



*Symposium to mark Universal Children's Day at the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences
 21st of November from 9:30 to 15:30*

Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity in Children and Youth

The Foster Care Research Centre Groningen is pleased to commemorate Universal Children's Day this year with an event on the 21st of November on the topic of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity in Children and Youth.

Organized by researchers from Audre project and professionals from Cornerstones Jeugdzorg, the symposium will gather students, researchers, practitioners and policy makers to discuss the experiences and needs of LGBTQ identified (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) children and youth. The symposium will also provide a space for exchanging information on issues LGBTQ-identified youth and their educators and care providers face, including high-risk behavior, physical and emotional wellbeing, social support, and gender expression. The symposium is supported by Sustainable Society.

Symposium keynote presenters include Jan Bridget (GALYIC, UK), and Hanneke Felten (Movisie).

When: 21st of November from 9:30 to 15:30
Where: Van Swinderen Huys.
Oude Boteringestraat 19, 9712 GC Groningen
Entrance: Free. Limited seats. Register by sending an email to:
l.van.der.weerd@rug.nl
For whom: Students from Pedagogical and Educational Sciences,
Psychology and Sociology, researchers, practitioners
working in youth care and educational settings
Language: English

Programme

9:30 - 9:45 Welcoming words and launching of Audre project.
Mónica López López & Mijntje ten Brummelaar,
University of Groningen; Leo Vincent, Cornerstones
Jeugdzorg
9:45 - 11:00 Homophobia Awareness Training. Jan Bridget, GALYC
11:00 - 11:15 Coffee break
11:15 - 12:30 LHBT youth: minority stress and empowerment.
Hanneke Felten, Movisie
12:30 - 13:30 Lunch break
13:30 - 14:30 Needs Assessment Tool (NAT) and Impact Assessment
Tool (IMP). Jan Bridget, Jan Bridget, GALYC
14:30 - 15:30 What have we learnt today? Take away messages.
Leo Vincent, Cornerstones Jeugdzorg



Background

In 1954, the United Nations set the 20th of November as the Universal Children's Day with the aim of promoting children's rights and welfare. On this same date, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). The CRC requires governments to realise every child's rights to adequate living conditions, health and education, as well as their rights to family life, to be protected from violence, to have their views heard, and not to be discriminated against.

Audre Project: Addressing the needs of LGBTQIA+ youth in out-of-home care

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex Asexual (LGBTQIA) youth in the child protection and welfare system may experience several disadvantages during their childhood. For them, stressors (e.g., discrimination, stigma, lack of tailored services) may add up to the experiences of being placed in out-of-home care. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to create a stimulating, non-discriminatory context, where there is room for the young person's sexual orientation and gender identity while in out-of-home care.

With the Audre project, the research team aims to gain knowledge about the experiences of LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults during their time in out-of-home care. In addition, the researches will focus on the perceptions of carers (e.g., group care workers and foster carers) who are responsible for the well-being of these young people while in care. Through an innovative participatory research design, youth and young adults will be included throughout various stages of the research project. The final goal of Audre project is to gain further insight on how to create a safe and supportive child protection and welfare context, in which youth feel accepted and are equipped to express their (gender) identity.

The project is funded by Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Seksualiteit (FWOS). The members of Audre at the University of Groningen are Mónica López López, Mijntje ten Brummelaar, Hans Grietens, Elianne Zijlstra, and Charly Jazbor.

Cornerstones Jeugdzorg

Cornerstones Jeugdzorg is a youth care provider situated in the north of Netherlands. Cornerstones provides professional family home care for young people who cannot live with their biological families. Our locations are spread across the provinces of Groningen and Drenthe. Cornerstones attempts to bring innovative practice to the youth care field through partnering with research and commissioning projects such as the development of a new interactive quality management system based upon the Quality4Children standards. Cornerstones works to implement international perspectives and best practice in her work; providing educational and training opportunities for youth care professionals on a range of different themes such as working with NEET (not in education, employment, or training) young people, LGBT issues, young people from non-dutch backgrounds, TeamParenting, SaferCare plans, and discrimination and inclusion.

