Dear sir:

In response to your November 21, 2019, request for input to your report on “conversion therapy,” also known as SOGICE, we want to give you, and your colleagues, a brief introduction to the United States Joint Statement (USJS).

The USJS is a national educational initiative on sexual orientation change efforts, SOGICE. We, Guy Albert, PhD, and Jim Walker, MA, MFT, have been guiding the partnership initiative for almost 5 years.  We’re directing this initiative as two grassroots advocates, not as an organization.

The US Joint Statement would the first SOGICE national educational initiative partnership by the major US medical and psychological associations. Fifteen national associations have signed onto the USJS so far. Here is a link to a list of those US associations, and one international association, WPATH: <https://www.gaylesta.org/USJS-Signatories>

Here is a link to our web pages currently hosted by Gaylesta: The Psychotherapist Association for Gender and Sexual Diversity. We are members of Gaylesta and they have helped us along the way. <https://usjs.org>

Attached is an article published recently in the New England Journal of Medicine mentioning our initiative. The authors highlight the importance of continuing education about the harms and impact of SOGICE.

In this phase of development, we continue working with the American Psychological Association and a handful of other major national associations to become the final partners. In approximately 12-18 months we plan hosting a workshop to advance national SOGICE education and affirmative treatments.

If you’d like to be included in our listserv for periodic updates, please let us know. We are very appreciate for the work all of you are doing on this very foundational issue.

Thank you,

Guy and Jim

**Jim Walker, MA, MFT**

**Guy Albert, Ph.D.**

**USJS, United States Joint Statement against “Conversion Therapy”** <http://usjs.org>