

# An Important Message About the Safety of Our Children and Youth

Did you know that children and youth are teased, harassed and subjected to violence every day because someone thinks they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender\*?

- Half of the bullying in elementary and middle school is related to gender or sexual orientation.
- Mistreatment of children and youth often comes from friends and family members.

Hatred towards lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people creates an unsafe environment for all children and youth. Those who are mistreated have more chances of becoming depressed, using drugs or alcohol, missing school or ending their own lives.

***We can make a difference in the lives of our children and youth!***



We can encourage children and youth to respect themselves and others with our words and actions. We can also provide examples of understanding, kindness, and love.

- Accept children and youth by respecting them for who they are.
- Avoid using disrespectful language or labels.
- Make it clear that name-calling, teasing, bullying and violence are hurtful and unacceptable.
- Talk with children and youth about gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Encourage children and youth to express their feelings and thoughts and be comfortable being who they are.

Somos Familia works to build safe, supportive families and communities. We create support and acceptance for families with Latina/o LGBTQ youth. Please contact us for information about family support and community education.

*\* Transgender refers to people who have a gender identity that is different than the sex they were assigned to at birth or who do not conform to the gender roles that are traditional in society.*



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For more information, contact:  
[somosfiliabay@hotmail.com](mailto:somosfiliabay@hotmail.com)  
510-725-7764  
[www.somosfiliabay.org](http://www.somosfiliabay.org)

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