



Colectivo de Lesbianas,
Gays,
Transexuales y
Bisexuales
de Madrid

Education Committee

TEACHERS' GROUP

2005 YEAR-END REPORT

1. Who belongs to the COGAM Teachers' Group?

COGAM's Education Committee expanded in February 2005, when it established a work group of LGTB teachers, guidance counselors and education specialists.

Most of these professionals work in public (state) schools, charter schools, or private schools in the Autonomous Region of Madrid. However, some members participate actively from other regions of Spain.

The work group includes people involved in every level of education (preschool, elementary and secondary schools, and universities), as well as non-regulated forms of education.

2. What are the group's goals?

As agreed at the first meeting, the main purpose of the COGAM Teachers' Group is to describe, prevent, and respond to homophobic bullying in schools.

Similarly, it will work to promote the visibility of LGTB teachers. In our opinion, the process of demystifying lesbian and gay orientation in the schools would advance considerably if we could acknowledge our personal lives and talk about our families with the same freedom that our heterosexual colleagues enjoy.

3. How does the group work?

The group's primary method of communication is an e-mail address, grupoprofescogam@hotmail.com, from which meeting announcements and detailed information are sent to all members.

Meetings of the COGAM Teachers' Group are collaborative and interactive. They are therefore characterized by an exchange of ideas, views, and experiences, and by active, thoughtful participation by all members.

4. What activities did the group undertake in 2005?

- February:
- The group is founded.
- March:
- The group sends letters to the Child Welfare Office (Oficina del Defensor del Menor) asking them to reprint the Educational Curriculum "25 Questions About Homosexuality."
 - The group is featured in issue 261 of *Educational Worker* magazine (*Trabajadores de la Enseñanza*), Madrid edition, published by the CCOO labor union. It announces the founding of the Teachers' Group, and invites interested readers to contact us by e-mail.
- April:
- We meet with Yolanda Herranz, a philosophy teacher at Utopía High School in Fuenlabrada, where she teaches an elective called "Social Roles of Women and Men."
 - The group sends letters to Arturo Ramo García, an Educational Quality Inspector in Teruel, asking him to remove homophobic material from a web site registered in his name: www.aplicaciones.info. The site presented the texts as resources for direct use in the classroom. The materials in question were removed.
 - Some members of the group attend the course "Schools Respond to Bullying," sponsored by the El Valle Regional Support Center for Childhood Education.

- May:
- Planning for the seminar “Under Our Protection: Anti-Gay and Anti-Transgender Bullying in Schools,” to be held at the Northern Madrid Teachers' Support Center (C.A.P. Madrid-Norte) in the 2005-2006 school year. The seminar proposal was presented by 10 people currently working in education, acting on their own behalf.
 - Observance of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (May 17) at two high schools in the Autonomous Region of Madrid.
 - The group sends a letter signed by 231 people protesting a land grant given by the town of Pozuelo de Alarcón to the Tiempos Más Nuevos educational foundation. Copies of the letter were sent to the Minister of Education and Science, the Mayor of Pozuelo de Alarcón, the Municipal Socialist Group, the United Left of Madrid, and to various media outlets.
- June:
- Participation in the 2005 Pride Day demonstration, along with COGAM's Education Committee.
- September:
- The group is featured in *ZERO* magazine.
 - We send a press release to several magazines received by high schools: *School Today* (*Escuela Hoy*, published by the Madrid teachers' union); *Profiles* (*Perfiles*, published by the Spanish National Organization of the Blind); *Union Classroom* (*Aula Sindical*, published by the UGT labor union); the *Journal of the Academy of Advanced Degree Holders*; and *Educational Worker* (*Trabajadores de la Enseñanza*, published by the CCOO labor union).
 - We provide advice to educators throughout Spain via the internet.
- October:
- Participation in the first national meeting of the educational coordinating committee of the National Lesbian, Gay, Transgender & Bisexual Federation (FELGT).
 - Coordination of the seminar “Under Our Protection: Anti-Gay and Anti-Transgender Bullying in Schools,” held at the Northern Madrid Teachers' Support Center.
 - The group is featured on the radio show “Babylon Moon” (“Luna de Babilonia”).
 - The group appears in the October Madrid edition of *Educational Worker* magazine, published by the CCOO labor union.
- November:
- Release of the report *Homophobia in the Educational System*, prepared by COGAM's Education Committee with support from a team of anthropologists from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. The Teachers' Group contributed the essay “LGTB Teachers: Invisibility, Lack of Training, and Scarcity of Materials.”



2005 Pride Day Demonstration

T-shirt slogan: “my family matters, too”

Protest sign: “Stop homophobia. Our children go to school, too”