

# **Lesbian and Homosexual Clients in our Daily Work**

## **How to Ensure a Positive Professional Encounter**

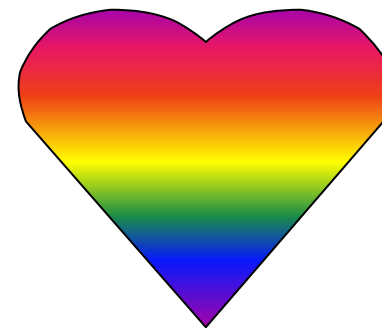
- Family Counselling Office in Drammen, Norway
- The office is a part of the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family (Bufetat)
- The directorate organizes all the family counselling offices in Norway as well as the governmental child welfare services

- The Norwegian government specifically underlines that all minority groups preferably will be treated within the ordinary social and health services.

- Rosa Kompetanse (Pink Competence)
- This project is a part of a national collaboration between the Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Affairs and the Norwegian National Association of Lesbian and Gay Liberation (LLH).
- Rosa Kompetanse aims at enhancing knowledge about gay and lesbian persons among social and health professionals to ensure better and more focused services for this group.

# LGBT persons

- **L**esbian women
- **G**ay (Homosexual men)
- **B**isexual persons
- **T**ranssexual persons



# Essentialism vs. Constructivism

- The ever recurrent question :

Are homosexual persons born that way, or have they become that way ?

# Clinical and practical aspects

## **Stereotyping**

### **The general and the specific**

### **The impact of the clinical legacy:**

- Belief that the helping profession is not biased;
- Trust, confidence and freedom from fear;
- Non judgemental and supportive environment;
- Knowledge.

## **Internalized homophobia**

### **The "taken for granted"**

### **"Coming out" – minority stress**

Equal opportunities – which are the topic of this conference – will inevitably touch upon challenging and controversial issues.



**Thank you very much for your attention**

**The European Union has designated 2007 as ‘European Year of Equal Opportunities for All’. The Year aims at making people in the EU more aware of their rights not to be discriminated against and at promoting equal opportunities in various areas, from healthcare to the workplace. Activities at national and EU level will focus on many grounds of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation.**

