Using Virtual Meetings for Community Education:
Organizing a Book Club

As your chapter launches virtual meetings and events, you’ll need ways to continue the work your chapter has done to educate your community about LGBTQ+ equality, just in a new format.

One of the best ways to learn about different experiences is through reading. So why not start a book club? There are countless LGBTQ+ titles to consider in a variety of genres. Invite your PFLAG network to participate in a book club that will help you all become better allies and stronger advocates for LGBTQ+ equality.

A few tips:

1. Follow all of the same safety and security precautions your chapter has put into place for your support group meetings.

2. Invite PFLAG chapter members, supporters, and community partners to participate in your book club.

3. Select and share the first two or three titles that your book club will discuss. Be sure to consider titles that are available for e-readers.

4. Highlight stories from multiple genres including fiction, non-fiction, plays, and short stories with diverse characters and perspectives.

Not sure where to start? Check out the titles recommended by PFLAG National available on page two-five of this document as well as at pflag.org/pflag-connects/books.
Thinking about hosting a virtual book club? This list will help you get started. While we’ve included links for purchase, PFLAG National also recommends checking out Open Library, where many of these titles can be borrowed for free by those who sign up!

- **35 Dumb Things Well Intended People Say** by Dr. Maura Cullen
- **And The Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic** by Randy Shilts
- **Angels in America** by Tony Kushner
- **Becoming A Visible Man** by Jamison Green, Ph.D.
- **Bent** by Martin Sherman
- **Blood, Marriage, Wine, & Glitter** by S. Bear Bergman
- **Boys in the Band** by Mart Crowley
- **Coming Out, Coming Home: Helping Families Adjust to a Gay or Lesbian Child** by Michael LaSala
- **Flagrant Conduct: The Story of Lawrence v. Texas** by Dale Carpenter
- **For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Not Enough** by Keith Boykin
- **Gay Rights At the Ballot Box** by Amy L. Stone
- **Gender Born, Gender Made: Raising Healthy Gender-Nonconforming Children** by Diane Ehrensaft, Ph.D.
- **The Gender Creative Child** by Diane Ehrensaft
- **Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women and the Rest of Us** by Kate Bornstein
Giovanni’s Room by James Baldwin

God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality by Jay Michaelson

Helping Your Transgender Teen: A guide for parents by Irwin Krieger

He’s My Daughter: A Mother’s Journey to Acceptance by Eve Langley

It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying, and Creating a Life Worth Living by Dan Savage and Terry Miller

The Inheritance by Matthew Lopez

The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman

The Last Time I Wore A Dress by Daphne Scholinski

Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin by John D’Emilio

Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey by Betty DeGeneres

M. Butterfly by David Henry Hwang

Making Gay History by Eric Marcus

My Husband Betty by Helen Boyd

My Two Moms: Lessons of Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family by Zach Wahls

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me by David Drake

The Normal Heart by Larry Kramer

On the Couch with Dr. Angello: Raising & Supporting Transgender Youth by Dr. Michele Angello

Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit by Jeannette Winterston

Out Law: What LGBT Youth Should Know about Their Legal Rights by Dale Carpenter

Queer Brown Voices: Personal Narratives of Latino/a Activism edited by Uriel Quesada, Letitia Gomez, and Salvador Vidal-Ortiz

Queerly Beloved by Diane and Jacob Anderson-Minshall

Raising My Rainbow: Adventures in Raising a Fabulous, Gender Creative Son by Lori Duron
Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More by Janet Mock

The Right To Be Out: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in America’s Public Schools by Stuart Biegel

Same Sex Marriage: Pro and Con by Andrew Sullivan

She’s Not the Man I Married: My Life with a Transgender Husband by Helen Boyd

She’s Not There: A Life in Two Genders by Jennifer Finney Boylan

Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches by Audre Lorde


Stone Butch Blues by Leslie Feinberg

Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution by David Carter

Straightforward: How to Mobilize Heterosexual Support for Gay Rights by Ian Ayres and Jennifer Gerarda Brown

Straight Parents, Gay Children: Keeping Families Together by Robert Bernstein

Tales of the City by Armistead Maupin

This is a Book for Parents of Gay Kids: A Question and Answer Guide to Everyday Life by Danielle Owens-Reid and Kristin Russo

Torch Song Trilogy by Harvey Fierstein

Transgender 101: A Simple Guide to a Complex Issue by Nicholas M Teich

Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender Community edited by Laura Erickson-Schroth

The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals by Stephanie A. Brill

Transgender Children and Youth: Cultivating Pride and Joy with Families in Transition by Elijah Neely


Trans-Kin: A Guide for Family and Friends of Transgender People (Volume 1) by Dr. Eleanor A. Hubbard (Editor), Cameron T. Whitley (Editor)

Transgender Employment Experiences: Gendered Perceptions and the Law by Kyla Bender-Baird
Transgender History by Susan Stryke

Transgender Warriors: The Making of History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman by Leslie Feinberg

Transgender Workplace Diversity: Policy Tools, Training Issues and Communication Strategies for HR and Legal Professionals by Jillian T. Weiss, J.D., Ph.D.

Transitions of the Heart edited by Rachel Pepper

Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son, and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance by Marsha Aizumi with Aiden Aizumi

When I Knew by Robert Trachtenberg

Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity by Julia Serano

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria by Beverly Daniel Tatum

This is not a comprehensive list, and when it comes to good books, the possibilities truly are endless. If you have a book you’d like to suggest please contact Jamie Henkel (jhenkel@pflag.org).

**BONUS CONTENT:**

Not sure what questions to ask as part of your book club program? Start by asking your readers if anyone would like to lead the conversation – someone who loves your selection might have great ideas for discussion. If not, here are a few general questions that can get any book club discussion rolling.

- What did you like best about this book?
- What did you dislike, or like least about the book?
- If you could ask the author of this book one question, what would it be?
- What feelings did reading this evoke for you?
- Would you suggest this book to someone? Why or why not?
- What do you think the author’s intention was when writing the book?