

Recommendations to the family and communities

MATERIALS FOR YOUNG
LGTBI+ ROMA IN EUROPE



THE ROMA COMMUNITY IS ALSO DIVERSE:
FORMING YOUTHWORKERS FOR INCLUSION



DIVERSE
YOUTH
NETWORK



GLAS



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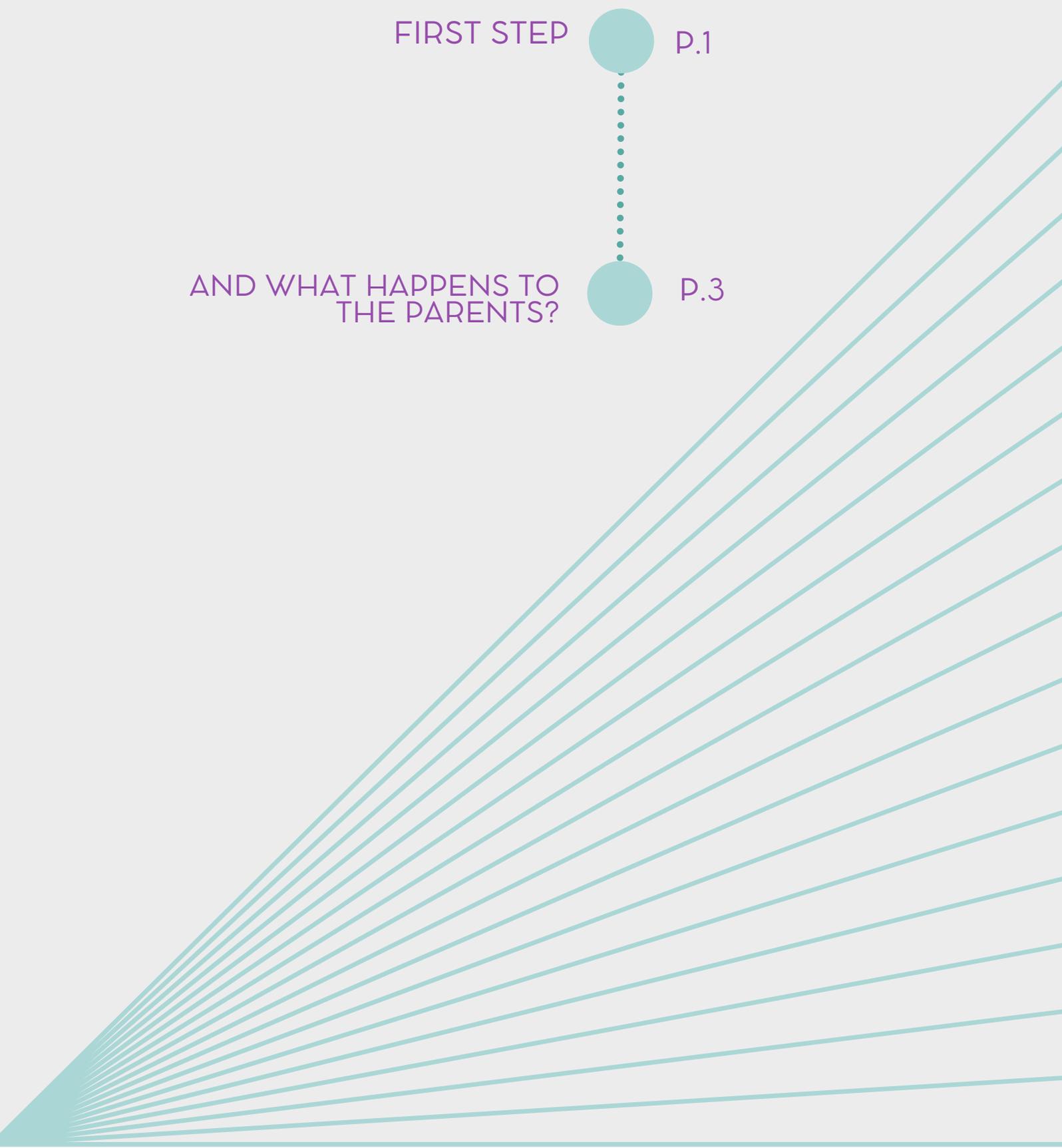


LGTBI +
ROMA

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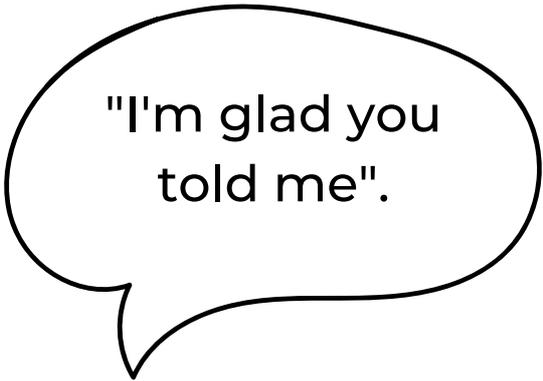
FIRST STEP

Many young roma express their concern and insecurity about the possible reaction of their parents and families when they think how to explain their sexual orientation or condition, even when their parents are likely understand them. Think in that moment can be a source of stress and anxiety.

When our children feel supported and loved, we avoid these moments of stress and anxiety.

It is important to have open communication with our children and not judge them at any time.

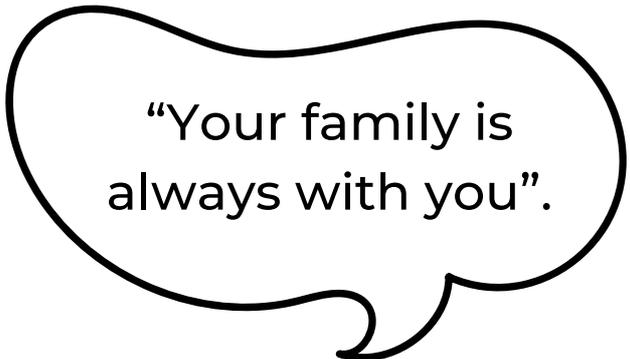
They usually talk about their identity and sexual orientation to their group of friends, then to trusted adults. It is important not to be surprised or angry with them if we are not the first ones they go to.



"I'm glad you told me".



"I want you to be sure that you have our support".



"Your family is always with you".

Our sons and daughters, boys and girls, our youth are already exposed to rejection and discrimination. Let's not add more burden or rejection from our homes and communities. They need all our support and more to be able to live happily. Protecting childhood and youth as roma and community values make us stronger and more respectable. Let's avoid putting them more at risk.

HOMOSEXUALITY IS NOT CHOSEN,

IT IS NOT CONTAGIOUS,

IT IS NOT MODIFIABLE AND

IT IS NOT AN ILLNESS

It does not heal and **cannot be changed or modified.**

#LOVEWINS!



AND WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PARENTS?

When our children tell us and we know about our children's homosexuality, the families went through **different phases and situations**.

It would depend on the knowledge, information, if the family already sensed it. It will also influence the social pressure and personalities of each family.

Some families when they learn of the homosexuality of a son or daughter do not know how to act and suffer a **state of shock or paralysis**.

At first there is a commotion, we can't believe that it has happened, we repeat the conversation and how the situation has been, it may seem unreal to us.

What happens to our children is a normal expression of human sexuality. It is not an option they choose. It is a reality that they live, it cannot be changed or modified.

You may also go through a **guilt phase**.

We blame ourselves, we blame our partner, the family, the environment... No one is to blame, no one is responsible for the situation.

Feeling afraid

can be another feeling that invades parents, due to ignorance, for facing a new reality, fear of rejection that they may suffer...

Anger

we can feel angry about the change in expectations about our children. Anger does not help anyone, it can be directed towards our children or towards the people we blame. This will not help the process.

Deny reality

and try to make our children change.

silence does not help, it can be understood as anger or rejection of the situation

Face reality

Talk to your son or daughter, ask for forgiveness if necessary, understand them, support them, help them, Assimilate and accept the situation. Share spaces with your daughter and son.

Many of the situations that occur when our children tell us about their homosexuality are due to the lack of knowledge that we have

Search and contact other families who have already gone through or are going through the same situation, contact LGBTI associations to request support and information

Leaving them without family support is leaving them exposed to greater vulnerability, abandonment, and risk in their lives.

The family must give love, affection and affection to the children, regardless of their orientation, sexual identity or any circumstance...

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