

# **LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA**

**Located at Dickinson College  
Archives & Special Collections**

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## **Documents Online**

**Title:** Text of Newspaper article about anti-discrimination law in York, PA (draft)

**Date:** 1993

**Location:** LGBT-080 Peg & Delma Welch Collection

**Contact:**

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We seek the inclusion of sexual orientation provisions in local laws that bar discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations on the basis of race, creed, gender, national origin, and disability.

People who argue that sexual orientation does not belong on this list, because they believe that homosexuality is a matter of choice, are missing the point. Civil rights laws are designed to protect those who have been discriminated against as a class. Lesbians and gay men certainly qualify on that basis. And several categories currently protected under civil rights status, such as religious belief and marital status, are unquestionably matters of choice.

To pretend that there is no discernible gay population in York is ludicrous. There is no reason to believe that York differs from any other location: approximately 10% of the population self-identifies as lesbian or gay. The fact is that there is a large and flourishing gay community here--many vote.

To pretend or assume that there is no discrimination or harassment or abuse in York based on sexual orientation (or presumed sexual orientation) is an ignorant and insulting belief. One only has to read the papers to realize that civil rights and human rights violations and abuses abound.

It is important for city council members not to allow the discussion of an ordinance inclusion of sexual orientation and marital status to take on the features of a 'contest', with the most phone calls winning. To do so when the matter on the table is as basic and important as civil rights protection for a class of persons is to trivialize the issue. We are looking for leadership from our elected officials.

And most importantly, our elected officials need to firmly separate discussion of civil rights protection from discussion of 'morality'. This is not a religious issue. Religious and/or moral beliefs of any individual should not and must not determine the civil rights protection of another.

text of newspaper ad  
Re Ordinance  
1993