

Society of Catholic Social Scientists

Resolution on Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) and Gender Identity
Change Efforts (GICE)

Approved and passed by unanimous vote of the Board October 30, 2021

Whereas research has failed to find a fixed genetic basis (the “gay gene”), and has found a strong influence of environmental variables, on human sexual orientation (Ganna et al., 2019; Polderman et al., 2015); and

Whereas abundant evidence documents that nonheterosexual sexual attractions can change, and often do change throughout the life course (Diamond, 2016; Diamond & Rosky, 2016); and

Whereas one in three persons with homosexual attractions desire to replace them with heterosexual attractions (Meyer, 2020); and

Whereas many persons have reported successful resolution of homosexual attractions (Beckstead, 2002; Core Issues Trust, 2021; Jones & Yarhouse, 2011; Rosik, Lefevor, et al., 2021; D. P. Sullins et al., 2021; Williams & Woning, 2018); and

Whereas the imposition or coercion of a therapeutic goal on an unwilling client violates the ethical norms of therapy and is inconsistent with best practices; and

Whereas claims of alleged harm from attempting to change sexual orientation are inconsistent, unconvincing and without basis in sound social science (Rosik, Sullins, et al., 2021; D. Sullins, 2021; D. P. Sullins et al., 2021); and

Whereas the right to freedom of speech and conscience is not to be illegitimately abridged by governmental authority;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Society of Catholic Social Scientists supports a client’s right to freely choose to engage in therapy that is open to exploring his or her potential to decrease or change unwanted same-sex attraction or behavior;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Society of Catholic Social Scientists supports a client’s right to freely choose to engage in therapy that is open to exploring his or her potential to decrease or change unwanted gender identity or expression that is incongruent with the person’s biological sex; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Society of Catholic Social Scientists opposes efforts to ban or restrict such therapy.

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