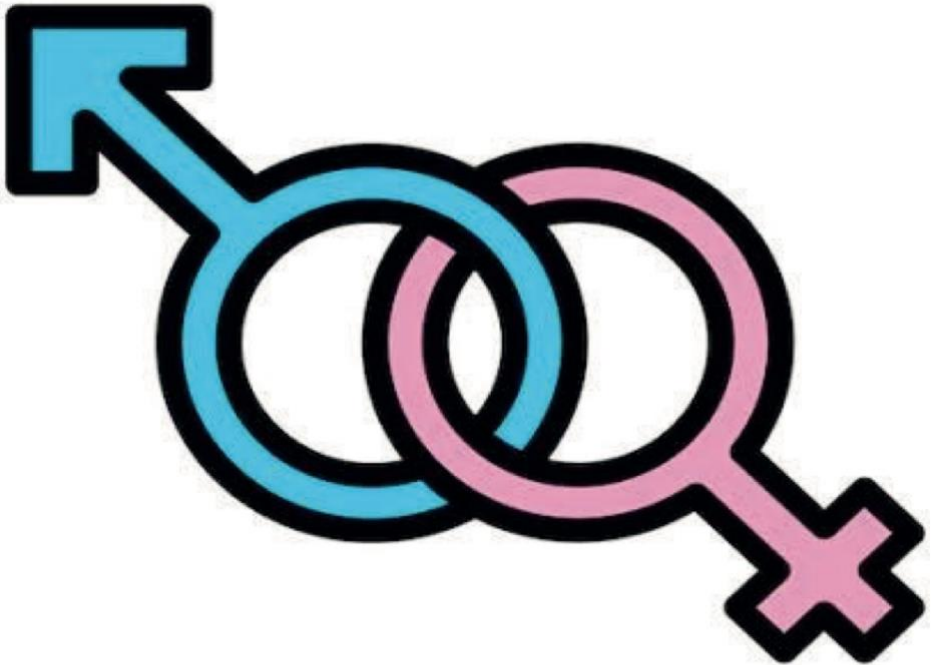


**A Rational & Respectful
Response To**
Same-Sex Attractions



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1. INTRODUCTION

Considering we are currently in what is popularly referred to as '*Pride month*', we believe it would be necessary to discuss the topic of Homosexuality. That being said, whilst the Islamic position is clear on Homosexuality, it remains imperative to remain respectful in conducting a logical refutation of it.

Whilst there are many individuals and organizations that are pushing forward such ideologies with ulterior motives, there are the few sincere Muslims and individuals who get caught up in the indoctrinating narratives.

Our starting point is in declaring Islam's clear stance on the prohibition of Homosexuality. A few years ago, this would not have been required, however, with the reformist movements prevalent today, which includes Muslims involved in same sex relationships trying to revamp the tenets of Islam, and make it malleable to include their beliefs within its scope, it thus becomes necessary, as a starting point, to mention unequivocally that the position in Islam is that homosexuality is forbidden, and thus, prohibited.

Even a monkey on the side of the road, or one who believes we've come from monkeys, will attest that, at the very least, a Muslim is one who believes in the Quran. Rejection of the Quran is thus, kufr (disbelief).

Islam = Belief in the Quran.

Nevertheless, even if they are those who acrobatically attempt at reinterpreting the Quran to include notions of acceptance of homosexuality, for the sake of brevity, we are not going to argue against that. This article is meant to discuss homosexuality with already the presupposition that Islam prohibits it (which is the undeniable truth).

What we will, however, commence with, is to layout the basic makeup on the source of its prohibition.

2. POSITION IN ISLAM

A. QURAN

CHAPTER 7 OF THE QURAN (SURAH AL-ARAAF)

*“And [remember] when Lūt said to his people, “Do you commit such immorality as no one has preceded you with from among the worlds? (7:80) Indeed, you approach (have sex with) men with desire, **instead of women**. Rather, you are a transgressing people.” (7:81)*

Whilst it is already foreseen that the definition provided for “*approach*” will be disputed, the verse is further self-explanatory and its meaning remains clear, without the need of arguing the definition of “*approach*”. For this reason, we will not even cite the interpretations of the leading exegetes in respect of this verse. However, for any person sincere seeking the popular understanding, both Imam Ibn Kathir¹ and Imam Qurtubi² defined “*approach*” as **intercourse with men**.

¹ Tafsir Ibn Kathir -Volume 4- Darussalam Publication- Page 108 and 109.

² Tafseer Qurtubi - Aljaami li Ahkaam Alquraan- page 278 volume 9 - Mu'assasatur Risaalah

The punishment meted out to the people of Lut, for the act of homosexuality is further mentioned in Quran:

“Then when Our decree came to pass, We turned them [towns of Sodom] upside down and rained upon them hardened stones of clay, one after another, (7: 82) (which were) marked from your Lord. And Allah’s punishment is not far from the wrongdoers. “(7: 83)

At this point already, we can leave a bookmark, and deem this case closed. We have already deduced that:

1. A Muslim is he who believes in the Quran.
2. The Quran categorically states that homosexuality is *“immoral”* and in committing same, one will be among the *“transgressing people”*.

Notwithstanding the above, the purpose of this discussion is in convincing, firstly, Muslims, that homosexuality is immoral, and secondly, non-Muslims as well (which will be by way of its logical refutation due to their disbelief in the Quran).

Hence, let us further elaborate on its prohibition through the *Hadith* collection (Sayings of the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him).

B. HADITH

1. Ibn ‘Abbās (رضي الله عنهما) narrates that the Prophet (Sallahu Alayhi Wassalam) said: “***Cursed is the one who does the action of the people of Lūt.***” He (Sallahu Alayhi Wassalam) repeated it thrice. [Aḥmad]
2. Jābir (رضي الله عنه) reported that the Prophet (Sallahu Alayhi Wassalam) said: “***What I fear most for my Ummah (Nation) is the action of the People of Lūt.***” [Tirmidhī]

Of course, conveniently, there is the floating around notion of the hadith collection being unreliable, and that such scholars who have transmitted the hadith narrations have not relayed it adequately. To make such claim, one would need to have knowledge on the science of hadith, and its grading process to be classified as “sound” or “weak”.

We will not use this platform to educate the masses on the meticulous process used to certify whether a hadith was in fact sound or weak (Whether the prophet Muhammad Sallahu Alayhi Wassalam, did indeed say it or not). What we will, however, say, is that the two referenced narrations above, by “*Ahmad*” and “*Tirmidhi*” are from amongst the top

9 hadith scholars, and thus, such hadiths are deemed reliable.

We can further expound on the views of the leading scholars of jurisprudence, but already foresee that liberals will deem them as persons non-grata.

NOTE:

Now that it is proven that homosexuality is proven sinful in the Qur'anic discourse, we have one of two options. The simpler task would be in proving the veracity of the Quran. Once that is proven, then everything it legislates must thus, necessarily, be without further questioning.

However, despite crystal clear proofs of the veracity of the Quran, people remain in their ignorance, and hence, it is then necessary to elaborate on immorality/morality through logical arguments in lieu of convincing them further.

In a nutshell, all of the '*grey areas of Islam*' is either considered moral or immoral by the masses, hence under debate. Why is it moral /immoral? Well quite frankly, because the Quran says so. It is that simple. If the Quran is proven to be divine, then we don't have to elaborate further. However, if contested, we shall then use logic itself to prove same.

We now move onto the aspect of immorality viewed in light of logic itself.

3. LOGIC

Through the years of engaging in discussions with homosexuals, regarding the religious aspect of it, the starting point, of course, is: "*Why is it fine?*"

To which, often, the following justifications are provided.

We shall deal with each contention separately below.

A. Absence of Harm

Majority of people who advocate towards homosexuality, claim that “*I am not harming anyone so what’s the problem?*”

This is, in fact, a philosophical concept, wherein all things which do not harm, should be tolerated. Premised on John Stuart Mill’s ‘*Harm Principle*³, homosexuals believe that by being homosexual, they are not harming anyone, and hence, it should be condoned. Homosexuals, thus, frown upon mainstream religions, as such scriptures totally forbid such practices. This will be expounded further below.

We will claim:

Homosexuality is forbidden.

If they say:

Homosexuality is fine as it causes **no harm** to others.

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harm_principle#cite_note-leeds1-1

We will ask:

Is incest with one's mother then fine as well? There is no harm.

If it is said:

The dynamic between a mother and a child and the power play between them makes it wrong.

We will ask:

Then what about intercourse with a dog? There is no dynamic and power play between the two.

Or what about the act of necrophilia (sexual intercourse with a corpse).

The harm principle doesn't solve anything. If anything, it legitimizes all other behavior which even a homosexual will agree is improper. If, however, any person claims incest is fine... such a person is fundamentally troubled.

However, we will further claim:

In fact, it does cause harm! Statistics have proven that the following issues have been prevalent amongst homosexuals:

- Anal Cancer⁴.
- Anal Incontinence⁵. Due to repeated abuse to the rectum, the anus does not close thereafter, and the door way to defecation of feces is constantly open, resulting in patients wearing pads and nappies.
- STDs are more prevalently spread through homosexual relationships as opposed to heterosexual relationships⁶.

⁴ Meredith S, Shiels, Ruth M. Pfeiffer, Anil K. Chaturvedi, Aimee R. Kreimer and Eric A. Engels. Impact of the HIV epidemic on the incidence rates of Anal Cancer in the United States, JNCI, October 5, 2012.

⁵ The ins and Outs of Gay Sex: a medical handbook for men (Dell Publishing, New York, NY, 1999).

⁶<https://www.cdc.gov/msmhealth/STD.htm#:~:text=Gay%2C%20bisexual%2C%20and%20other%20men%20who%20have%20sex,and%20other%20men%20who%20have%20sex%20with%20men.>

- HIV transmission amongst homosexuals is 18 times greater than in a penis-vagina relation.⁷
- Anal intercourse is seriously harmful to the anus of humans, as the tissues, unlike the vagina, were not designed for penetration. Hence, the risk of tears to the tissue is severe⁸.

Whether it does or doesn't, is, in fact, not the contention in which our argument is premised, and, in fact, we are satisfied on refuting the above justification on the basis of our incest example alone. However, we reproduce the above medical harmful effects to prove that the harm principle can be refuted on its own standards too!

⁷ HIV Transmission risk through anal intercourse: systematic review, meta-analysis and implications for HIV prevention. Int J Epidemiol. 2010 Aug; 39 (4): 1048-63.

⁸ https://m.timesofindia.com/life-style/health-fitness/photo-stories/6-dangers-of-anal-sex-as-per-gynaecologists/amp_etphotostory/60743393.cms

B. Public vs Private

We will claim:

Homosexuality is forbidden.

If they say:

Homosexuality is fine as what one does in his household
(privately) should not bother anyone else.

We will ask:

Is killing people quietly fine then too?

If is said:

Murder at the very least is something all persons can agree
is immoral.

We will ask:

Then what about quietly taking heroine in one's home? Is that fine? Of course not.

Is incest committed quietly fine?

They will now claim:

One of the other defenses (listed herein) to which we will respond accordingly. For example, they will claim "it causes no harm unlike heroine". To which we will respond accordingly (refutation of the absence of harm claim).

C. **Desire**

We will claim:

Homosexuality is forbidden.

If they say:

Homosexuality is fine because it is the person's **inherent desire**, which is uncontrollable.

We will claim:

What about a sociopath who loves to murder and has the earnest desire of killing?

Or what about the person who sincerely desires to sleep with his daughter?

Why not sleep with baboons then?

The issue with the desire argument is that it is particularly always shaped by one's personal ethics. If a person's ethics is distorted, he would feel desirous of sleeping with animals.

D. Consent

We will claim:

Homosexuality is forbidden.

If they say:

Homosexuality is fine because as long as it is **consensual** it should not be any other person's business.

We will ask:

What about a mother who consensually sleeps with her child?

E. Love

We will claim:

Homosexuality is forbidden.

If they say:

Homosexuality is fine as love should not have boundaries and limits.

We will ask:

What about a mother and child in an incestuous relationship who truly love one another?

F. NATURAL

We were, in fact, once told by a close friend

“Why does Islam prohibit homosexuality, when homosexuality is found not only in humans but in animals too? Hence, essentially natural.”

We will say:

Behavior amongst the animal kingdom is not precedent for a human being. Our thinking capacity is far superior, and hence, we cannot, as the proverb goes, *“behave like an animal”*.

However! If on the basis that homosexuality is found in animals - is proof for us to behave in a like-fashion, then let us also enact other practices of the animal kingdom such as:

- The female spider, after copulation, if hungry, eats her male lover thereafter, to death.⁹

⁹ *“Why homosexuality is prohibited in Islam”* Abu Zaynab Abd-al Rahman al-Qawim (2015) – Page 68.

- The male porcupine urinates on his female lover to show intent. If she consents, she “opens up” if not, she shrugs the shower off. ¹⁰
- Animal’s do not require consent for intercourse to follow.
- Animal’s kill other animals of its type.

Fortunately, our first example of the female spider is enough to disprove the “*found in nature*” argument. Reason being, we have been advised that our second example, of the “*golden (urine) shower*” is in fact prevalent in society. Things are fundamentally wrong in today’s time.

¹⁰ Ibid.

G. SCIENTIFIC RED-HERRING CONTENTION

They will claim:

“Homosexuality is not a choice; it is something you are born with. Science has proven that gays are born with a “gay gene”.

We will claim:

Abu Zaynab in his book titled “***Why Homosexuality is prohibited in Islam***” sufficiently and elaborately disproves the red herring contention made that there is such a thing as a “gay gene” which gays are born with, referring to it as a “hoax” in its entirety.

In Abu Zaynab’s book he discusses the flaws in the scientific experiments used to prove the gay gene theory. **This includes the initial experiments not including in its control group, a heterosexual.** The fallacy is thus self-evident.

Notwithstanding the above, we will mention flaw in the gay gene theory:

“If there was a gay gene, then what about twins (same genes) wherein one twin claims to be gay, and the other does not?”. Full stop. Case closed.

H. God created me as such

We will claim:

Homosexuality is forbidden.

If they say:

Homosexuality is fine because God wouldn't create me this way if it was wrong.

We will ask:

How can you prove that God created you as such?

Homosexuality is not something you're born with. Humans are born with 'plastic' brains and rely on observation to create their own version of reality. Unfortunately, in today's time, their only exposure is through parents who find it easy to dump iPads and TVs on their children to pacify them. These iPads are filled with cartoons and movies which now are heavily, both indirectly and directly promoting homosexuality or at least have normalized it.

So, children grow up thinking (contrary to the natural biological belief of man needing to be with woman) a man can be with a man.

Furthermore, it's far more complex. How many people, which you can probably list, are homosexual and came from households of many girls. Can we attribute this to the womb or the circumstances?

There are in fact various factors which may cause for homosexual tendencies. In males, often it stems from an impairment or perceived impairment in his relationship with his father. Be it an absent father (due to neglect or working all the time), a temperamental father, an uninterested father, a homosexual father, an overly-aggressive father etc. This leads to the boy latching on more to his mother/female personnel and thus, creating more common-interests with females than with males. This becomes important in the stage of friend-making when the boy now better identifies with females than with males. He, in turn, craves a relationship with males, as it becomes idealistic, and such a desire, in time, becomes a sexualized one. This would apply vice-versa with females.

It is important to note that the human psyche is a complex system which has been studied throughout the history of time. Whilst various theories have been propounded in respect of its functioning, ideas of a robotic, mechanic, stage-by-stage theory have been rejected and it has been accepted that there are various factors which influence its development, including: Biological factors, environmental factors, social factors and so on. Hence, to understand why someone is homosexual is not as easy as reducing it to the above, as there are instances in which one does not fit into the above explanation, but rather, his/her homosexual tendencies were due to some other influential factors.

However, factors such as: Media, Parenting, Family, Social, Biological (child's perceptiveness) remains very influential factors.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

A. MEDIA INDOCTRINATION

Media indoctrination is perceived by many ignorant people as nothing but a hoax. People view such opinions as “*conspiracies*” and “*looking too deep into things*”. As a holder of an undergraduate degree in media studies, we can confidently posit the undeniable influence of mainstream media and how it is used to as a manipulative tool in almost all industries.

Conveniently, without needing to dig deep into disproving such ‘conspiracy’ claims, we reproduce passages from a book which was written in 1989, which literally theorized the strategy of promoting homosexuality. Thus, in effect, it proves to such ignorant persons (who don’t believe in media indoctrination) that such motives do exist.

The passages below are from the book “***After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear and Hatred of the Gays in the 90s***¹¹”

¹¹ After the Ball (Doubleday, 1st Edition, May 1989).

“The first order of business is desensitization of the American public concerning gays.¹²”

“Make victimizers look bad by linking to Nazi horror while helping straights to see gays as victims and feel protective towards them.¹³”

“Protect gays as victims of circumstance and oppression, not as aggressive challengers.¹⁴”

“Infer and speculate that famous historical figures were gay for two reasons: first, they are dead as a door nail, hence in no position to deny the truth and sue for a libel.¹⁵”

“Ads (adverts) must manage to get the word gay into the headline or tagline.¹⁶”

“Associate and link gays to good causes and non-controversial activities¹⁷.”

¹² Ibid at page 7.

¹³ Ibid at page 221.

¹⁴ *“Why homosexuality is prohibited in Islam”* Abu Zaynab Abd-al Rahman al-Qawim (2015) – Page 106

¹⁵ Ibid at page 188.

¹⁶ Ibid at page 207.

¹⁷ Ibid at page 219.

“The average American Household watches over seven hours of TV daily. Those hours open up a gateway into the private world of straights, through which a Trojan horse might be passed... So far, gay Hollywood has provided our best covert weapon in the battle to desensitize the mainstream. Bit by bit over the past ten years, gay characters and gay themes have been introduced into TV programs and films (though often this has been done to achieve comedic and ridiculous affects). On the whole impact has been encouraging...¹⁸”

Importantly, the book was written in 1989, which outlined the long-term effort in indoctrinating society at large.

It seems almost unreal to read a strategy planned 30 years ago, and note that exactly how it was meant, it was enacted thereafter.

¹⁸ Ibid at page 8.

B. THE DOUBLE STANDARDS

Atheists, agnostics, or whatever else they wish to categorize themselves as, almost always believe in evolution. In fact, all of them do. From a purely evolutionists perspective, human beings have developed (evolved) to meet its basic needs, and in its inherent survival of the fittest.

However, homosexuality is in absolute contrast to this notion, and in fact, contradictory!

If there were only homosexuals placed on a remote island, the whole genus would eventually die after its current generation, with no offspring to succeed it due to the lack of possible reproduction between same sex relationships. This literally goes against the tenets of naturalism.

C. NORMAL? APPROPRIATE?

Normality is tough to define. Is it normal because everyone does it, or because there is an objective standard of normality? We think the English definition would define normal as something commonly done. Which means, homosexuality could become perfectly normal.

Appropriate, however, is what is objectively the right thing to do. Who, in the history of mankind, has ever claimed that our daily purpose is to kill ourselves, and end our existence as opposed to facilitate our survival?

Hence, if the point is to live, then surely undeniable biological basis for human existence i.e., the result of the insertion of a penis into a vagina, can be classified as appropriateness.

Basically, in a nutshell:

- We all want to live, and not die.
- If everyone was heterosexual, we will survive.

- If everyone was homosexual, we will die.
- Heterosexuality = appropriate.

D. SCRIPTURAL VIEWS

- ISLAM

This has been discussed above already.

- CHRISTIANITY

- 1) Romans 1:24-29

“Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.”

- 2) First Corinthians 6:9

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

- JUDAISM

- 1) Leviticus 18:22

“Do not lie with a male as one lies with a woman (mishkevei ishah); it is an abhorrence.”

- 2) Leviticus 20:13

“If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.”

E. SOCIAL UNIT

The social unit of a family comprises of, at the very least, a mother and a father. There is no other way for any human being to be conceived if either a mother or father is missing. Hence, as expounded above, a heterosexual relationship is the only relation which is “*appropriate*”. This has serious psychological effects.

As discussed under the heading “*God made me as such*”, factors such as being brought up in a homosexual home, or being brought up without a father or mother has serious effects to the child. In fact, Sigmund Freud discusses the phallic stage of development in children. At this point in development, Freud believed that boys are in love with their mothers, in what is called the ‘*Oedipus stage*’, and experience anxiety from their competition i.e., their father. They acknowledge their father is stronger than them, in what Freud termed the ‘*Castration stage*’. In females, Freud believed that girls experience ‘*Penis Envy*’ and grow up with the belief that one needs to have a penis to have power. Important to this discussion, Freud believed that growing up in a home, for a boy, without a father, leads to being uncertain of his sexual orientation, whereas for a girl, who

grows up in a home without a mother, leads to an inferiority complex and often, becoming violent to women.

We do not subscribe to western ideologies of psychology, but mention same in lieu of providing to our readers, the views of so to say, well known psychologists.

Invariably, by being in a same-sex relationship, your children will grow up in the absence of either a mother (in the case of homosexual male relationship) or a father (in the case of homosexual female relationship) and hence, it will possibly have psychological effects therein.

Considering the above, we believe that being homosexual goes against the social unit of a family, and the imperative make up of a family's social unit.

F. LIFE IS A TEST

This argument is more suited to theists, who believe in life after death. In fact, we do believe that there are many theists, who have been misguided through a misinterpretation of texts, and beliefs, to conclude that being involved in a same sex relationship is in line with believing in God. Sure, we don't deny that a homosexual can also believe in God. But just know that being homosexual is unequivocally prohibited in all of Islam, Christianity and Judaism, as cited above.

And so, if life doesn't end when your last breath is taken, then at least we can find common ground in claiming that this world was not designed without intent. It would be absurd to assume there is a God, but there was no purpose of creating this world. Unless you assume we are just the background cast, and God has no real interest in what we do or say. We do not think there has ever been a human that ever shared these views. Keeping this in mind, **we can then conclude that this world is a test.**

If you tell a person hooked on drugs to “*give up drugs*” you’d be naïve to assume that its “*mind over matter*”.

That person is going through so much in trying to quit addiction. The days feel longer, hours drag when without their “*fix*”. **But at no point will that addict claim its permissibility on the basis of their addiction or on their inability to quit. Rather they will understand that this is the sacrifice which they now need to endure as they are aware that it is something totally impermissible.**

Similarly, for he/she who has same sex attractions: This is now their sacrifice.

Someone who is tempted by the same sex, like an addict loves drugs, but acknowledges that it is wrong, and lives a life resisting such temptations will find himself/herself amongst the righteous, inshaAllah.

May Allah Ta’ala grant strength and guidance to all those Muslim brothers and sisters who are embroiled in this.

5. CONCLUSION

The promotion of homosexuality has become almost inescapable. In fact, we are currently typing this article during what is referred to as “*pride month*”. Parents who grew up in households in which the word ‘gay’ was taboo have lived to see its promotion on billboards and main stream media.

To all my brothers and sisters, especially parents, there is NO ‘*grey area*’ in Islam. Everything is divinely ordained, and hence, has divine wisdom.

When your child asks why is it wrong to be in a same sex relationship, or why can’t Islam be inclusive of them, please do not harshly brush it off, or abruptly dismiss the question. **If you do not know, ask those who know**. Do not let your child live with doubts.

And the same advice for any Muslim brother or sister. Do not sleep with your worries. Find a trustworthy scholar who can assist you with your concerns. And very importantly, know that even the scholars do not know everything. And

this is no disrespect to any scholar, in any way, whatsoever. It is a fact that many institutions do not cover certain contentious issues, and hence, for this reason, we give the warning that if a scholar provides an unsatisfactory response, his answer is not representative of Islam's position, and therefore, seek further guidance on the subject matter.

The contentions provided above might, too, not be good enough for you, and perhaps a better, more learned scholar may give you a more educated response.

Seek knowledge and search for the truth. Always.

And lastly, remember, not everyone has a sinister intention. There are some individuals caught up in this trial, but who are sincere nevertheless. Do not shun those who are sincere. Assist them, provide them with a supportive brotherhood, wherein meaningful progress can be made to overcome such feelings. Provide them with the appropriate literature to read, and then supplicate for them, that Allah Ta'ala assists them, and lets them overcome such desires.

Remember, if one has same sex attractions, but does not act upon it, then he has saved himself from sin.

We at the Abu Zayd Institute, offer support to anyone who is suffering from such inclinations, and can always be contacted to foster meaningful discussions to assist in overcoming such feelings.

Our contact details are on the cover.

NOTE: If one has an unshakable inclination towards a member of the same gender, but acknowledges that it is impermissible to act upon such desires, he/she remains a Muslim. In that event, we make *duaa* that such individual is given the ability to overcome such desires or the ability to always resist such temptations. Ameen