More than a decade ago, PFLAG National launched the Straight for Equality™ program by asking a simple question:

We had a theory: If we could change the way we talk about inclusion, we’d have the chance to start engaging a lot more people in the discussion. The opportunities are everywhere—in the U.S., 8 in 10 people say that they personally know someone who is lesbian or gay, while about 37% of people know someone who is transgender.

If we could transform the way we empower people to discuss the issue (and shift how those conversations sound), there would be an opportunity to start reaching each and every one of those individuals and engage them to create real culture change.

PFLAG National’s Straight for Equality program is creating this shift by providing ways to invite, educate, and engage new people into this conversation. We’re making the case that achieving equality for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) is an effort for all of us and—more importantly—we’re showing people how to do it.

Straight for Equality has radically shifted perceptions about the topic. Instead of focusing on politics and debates, we focus on helping people understand their personal journeys and to find their unique, individual, and diverse voices to speak up for LGBTQ+ friends, colleagues, and family.

Since Straight for Equality began, the conversation has happened everywhere:

- In the **workplace**, we’ve worked with more than 180 organizations in the private and nonprofit sectors as well as with government agencies to engage allies in creating inclusive environments where the everyday experiences of LGBTQ+ people can live up to the policies created to ensure equal treatment and opportunity.
- Among **people of faith**, we’re shifting the discussion away from polarizing extremes to common-ground conversations.
- And through the network of more than **400 PFLAG chapters**, we’re changing how allies in local communities understand equality.
- Our **four signature publications**, designed specifically for allies, help make these conversations possible in a fun and accessible way. More than 400,000 Straight for Equality publications have been distributed…and, even after 13 years, we’re not done yet.
- We have taken our **Something to Talk About** series live each week to a national audience. Broadcast simultaneously via Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube; we host conversations with leading experts on LGBTQ+ issues, intersectionality, diversity, inclusion, and more. Go to straightforequality.org/discussionseries to learn more.
the benefits of learning with PFLAG National

PFLAG EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS: SO MUCH MORE THAN “TRAINING”

Creating an inclusive workplace is a big project, and PFLAG National is with you every step of the way to supercharge your efforts. Bringing a PFLAG National/ Straight for Equality learning session to your organization provides you with much more than just a basic “training.” Instead, you get an interactive, supported learning experience from the moment you book your session through your post-workshop consultation.

Before your learning session, you’ll receive:

- Assistance in selecting a workshop that is right for your organization’s needs
- Information about in-person, online, and blended learning options
- Flexible scheduling based on instructor availability
- Two hours of pre-session planning with PFLAG National Staff to tailor the presentation to meet your organization’s goals
- Assistance with promoting your event including messaging guidance, and customizable marketing materials to generate excitement for your session

During your learning session, you’ll receive:

- An interactive 60-90 minute learning event with one of PFLAG National’s workplace instructors. For online sessions, you’ll also receive support from a PFLAG National Staff member to facilitate live chat with participants and post-session question and answer time
- PFLAG’s Straight for Equality in the Workplace materials for up to 75 in-person participants (additional copies available for a minimal charge); for online and web broadcast sessions, a custom webpage with links to all participant materials
- Specific, accessible action items for participants to increase LGBTQ+ inclusion in your organization

After your learning session, you’ll receive:

- Confidential one-hour assessment and observations from PFLAG National’s workplace instructor on the learning experience, potential areas for additional focus, and to help mapping next-step activities
- Use of the Straight for Equality Learning Partner Logo for one year to visibly demonstrate your organization’s commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion at work

Looking for assistance in shaping your engagement and education programs? Interested in developing a special project with the guidance of PFLAG National? Check out page 9 for more information on our consulting services.
Want to Be an Ally (or Help One Out)?: Straight for Equality in the Workplace

**LEVEL: BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE**

Corporations are leading the way in creating policies and programs that ensure equality for LGBTQ+ people. But research shows that roughly half of LGBTQ+ adults still remain closeted at work. The problem is often in workplace culture, and the solution lies in supportive allies becoming more visible and engaged. In this session, participants will find out why this issue is relevant at work, whether LGBTQ+ or not. They’ll learn the ways to reframe who allies are and the power they have to create change. We’ll also provide space to honestly discuss the barriers that allies face in expressing support in the workplace. Finally, participants will get new strategies and tools needed to help allies break through the barriers and be part of creating real inclusion.

I’m Not LGBTQ...Not That There’s Anything Wrong with That: Advanced Ally Skills

**LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED**

As allies want to become more engaged, they need support in their efforts to learn and do more, whether at work or at home. Often self-identified allies find themselves faced with common challenges to expressing support for their LGBTQ+ family, friends, and colleagues that may leave them less likely to speak up. In this session, participants will learn about the progress allies are creating and identify the barriers to more advanced support. They’ll find out how to transform the reason they’re an ally (or need one) into their case for inclusion using their personal story, get effective strategies to take on the more advanced issues, understand how to transform conflict into opportunity, and put their skills to work.

*Want to Be an Ally* is a strongly suggested prerequisite for this session.

What Would You Do?: The Advanced Ally’s Guide to Being Active in Tough Situations

**LEVEL: ADVANCED**

So you’re an ally. You’re out there. People know what your values are. You’re starting conversations and educating people. And yet, navigating different kinds of conflict in interactions remains a challenge. This session, for advanced, self-identified allies, takes that issue on and leads participants in a skill-building experience to fine-tune their ally engagement skills and develop the resources to take on the tough and tricky world of difficult situations. Participants will compare and contrast the initial ally journey with the advanced ally journey, explore the key habits and behaviors of advanced allies, and learn skills to turn conflict into paths for communication and understanding. This customized, scenario-based session features opportunities for participants to apply what they’ve learned to real-world situations and share their unique strategies for transforming allyship from good to great.

**CUSTOMIZABLE CONTENT AVAILABLE!**

Are there scenarios that you’d like to teach people to navigate? Are there issues that frequently arise and you want to help teams be more effective in their responses? PFLAG can help develop custom scenarios to create transformative learning moments.

INVITING, EDUCATING, AND ENGAGING ALLIES: STRAIGHT FOR EQUALITY SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Looking to effectively find and engage allies in the workplace? Already have allies in the room but trying to get them more active with learning opportunities?

Here’s where to start. Visit [straightforequality.org/workplace](http://straightforequality.org/workplace) to read expanded descriptions for all learning sessions.
Straight for Equality in the Workplace: Becoming a Trans Ally and Going Beyond the Binary

**LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED**

While the acronym “LGBTQ+” is frequently used to reflect a diverse community, the issues faced by each group in the acronym are very different. People who are transgender and nonbinary report higher rates of discrimination at work than gay and lesbian individuals, and the level of understanding of transgender issues is often low. This learning session applies the unique Straight for Equality approach to focus on the important educational building blocks necessary to create allies to the trans and nonbinary community. Participants start by understanding and contextualizing key terminology. They’ll learn more about the role that gender stereotypes play in bias against people who are trans and nonbinary, and find out about research that demonstrates the widespread harms of this bias. We’ll also discuss pronouns, how to use them, and what to do when people resist. Most importantly, participants will learn how to be better allies through basic transgender and nonbinary etiquette and practices.

**ADVANCED VERSION AVAILABLE!**

Have you covered the basics and feel it’s ready to refresh knowledge and put people’s skills to work? Talk to us about offering an advanced version of this session that includes opportunities for participants to navigate real-world scenarios as allies.

NEW! Straight for Equality in the Workplace: What the +?: Understanding and Supporting Expansive LGBTQ+ Identities

**LEVEL: BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE**


Not for everyone. As allies become more engaged in LGBTQ+ spaces and advocacy, they often have questions when conversations focus on “the plus”—in other words, individuals and communities with identities that go beyond the LGBTQ basics. What words should allies know—and how and when should they be used? What does it mean to provide support to people with less visible and more marginalized identities in the LGBTQ+ space? And how should allies remain on a learning journey while also not requiring those they support to provide all of their education? In this session, we’ll spend time discussing what the + after LGBTQ+ entails, how to understand the basics of more expansive identities, where to learn more about these communities to better conceptualize support, and how to navigate the path to remaining an effective ally in an evolving community. Whether you’re not a member of the LGBTQ+ community or a person who is LGBTQ+ looking to understand and serve as an ally to others in this space, this session will get you started and ready for conversations.

Available March 2021!

ONLINE OR IN-PERSON?

PFLAG’s team has been presenting online learning sessions for more than 10 years, so we are able to offer effective, engaging, and highly interactive online learning experiences for groups of any size. We are happy to offer sessions on our learning platform (Zoom), and we also have extensive experience presenting on all of the major online meeting systems. You’ll receive two PFLAG educators for all online sessions, with one presenting content and the other managing interaction throughout the session.

Want to offer your session in-person? The PFLAG Learning & Inclusion team is eager to get back on the road, and we are closely monitoring safety guidelines in our effort to return to in-person learning safely. Please let us know if you’re interested in discussion in-person as well as blended in-person combined with online learning sessions.
Thinking Strategically: Developing (and Growing) Your Ally Strategy

**LEVEL: ALL LEVELS**

In the nearly 15 years since the launch of PFLAG's Straight for Equality program, the concept of ally engagement in the workplace has become a core tenet of inclusion programs. Still, “engaging allies” is easier said than effectively done. In this session—designed for network group leaders and advocates—we’ll discuss the path that led PFLAG to develop its ally engagement strategy, the key lessons about real inclusion and engagement learned along the way, and focus on turning a theory of change into an effective program. Then participants will be led through activities to develop (and fine-tune) their ally engagement strategies to ensure that the work is intentional, focused, intersectional, and effective. People will leave with a blueprint for their work of changing hearts and minds at work.

**CROSS-NETWORK OPPORTUNITY!**

This session can be personalized to engage multiple network groups in an effort to develop intersectional ally efforts. Contact us for more information!

Allyship in an Age of Exhaustion: Getting it Better

**LEVEL: ADVANCED**

Change in times of social and political turmoil can be difficult, even for the most seasoned ally. What is the role of an ally in challenging times? What does “getting it right” actually look like? How do we express allyship when we are discouraged? Most importantly, how can advocates keep their focus and commitment to inclusion when faced with what often feels like constant attacks? In this session, we’ll look at the challenges of allyship in tumultuous times by examining some of the changes that have set the work of advocates back. We’ll also contextualize what this means for LGBTQ+ network group efforts today. Finally, we’ll discuss the signals of hope and progress that can help refocus efforts while looking at behavioral shifts that help people weather hard times, push through barriers to inclusion, and thrive as perfectly imperfect allies.

DID YOU KNOW?

Life evolves. So does PFLAG’s work.

Looking for a session focused on breaking news, current events, or new legislative issues? Need to find ways to get conversations going on around social change? We’ll develop and release additional sessions and learning opportunities throughout the year, so talk to us if you’re looking for content to respond to emerging issues.
Sharing Your Workplace Story to Create Change

LEVEL: ALL LEVELS

One of PFLAG’s core beliefs is that when we share our personal stories, we transform the conversation about LGBTQ+ equality from being about abstract rights, laws, and policies to being about real people. And while everyone has a story to tell, the question of how to share this story effectively—especially in the workplace—often goes unanswered.

This learning session will help participants identify their workplace stories about LGBTQ+ inclusion, use the building blocks of great stories to develop their narratives, get powerful story-sharing and communication skills, and have an opportunity to share their stories and receive peer feedback in a supportive environment. Session materials include a customized storytelling workbook.

CROSS-NETWORK OPPORTUNITY!
Interested in making this session a multi-ERG event, addressing multiple identities? We now offer a cross-network version of this workshop designed to highlight intersections and inspire collaborative efforts.

It’s Not About Counting Heads: Creating Truly Inclusive Network Groups

LEVEL: ALL LEVELS

It’s been said that diversity isn’t about counting heads, but about making heads count. Creating a diversity engagement strategy that accomplishes this goal isn’t always easy, but the benefits are tremendous. Culturally-inclusive LGBTQ+ ERGs better serve organizations and provide support to less visible populations. It can also create partnerships that yield great educational opportunities, dispel stereotypes, and develop inclusive workplace climates. In this session—designed for LGBTQ+ network group leaders and advocates—participants will learn about why the inclusion of communities of color is so important to LGBTQ+ ERG work and the role that LGBTQ+ people can fill as allies to people of color. The session will also take on some of the biggest challenges around engagement, brainstorm to create new efforts, and get the tools to start boosting inclusion in LGBTQ+ ERGs.

PFLAG HAS BEEN A POWERFUL COMPANION on Marriott’s journey to increase inclusion throughout our global organization. From the launch of ONE Marriott, our LGBT++ employee network, PFLAG was available with advice and support at every turn. As we began to develop marketing programs that embrace LGBT and allied consumer segments, we have relied on the team at PFLAG to provide insights about community response. Through its Straight for Equality program, PFLAG offers learning opportunities for Marriott employees that also support our corporate diversity objectives. As Marriott succeeds and ONE’s chapter network expands globally, PFLAG continues to provide guidance. For Marriott, our relationship with PFLAG has been a true partnership that continues to evolve, offering new opportunities with each step.”

Apoorva N. Gandhi
Vice President, Multicultural Affairs, Marriott International, Inc.
When Someone Comes Out: Demonstrating Support and Acceptance

The term “coming out” has become so mainstream that many people assume that the phrase—and the actions it entails—is simple. However, in spite of the progress made in acceptance for people who are LGBTQ+-identified, the process can still be harrowing, especially at work. In this session, participants will learn about what it means to come out, invite others in, and to disclose one’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity today. They will also find out about some of the ways that living authentically positively impacts various aspects of the lives of people who are LGBTQ+. We’ll also review data and research that demonstrates the power and impact of supportive families, schools, workplaces, and communities, and learn what allies can do to celebrate and support family, friends, and/or coworkers that have come out as LGBTQ+.

CUSTOMIZABLE CONTENT AVAILABLE!
This session can be customized to address specific questions, issues, or working groups (e.g., Human Resources, Talent Acquisition).

Cultivating Respect: Stopping Bullying to Create Safer Schools

For many years, news reports have been filled with the tragic stories of young people being bullied and harassed in schools, and the terrible consequences many of them face when no one is willing to speak up. This has put a topic that was often seen as “an LGBTQ+ issue” on the radar of parents everywhere. In this learning session, participants will learn about key research on bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment, understand how much of it connects to anti-LGBTQ+ attitudes and behaviors, and learn how these incidents jeopardize all students. This workplace-friendly session, which provides a great opportunity to collaborate with other ERGs, leaves participants with accessible ways to be a part of standing up to bullying and cyberbullying on a personal, family, and institutional level.

CROSS-NETWORK OPPORTUNITY!
School bullying is an issue that has an impact on all students. This session is a great opportunity to partner with other network groups to share learning space and expand the conversation. Talk to us for more information!

From the Classroom to the Boardroom: Addressing Bullying Behaviors

The issue of bullying in schools has led to widespread responses, legislation, and preventative programs. But an important question still needs to be addressed: What happens to people who exhibit bullying behavior as a youth when they grow up? Research suggests that schoolyard bullies often continue their intimidating and exclusionary behavior in the workplace. But because of the complexities of bullying, effective responses are often difficult to develop. In this session, participants will discuss the similarities—and differences—between school bullying and workplace intimidation. We’ll also discover what strategies are being used to solve the issue in schools and how they can be adapted in the workplace. Finally, we’ll identify ways to mentor victims (and prevent more from developing) and learn how to model inclusive leadership at the personal and organizational levels.
Don’t Know Much About LGBTQ+ History?
The Ultimate LGBTQ+ History and Culture Extravaganza

Stonewall. Rainbow flags. Pink triangles. Lavender lambdas. Pink, blue, and white banners. Pride parades. Disco. Fire Island, WeHo, and Boy’s Town. Harvey, Audre, Marsha, Sylvester, and even Gaga. What does it all mean? LGBTQ+ history and culture tell the story of a vibrant, diverse, and determined community that has overcome massive barriers and deeply influenced mainstream culture. In this session, participants will learn about what many of the symbols, events, and references mean. We’ll also get some great insight into the larger story as well as how it all impacts the work we continue to do—as members of the LGBTQ+ community and as allies—today.

When LGBTQ+ Past and Present Collide!
How LGBTQ+ History Can Illuminate Today’s Challenges

As the old saying goes, those who don’t know history are destined to repeat it. Looking at where the LGBTQ+ community and its allies are today sometimes feels like we’re navigating completely new ground. But is that really the case? In this session, participants will be engaged in a fast-paced learning experience that examines key facts about LGBTQ+ history and how it shapes the world we’re in today, and then closely examine key advocacy issues to understand them in greater depth. What can the history of these issues tell us about the challenges and opportunities we face? How can it inform the ways in which we take action? And how can we emulate the change strategies of key LGBTQ+ leaders to elevate our voices and create change today?

*Don’t Know Much About LGBTQ History* is a strongly suggested prerequisite for this session.

Exclusive LGBTQ+ Legislative Issue Briefings

Local, state, and federal legislative efforts that impact the LGBTQ+ community continue to make headlines. Consequently, many organizations are looking for ways to educate leadership and employees about what these laws mean for business and inclusion. Whether it’s employment nondiscrimination legislation like the Equality Act, laws related to bullying and protecting youth, or questions being considered by the Supreme Court, understanding the facts and the context is a critical element of solid corporate citizenship. PFLAG National—a nonpartisan organization—now offers one-hour, workplace-appropriate issue overview briefings. Learn about what key issues are, where they currently stand in the legislative process, and how people can become further engaged. Using PFLAG’s inclusive, diverse, and education-focused approach, this session provides unique and timely learning opportunities for participants. Please note: Content for these briefings is dependent on current issues/events.

PFLAG Keynote Addresses

Have a specific topic you’d like to discuss for an event? Looking for a speaker to kick things off? PFLAG National now offers keynote speakers on a wide variety of LGBTQ+ topics, from coming out to allies, legislative agendas to LGBTQ+ culture. For more information, please contact Jamie Henkel at jhenkel@pflag.org.

Have an Idea for Learning and Engagement? Need Help in Making It a Reality?

Each year, the PFLAG Learning & Inclusion team takes on a limited number of consulting projects. Interested in developing an ally engagement program? Want to develop your own learning modules? Looking to embark on an LGBTQ+ marketing campaign? Contact Jean-Marie Navetta, *Director of Learning & Inclusion*, at jnavetta@pflag.org for more information.
PFLAG National partnerships

INVEST IN A 2021 PFLAG NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

PFLAG National respects relationships, especially with our corporate partners who frequently demonstrate courage through inclusion and acceptance of people who are LGBTQ+ and their allies in the workplace.

Investment in a PFLAG National partnership affirms your corporate commitment to organizational diversity and inclusion, to engage with individuals in the essential work of culture change, and to high-level corporate visibility and leadership on LGBTQ+ acceptance.

PFLAG National Partnerships support a full range of work that has a beneficial impact on LGBTQ+ inclusion in the workplace, schools, faith-based institutions, and communities. Packages are optimized to provide you with a single agreement and a single point of contact to ensure that your benefits are delivered and needs are always met. Partnerships can be customized to meet your organization’s unique needs.

PFLAG National Partners receive a comprehensive collection of benefits that provide broad brand exposure to external audiences as well as key resources to help build your organization’s inclusion efforts. A few of the key benefits of partnership include:

- **Exclusive PFLAG Updates:** Understand the issues. Join PFLAG National leaders and subject-matter experts for insights on developments critical to LGBTQ+ acceptance and inclusion. These web-based briefings will explore the impact of legislative, legal, and social science advancements and will be offered exclusively to National Partners and major funding partners.

- **Custom Events in Your Region:** Engage with PFLAG National and other National Partner corporations through customized events that will help you meet D&I or marketing objectives. Past events include B2B training series sponsored by KPMG, HOT!, a New York City event (hosted by Jenn-Air) featuring guests like Food Network celebrity chef Anne Burrell and Bravo’s Andy Cohen; and house parties across the country.

- **PFLAG National Events:** Attend exclusive events with other National Partner corporations that celebrate a shared commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion in the workplace and showcase the work of communities across the country through the PFLAG Chapter Network. For the first time in 2019, PFLAG offered our National Partners tickets to attend the biennial PFLAG National Convention, which provides additional learning opportunities. We are including this benefit again in all 2021 partnership packages.

For additional information about partnership levels, benefits, and customized programs, please contact:

LaTissia Mitchell, Foundation and Corporate Giving Manager
lmitchell@pflag.org
(202) 683-9306
book your session

READY TO BECOME AN INCLUSION SUPERHERO AT YOUR ORGANIZATION?

Here’s how to do it.

Pick your session(s).

Choose the learning sessions that interest you and determine target dates for your event. You can find expanded descriptions for learning sessions at straightforequality.org/workplacesessions.

Please note that all learning sessions will be available online only until it is safe for staff to travel for in-person events. This will be an evolving situation, so please talk to us about your plans well in advance of your desired date.

Contact us.

Let’s start the conversation. We’ll be able to help find the best learning session for your needs and provide online session demos to help you understand the content. We can also provide details on session costs at this time. Contact:

Jamie Henkel, Learning and Inclusion Manager
jhenkel@pflag.org or call (202) 657-6998

Book your session!

Ready to make it official? We strongly suggest booking a session a minimum of two months in advance to ensure that we’ll be able to accommodate your request. (Please note that June and October will book up several months in advance, so plan early!) After your session date is confirmed, we’ll schedule time to ensure that your session is customized to meet your unique needs and goals.

Spread the word!

PFLAG’s Straight for Equality team can assist you with ideas for promoting your event, suggested timelines, and provide easy-to-use customizable templates for flyers, posters, and e-mail blasts to get great visibility for your sessions.

EXCITED? WANT TO LEARN EVEN MORE RIGHT NOW?

pflag.org and straightforequality.org
/PFLAG and /S4Equality
@pflag and @S4Equality
linkedin.com/company/PFLAG-S4Equality
THE CREATION OF THE LGBTQA EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUP AT BAE SYSTEMS, INC. WAS A STEP TOWARD ACHIEVING OUR GOAL OF FURTHERING AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERY EMPLOYEE IS VALUED AND OUR DIFFERENCES CONTRIBUTE TO OUR BUSINESS SUCCESS.

Working with PFLAG and leveraging the Straight for Equality program helped us kick off the training element of our employee resource group. Their flexibility in adapting training sessions that were tailored for our culture—the training they offered was not one-sided or biased—meant we were able to offer sessions that were open-ended to encourage open and candid dialogue. By working with us, they helped our employee resource group to deliver sessions that educate on how to become allies to the LGBTQ community.

Working with Straight for Equality, we were able to customize presentations for three successful learning sessions that fit well within our culture and kept our employees engaged. The Straight for Equality staff was professional, responsive, and very supportive last year, and we are already working with them on some of our programs for the future.

Curt Gray
SVP Human Resources & Administration, BAE Systems Inc.

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