

# BREAKING THE SILENCE

...to stop the cycle of pain

## Child Abuse in America: It Should Be...



It *should* be a queer issue. Some of us *know* it's our issue... but others of us, yeah, not so much. I know it's complicated for some of us, but it really should be our issue as much if not more than anyone else.

I'm talking about child abuse.

I'm talking about four children in this country who die every single day at the hands of people who are supposed to love, nurture and protect them. But there are worst things than dying... so I'm also talking about the nearly ONE MILLION children in American every year that are beaten, raped, tortured, and used as sex slaves. Yes, all of this happens in America today. What's worse is that the land of the free has no real liberty or justice for those children.

Who among us in this community of LGBT+ cannot relate to their oppression?

You won't hear about those children on Dateline's "To Catch a Predator" or, for the most part, anywhere else in mainstream media. The media covers the sensationalized but comparably rare instances of stranger molest, rape, or abduction/murder and, of course, Internet sexual predators. But the truth is that the true danger to children of this country is NOT the slimy strangers with candy... it is people in their own circles of trust: Parents, Step-Parents, Grand-Parents, Aunts, and Uncles!

Yet, we look the other way... individually and as a society... and we treat child abuse like it is somebody else's business and somebody else's problem to solve.

Who is going to solve this problem?

Will it be the justice system? Not likely. Within that system there are incest-exception loopholes in the laws that, in 44 states, treat incest as a family matter and sentence child molesters and their victims to family therapy with each other. Within that system we do not make most familial pedophiles, whose only victims are their own children or family members, register as sex offenders! And it doesn't matter because, within that system, we don't even know where most of our registered sex offenders live or go on a daily basis anyway!

The truth is there is no such thing as a rehabilitated pedophile and there is no such thing as a one-time child molester.

Will it be the civil rights organizations? Not likely. Within those organizations it is, more often than not, the rights of the full-sized (adult) citizens that matter above all else! Within those organizations, far too often, there is a well-orchestrated dance the defend the civil rights of pedophiles by using double-talking experts (I use the term loosely)

who testify about socially accepted myths like False Memory Syndrome and Parental Alienation Syndrome!

The truth is that most child molesters will molest in excess of 400 different children in their lifetime... but our civil rights organizations protect their right to do so!

Will it be the local social welfare organizations? Not likely. Within those organizations there is almost always a shortage of workers which results in over one million reports of child abuse each year that are not even being investigated! Within those organizations so many of the workers are under-educated, under-trained, and over-worked that over one million cases get investigated but no action is taken! And, it doesn't matter because, for the less than one million cases which do get investigated and have action taken the goal is far too often family preservation services and reunification.

The truth is that one out of every ten children who die each year from child abuse had prior family-preservation services!

I ask again, please tell me, who is going to solve this problem?

It is we the people who can and must solve this problem. The justice system, the civil rights organizations, the social welfare organizations can only continue to operate in the fashion they operate... and the abuse can only continue to kill and deeply wound our children... because we the people refuse to see the problem and/or refuse to accept that it is OUR problem.

I ask again, please tell me, who among us in this community of LGBT+ cannot relate to their oppression?

If I had to choose between LGBT+ issues and fighting for real safety for our children, I would choose to fight for the children without a second thought. The children do not have a voice of their own, but I hear their silent screams and I choose to be their voice to the world. This is my passion; this is my reason for existing. The good news is that I don't have to choose one over the other, and neither do the rest of us. This should not be a political issue... or a right wing vs. left wing issue... or a queer vs. straight issue... this should be a human issue. We can unite on this issue just as we do on many other issues, and truly make a difference in our world for many generations to come!

Child Abuse is everybody's business, child abuse is everybody's problem, and if not us then who?

I leave you with one final question: **Will YOU join me in this fight?**