

You have the right to be healthy

- We believe that Gender and Sexually Diverse (GSD) youth and adults should be given the best health care possible and we train our staff to be aware of their needs
- We believe that transgender people have the right to appropriate health care, including people's right to be supported through transitioning, should they choose to do so
- We empower GSD people to look after their own physical, sexual, and mental health
- We recognize that homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexism can seriously damage the health of GSD people

You have the right to privacy

- We understand that a person's sexual orientation is often private and we do not share this information with third parties without prior consent



You have the right to education

- We believe that places of learning should recognize and value diversity and support both staff and students to come out should they choose to do so
- GSD people should be able to easily access accurate and relevant information, and an education that furthers their knowledge and develops their abilities
- We are an organization which supports GSD young people and adults to learn in a safe and supportive environment

You have the right to be yourself

- We believe that GSD young people and adults have the right to express themselves in their own way and forge their own identity
- We support GSD young people and adults coming out, and respect their individuality
- We recognize that sexual orientation/gender identity is an important part of GSD people's lives; however, it is only one part of a GSD person's life, and we challenge negative stereotypes and strive to promote a positive image of GSD people within our organization
- We value GSD people as equal citizens, putting policies in place where appropriate in order to promote their dignity and rights
- We support GSD people's choice around how they wish to be addressed by gender/pronoun, recognizing the significance of pronouns in their lives



You have the right to government support at all levels

- We believe that local, provincial, and Canadian governments have a duty to ensure that GSD young people and the wider GSD community can access and enjoy all of their rights
- The law should protect GSD people and ensure that they are treated equally and with dignity
- We stand up for the rights of GSD people and will speak out when appropriate against any law or practice which unfairly discriminates against GSD people

You have the right to be heard

- We find ways to ensure that both GSD young people and adults' voices can be heard within our organization and represented at any level
- GSD people's views are important to us and are respected and valued



You have the right to housing

- We take all reasonable steps to protect GSD young people in our programs from harassment in their homes, from neighbours, or in their neighbourhoods
- We reach out to GSD young people and ensure that they are aware of support services available for them to remain in their homes
- We reach out to GSD people and ensure that they are aware of their rights and support services available if they become homeless
- We listen to GSD people and respect their housing needs
- We make sure that staff who are involved in assisting people to meet their housing needs are aware of and sensitive to the issues facing GSD young people and adults



You have the right to be looked after

- We believe that GSD people are entitled to the best possible care and good standard of living
- We support GSD young people to live with their parents where this is beneficial to their health and wellbeing, and we support them to have their say in the care that is given to them
- We ensure that GSD young people get the best possible care in care homes, and have their say in the care that is given to them

You have the right to form relationships and have a family

- We celebrate and support GSD people's relationships, providing they are free from abuse
- We support GSD young people to decide their own friendships and spend time around people they feel comfortable with, in an environment they feel comfortable in
- We celebrate and support GSD parents and ensure that their right to be a parent is upheld

Our Mission

The John Howard Society of North Island is a charitable organization whose mission is to provide programs and support to help children, youth, adults, and families lead safer and healthier lives.

Administration Office

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Issues, concerns, or questions related to sexual orientation or gender issues? Contact the John Howard GSD Champion:
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gsdchampion@jhsni.bc.ca

The John Howard Society of North Island's programs are situated in the unceded territories of the Kwakwaka'wakw, Laich-kwil-tach, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Coast Salish peoples.

JohnHoward

Gender & Sexual Diversity Charter of Rights



Building Safer and Healthier Communities

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