaign Foundation).
- Sexuality and the Imprint of Shame: What Queer Guys (and Their Therapists) Need to Know, Part One: [Understanding Shame](#), Part Two: [Defenses Against Shame](#), Part Three: [Processing Shame](#). Thawer, R. (2022). Medium.
- [Supporting family members when queer & trans Muslims come out](#). Thawer, R. (2023, January 16). Medium. Includes links to additional resources (e.g., information about trans Muslims, LGBTQ+ organizations globally, and much more).
- [The Rainbow Well](#), a Canadian affirming 2SLGBTQIA+ resource hub on Christian faith, gender, and sexuality.
- [Transitioning to Inclusion: Embracing LGBTQ Youth in Faith Communities](#), by Kelsey Pacha, the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, Pacific School of Religion.

## Research with a Religious Focus

- [A systematic review of quantitative studies capturing measures of psychological and mental health for Gay and Lesbian individuals of faith](#), Dean J. Wilkinson & Amy Johnson (2021), *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 24:9, 993-1016.
- [Adverse Religious Experiences and LGBTQ+ Adults](#), Alex Fox, Antioch University Full-Text Dissertations & Theses, Antioch University of New England (2022)
- [Conversion practices in Aotearoa New Zealand: Developing a holistic response to spiritual abuse](#), Michael Roguski, Nicola Atwood, (2024) *PLoS ONE* 19(5): e0302163.
- [Does Religion Prevent LGBTQ Acceptance? A Case Study with Queer and Trans Muslims in Toronto, Canada](#), Golshan Golriz (2021). *Journal of Homosexuality*, 68:14, 2451-2475.
- [Healing Spiritual Harms: Supporting Recovery from LGBTQIA+ Change and Suppression Practices](#), T.W. Jones, T.M. Power, et al. (The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, 2021)

- [Holistic Health of Two Spirit People in Canada: A Call for Nursing Action](#), Dykhuizen M, Marshall K, Loewen Walker R, Saddleback J.. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*. 2022;40(4):383-396.
- [“My Existence is not Haram”: Intersectional Lives in LGBTQ Muslims Living in Canada](#), Shahid Alvi & Arshia Zaidi (2021). *Journal of Homosexuality*, 68:6, 993-1014.
- [Religious Conflict, Sexual Identity, and Suicidal Behaviors among LGBT Young Adults](#). Gibbs JJ, Goldbach J. (2015) *Arch Suicide Res*. 2015;19(4):472-88.
- [Religious trauma and moral injury from LGBTQA+ conversion practices](#), Timothy W. Jones, Jennifer Power, Tiffany M. Jones, *Social Science & Medicine*, Volume 305, 2022, 115040.
- [Resilience and Indigenous Spirituality: A Literature Review](#). Fleming J, Ledogar RJ. *Pimatisiwin*. 2008 Summer;6(2):47-64.

### Research available to purchase from professional journals

- [Does Religion Prevent LGBTQ Acceptance? A Case Study with Queer and Trans Muslims in Toronto, Canada](#), Golshan Golriz (2021). *Journal of Homosexuality*, 68:14, 2451-2475.
- [Intersectional Narrative Practice with Queer Muslim Clients](#). Hammoud-Beckett, S. (2022). *Journal of Intercultural Studies* 43(1): 120-147.
- [“My Existence is not Haram”: Intersectional Lives in LGBTQ Muslims Living in Canada](#), Shahid Alvi & Arshia Zaidi (2021). *Journal of Homosexuality*, 68:6, 993-1014.

Read more about the who, what, why, where, and how of conversion practices and access a variety of supports and resources at [www.stopconversionpractices.ca](http://www.stopconversionpractices.ca)