

A Quick Reference Guide for Counselors to Work with Sexual Minorities

Current Situation Faced by Sexual Minorities in Using Mental Health Services

- Sexual minorities face higher rates of psychological distress, depression, anxiety, substance use, and suicide compared to their heterosexual counterparts (Dürrbaum & Sattler, 2020; Mongelli et al., 2019)
 - more likely to seek out psychological services compared to heterosexual individuals (Filice & Meyer, 2018)
- Many mental health providers are not trained in providing affirming psychological services (Israel & Bettergarcia, 2017)
 - may cause additional harm rather than alleviating mental health risks (Israel et al., 2008; Spengler et al., 2016)
 - The field of psychology has perpetuated the view that same-gender attractions, behaviors, and identities should be treated (Drescher, 2015), giving rise to sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE)
 - SOCE is not only ineffective at changing sexual orientation but is harmful and often traumatic for clients (Fish & Russell, 2020; Ryan et al., 2020)
 - SOCE is still legal and practiced by many in Hong Kong today (Chan et al., 2022)

Mental Health Providers' Perspectives

- Mental health providers get little to no training about providing affirming care for sexual minorities and feel unprepared to work with this clientele (Israel & Bettergarcia, 2017; Graham et al., 2012)
- Even practitioners who endorse LGBT+ affirming attitudes report low clinical skills and preparedness with this population (Nowaskie, 2020)

Sexual Minority Clients' Perspectives

- Many sexual minority clients report negative experiences in therapy (Shelton & Delgado-Romero, 2011; Spengler et al., 2016)
- Preliminary research conducted by STL from March to May 2023
 - Sample: 58 local LGBT+ individuals
 - Method: an online survey asking their opinions on counseling (what worries them & what can assure them)
 - Results are used to inform the content of this handbook and are as follows:

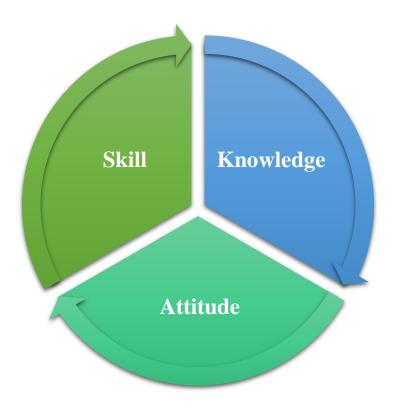
Expectations	Worries
Confidentiality and safe space	Nosing about their sexual experience
• Counselors' acceptance of their sexual orientation	Abrupt questions about their personal lifestyles
(verbal and non-verbal)	 Making heteronormative assumptions and gender
 Counselors showing a basic understanding of 	stereotypes
LGBT+ knowledge	 Judgements and implicit bias of the counselors
 Questions out of genuine care instead of being nosy 	 Discussing "come out" issues but they are unready
Useful information	
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To bridge the gap in skills/knowledge...



Training components should map onto:

- Competency objectives (Bidell, 2013)
- Knowledge, self-awareness and attitudes, and skills (Boroughs et al, 2015; Pearson, 2003)



Components in this handbook that map onto ASK model

e.g.

- Environmental manipulation (e.g. waiting room, counseling room, and intake form) [p.26 27]
- Relationship-building skills [p.28]
- Affirmative assessment and intervention skills [p.29 32]
- A detailed case demonstration
 [p.38 40]



e.g.

- Minority stress model [p.29, 47]
- Internalized homophobia [p.48]
- Coming out process [p.46, 50]
- Cass model of identity development [p.32]
- LGBT+ academic terms and jargon [p.52 –
 53]
- Community resources for referral [p.54]

e.g.

- Sexual Orientation Counselor Competency Scale (SOCCS) [p.13 -15]
- 2 life stories representing the shared experiences of many LG clients [p.22 25]
- Self-reflection guidelines on possible bias [p.36 37]

Features of the counseling handbook

- 1 case example demonstrating assessment and intervention skills
- 2 self-reflective questionnaires assessing affirmative attitudes, skills, and knowledge
- 3 most common challenges in an affirmative session
- 4 steps in adopting an affirmative practice
- 5 accessible clinical tools

case example demonstrating assessment and intervention skills [p.38 – 40]

Background based on many true stories representing the shared experiences of LGB clients

輔導個案示範1,2

- 阿恩出現不同的抑鬱症狀,包括長期情緒低落、失去動機、

輔導個字示範1,

特別係我屋企人...佢哋一定會嬲死我同埋希望無生過我出嚟... [阿恩開始落 淚]我一定係有問題啦,因為屋企壓力真係好大,我唔想佢哋失望(內化恐同 Interna

輔(嘆氣):要同呢啲恐懼一齊生活咁多年,一定會覺得好攰同好沉重...可能其實都唔係 唔想有人接近你,只係好似從來都無一個會接納你嘅人行近你(肯定背後需要)

[阿恩點頭,並繼續嗚咽]

輔:其實咁多年嚟,乜野係令你最擔心呀?

恩:我覺得好傷心...好孤獨...(情緒)好驚大家都會討厭我或者有啲更差嘅嘢會發生...我人 生無咩希望...(信念)

輔:係一種好大嘅自我否定同孤單威呀...你覺得性小眾呢個身份點樣影響到你呀?

恩:我覺得好孤獨...我唔敢同人太熟,因為我好驚啲朋友會慢慢發現我嘅性傾向...我永遠覺 得我唔可以將最心底嘅秘密講畀佢哋知(隱藏身份 Concealment) ... 我唔知有邊個會 陌 意接受我,特別係我屋企人...佢哋一定會嬲死我同埋希望無生過我出嚟... [阿恩開始》、 淚] 我一定係有問題啦,因為屋企壓力真係好大,我唔想佢哋失望(內化恐同 Internalised homophobia) ...

輔(嘆氣):要同呢啲恐懼一齊生活咁多年,一定會覺得好劫同好沉重...可能其實都唔係, 唔想有人接近你,只係好似從來都無一個會接納你嘅人行近你(肯定背後需要)。

Demonstration of skills mentioned in this handbook (highlighted in red)

An immediate state of the client (highlighted in green)

[阿恩點頭,並繼續嗚咽]

2 self-reflective questionnaires [p.13 - 17]

- It evaluates counselors' implicit bias and attitudes toward LGB clients
- It is translated from the Sexual Orientation Counselor Competency Scale (SOCCS)
- We provide a reference point and relevant content for counselors to reflect on their biases and determine appropriate refer-out procedures



		非常问意						非常不同意
1.	性小眾受助者的生活方式是不自然或有傷道德的。	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	兩個男人或兩個女人之間的愛情明顯地不夠一男 一女之間的關係一般堅固或忠貞。	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	我相信輔導性小眾受助者的方向是要令他們/她們 在社會上保持謹慎低調的身份。	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	弋認為性小眾情侶不需要婚姻權利及社會保障, 」為這樣會影響正常及傳統的家庭價值。	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
s.	如果我輔導的受助者也相信異性戀的生活方式是 比較理想,這會是最好的。	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	我期望我輔導的受助者在某程度上遵從傳統的性 價值觀。	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	我相信性小眾受助者最能夠從擁抱傳統價值及 常規的輔導員身上獲益。	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	個人而言,我認為同性戀是一種精神健康問題或一 種罪,因此需要從精神健康或宗教團體得到幫助。	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	我認為所有性小眾受助者在有小孩子在場的時候 都不應該提及他們/她們的性傾向。	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	同性戀只是其中一種罪,跟宗教上的其他罪一樣。	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

中文鏈漆@真完 成鄉Dr. Bidell 於2023年4月20日准許真光社將性傾向輔端員能力評估量表+放進手冊中供輔導人員臨床用途

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- It evaluates counselors' affirmative skills and knowledge of different domains
- If you are unfamiliar with some domains, you will be guided to relevant handbook sections

3 most common challenges in an affirmative session

• Do's and Don'ts based on past research and our empirical data in the following situations:

What if my client comes out to me during my session? [p.33 – 34]



你平時一定已經可以給予受助者一定的安全處,他/她才會向你出櫃。由於很多性小眾自 我內化社會上的恐同意識,你即時不批判的態度已是十分重要!

研究發現有時內在的批判會不自覺出現於身體語言,例如眼神¹,或者慣性的用字。即是報 學員沒有言語上批判受助者,也使其感到受傷害。

DON'TS



DO'S



- 把受助者的性向及私人生活當作業餘飯 後的話題,向其他人分享
- 明白性小眾因社會的壓抑而飽受壓力可能會因為性小眾身份面對安全問題因此需要堅守保密原則,為受助者認為絕對安全的空間
- 你不確定的眼神、尷尬或恐慌的語氣 即時打岔的反應¹都可能令受助者感到 被否定
- 直接表明支持性向多元的立場及展現出對於國內的基本認識 ①分享自己或者其他被輔導者歐經驗 ②開宗明義說明支持同志,或分享自己 本身有朋友也是性小眾 ③主動分享一些性小眾的關內文化,令

輔導期間應對手法

當受助者不知道應否改變性傾向時...

大多意圖改變性向的求助者都未必對性向議題有全面的認識,他們/她們或被刻板印象所 誤導,或對未來處到迷茫,亦不知道如何處理各種壓力,例如向家人出櫃、被現今社會制 度壓拍和擴心除年保障等。

當求助者激請你協助她/他改變性向...

- 先保持開放態度,了解她/他背後的考慮和動機
- 情定求助者當前不安、恐懼或擔憂的情緒,讓他們/她們知遊很多性小眾都曾 有過類似感受

What if my client is considering changing his/her sexual orientation (SOCE)? [p.35]

What if some LGB issues conflict with my personal values? [p.36-37]



輔導專業要求我們放下個人執著,把求助者的心理健康放於首位。但當個人的信念及價值 觀,例如宗教觀:和家庭觀,和求助者的價值觀非常衝空時,我們可以參考以下做法:

(1) 承認個人的限制及轉介受助者

在不確定討論的議題或感到不舒服時,可以 向受助者坦白自己的限制,並轉介至肯定性 小眾(LGBTO+ affirmative)的機構團體



「我多納你向我坦白自己嘅性取向 ,我相信對你來講一啲都唔容易, 但係我對呢個議題唔太認識/但係 我對呢個議題有自己個人贈法,為 咗令你可以有更安全嘅輔導氣氛, 我會建議你搵其他對同志友善嘅機 構,例如係東華三院同一線或者小 童群益會,你意見如何?」

[p.26 - 27]

Environmental manipulation (Visibility) Rapport building Assessment using the minority stress model and general stress model **Intervention directions**

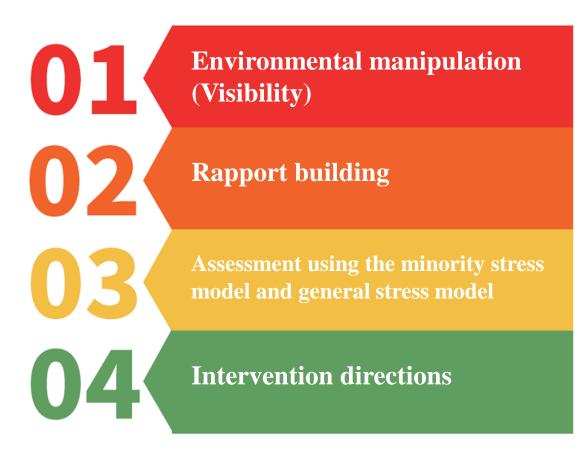


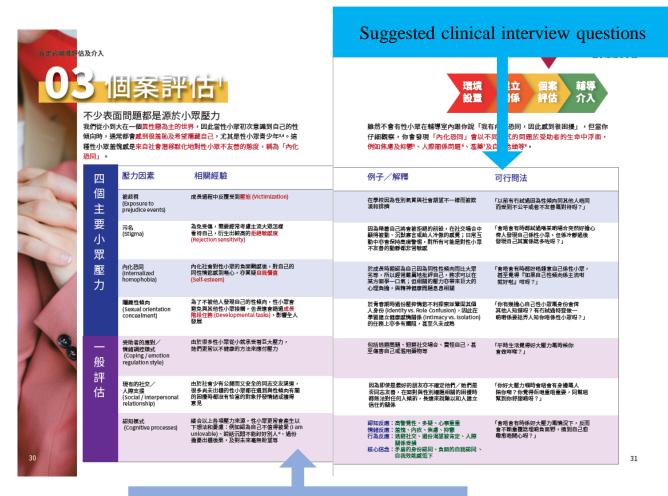
[p.28]

Environmental manipulation (Visibility) Rapport building **Assessment using the minority stress** model and general stress model **Intervention directions**



[p.29 - 31]





[p.32]

Environmental manipulation (Visibility) Rapport building Assessment using the minority stress model and general stress model **Intervention directions**



5 accessible clinical tools

The materials in the appendix, which include assessment tools, psychoeducational materials, and CBT worksheets, are designed to be easily understood and are available for non-commercial use, including photocopying

- 1. Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Identity Scale
- 2. Psychoeducational worksheet: mental health of a sexual minority individual
- 3. Psychoeducational worksheet: internalized homophobia
- 4. CBT worksheet: minority stress record
- 5. Psychoeducational worksheet: coming out process

Appendix 1. Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Identity Scale [p.44 – 46]

真 光紫 社 ^脈		+	不	部	部	同	+
	性身份階段評估問卷 an, Gay and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS) ¹	十分不同意	意	分不同意	分同意	意	十分同意
Q1	我希望自己的愛情關係保持低調秘密						
Q2	如果可以,我希望自己是直的						
Q3	我不完全確定自己的性傾向						
Q4	我十分謹慎控制誰人得知我的愛情關係						
Q5	我經常為意誰人會因為我的性傾向而批判我						
Q6	我慶幸自己出生為一名性小眾						
Q7	我看不起異性戀者						
Q8	我對自己的性傾向搖擺不定						
Q9	知道別人因為我的性傾向而對我做出負面評價時,我感到不舒服						
Q10	我覺得性小眾比異性戀者優越						
Q11	我的性傾向對於「我是誰」這個問題並不重要						
Q12	承認自己是性小眾是一個非常痛苦的過程						
Q13	很自豪成為 LGBT+ 社群的一員						
Q14	我不知道自己是雙性戀還是同性戀						
Q15	我的性傾向是我身份的核心部分						
Q16	我經常思考我的性傾向如何影響人們對我的看法						
Q17	承認自己是性小眾是一個非常緩慢的過程						
Q18	相比起性小眾,直人的生活很無聊						
Q19	我的性傾向是非常私人的事情						
Q20	我希望自己是異性戀						
Q21	我認為別人如果要了解我的為人,別人必須知道我是性小眾						
Q22	當我試圖弄清楚自己的性傾向時,我會很困惑						
Q23	我從一開始就對自己的性/性別身份感到滿意						
Q24	作為一個性小眾是我生活中非常重要的一個方面						
Q25	我相信成為性小眾是我的重要組成部分						
Q26	我很自豪我是一名性小眾						
Q27	我認為我天生被同性吸引是不公平的						



附件1. 性身份階段評估問卷 Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS)¹

使用方法

LGBIS量表可以在輔導過程中,提供更多關於性小眾的性向身份認同 狀態的評估資訊,以制定輔導目標

計分方法

十分同意=6,十分不同意=1

LGBIS量表總共有6個子量表,每項分數為其子量表內的平均分數

子量表	題目	分數 (1 - 6)
自我接納的程度 (Acceptance Concerns)	Q5,Q9及Q16	
隱藏小眾身份的動機 (Concealment Motivation)	Q1,Q4及Q19	
性別身份的不確定 (Identity Uncertainty)	Q3,Q8,Q14及Q22	
內化反同 (Internalised Homonegativity)	Q2,,Q20及Q27	
過程的困難度 (Difficult Process)	Q12,Q17及Q23*	
身份的優越感 (Identity Superiority)	Q7,Q10及Q18	
肯定身份 (Identity Affirmation)	Q6,Q13及Q26	
身份的重要性 (Identity Centrality)	Q11*,Q15,Q21, Q24及Q25	

*Q11及Q23為子量表中的反向題(即十分同意=1,十分不同意=6)

Mohr, J. J., & Kendra, M. S. (2011). Revision and extension of a multidimensional measure of sexual minority identity: the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale. Journal of counseling psychology, 58(2), 234.

威謝Prof. Mohr 於2023年5月9日准許真光社將LGBIS放進手冊中供輔導人員臨床用途 User guide retrieved from https://www.midss.org/sites/default/files/lgbis.pdf

中文版由真光社翻譯

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Example

		+	不同	部心	部心	同意	+
		十分不同章	同意	i 份不同章	份同意	思	分同意
Q1	我希望自己的愛情關係保持低調秘密	意		思			
Q2	如果可以, 我希望自己是直的					Ť	
Q3	我不完全確定自己的性傾向		1		•		
Q4	我十分謹慎控制誰人得知我的愛情關係	Ť				V	
Q5	我經常為意誰人會因為我的性傾向而批判我				V		
Q6	我慶幸自己出生為一名性小眾	Т		1			
Q7	我看不起異性戀者			V	1		
Q8	我對自己的性傾向搖擺不定		V				
Q9	知道別人因為我的性傾向而對我做出負面評價時,我感到不舒服					V	
Q10	我覺得性小眾比異性戀者優越	Т	V				
Q11	我的性傾向對於「我是誰」這個問題並不重要		V				
Q12	承認自己是性小眾是一個非常痛苦的過程				V		
Q13	我很自豪成為 LGBT+ 社群的一員		V	1			
Q14	我不知道自己是雙性戀還是同性戀	V	1				
Q15	我的性傾向是我身份的核心部分	Τ			V	1	
Q16	我經常思考我的性傾向如何影響人們對我的看法				V		
Q17	承認自己是性小眾是一個非常緩慢的過程				V		
Q18	相比起性小眾,直人的生活很無聊	\perp		V	1		
Q19	我的性傾向是非常私人的事情				L.	\checkmark	
Q20	我希望自己是異性戀	┸			\checkmark		
Q21	我認為別人如果要了解我的為人,別人必須知道我是性小眾				V		
Q22	當我試圖弄清楚自己的性傾向時,我會很困惑	V					
Q23	我從一農始就對自己的性性別身份感到滿意	V					
Q24	作為一個性小眾是我生活中非常重要的一個方面				V		
Q25	我相信成為性小眾是我的重要組成部分				V		
Q26	我很自豪我是一名性小眾		V	7			
Q27	我認為我天生被同性吸引是不公平的						

Subscale	Items	Sum of Score	Mean Score
Acceptance Concerns	nce Concerns Q5, Q9, Q16		13/3 = 4.33
Concealment Motivation	Q1, Q4, Q19	5 + 5 + 5 = 15	15/3 = 5
Identity Uncertainty	Q3, Q8, Q14, Q22	1+2+1+1=5	5/4 = 1.25
Internalised Homonegativity	Q2, Q20, Q27	4 + 4 + 5 = 13	13/3 = 4.33
Difficult Process	Q12, Q17, <u>Q23*</u>	4 + 4 + 1 = 9	9/3 = 3
Identity Superiority	Q7, Q10, Q18	3 + 2 + 3 = 8	8/3 = 2.67
Identity Affirmation	Q6, Q13, Q26	2 + 2 + 2 = 6	6/3 = 2
Identity Centrality	<u>Q11*</u> , Q15, Q21, Q24, Q25	5 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 21	21/5 = 4.2

- Strongly disagree = 1, Strongly agree = 6 (Except for the reverse items Q11 and Q23)
- Score each subscale according to its color by obtaining the mean score (range: 1-6)
- The mean and SD from the original validation study (Mohr & Kendra, 2011) are used as some reference
- Check the pattern of the client's responses to guide the counseling direction

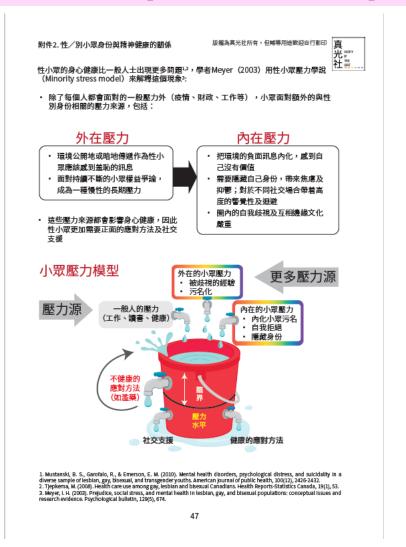


Subscale	Interpretation	Mean Score (1 – 6)	Mean (SD) in research (N = 357)	
Acceptance Concerns	Concern with the potential for stigmatization as an LGB person	4.33	3.43 (1.21)	
Concealment Motivation	Concern with and motivation to protect one's privacy as an LGB person	5	3.25 (1.31)	+ 1.34 SD High
Identity Uncertainty	Uncertainty about one's sexual orientation	1.25	2.02 (1.25)	
Internalised Homonegativity	Rejection of one's sexual orientation identity	4.33	1.96 (1.19)	+ 1.99 SD High
Difficult Process	Perception that one's LGB identity development process was difficult	3	3.25 (1.40)	
Identity Superiority	View favoring LGB people over heterosexual people	2.67	2.10 (1.06)	- 2.78 SD
Identity Affirmation	Affirmation of one's LGB identity	2	4.84 (1.02)	- 2.78 SD
Identity Centrality	View of one's LGB identity as central to one's overall identity	4.2	4.17 (1.08)	

- The scoring pattern gives the counselor an impression that the client does not affirm his/her LGB identity much; he/she also has a high concern with his/her privacy as an LGB person
- So the counselor may decide to:
 - Be sensitive to the client's pacing in touching on "coming out" issues
 - Explore the client's fears and anxieties
 - Dispel myths and stereotypes about lesbians/gay/bisexual men
 - Expose the client to positive role models

Appendix 2. Psychoeducational worksheet [p.47]:

• Enhance the awareness of minority stress and why LGB individuals are more prone to mental health problems



附件3 內化恐同(Internalised Homophobia) 版權為真光社所有,但輔導用途歡迎自行影印

內化恐同·影響不同性傾向/性別人士,包括異性戀者。主要因為我們出身於異性戀為主的社會,從小看到或聽到的社會常規及假設都是異性戀才是正常及合宜。這些訊息以不同的形式出現於性小眾身邊,最後性小眾也會內化這些負面偏見,認為自己有問題,也與不同的經過學與

媒體上的主角都是一男一女 朋友都愛取笑媒體上的性小眾 不能跟朋友談及愛情,感覺大 家關係有重紗 其他人認為性小眾很噁心 與另一半在街上拖手會被人注 對性小眾表現厭惡或刻意避開 視,還是不要和另一半有任何 言語或行為上欺凌性小眾 親密行為比較好 工作環境/學校 男孩子應該要堅強 女孩子應該喜歡粉紅色 · 父母不接受子女出櫃 性小眾應該守獨身 父母親戚對於子女有生 性小眾不應擔任教會 兒育女的期望

接著內化恐同會在性小眾身上以不同形式影響生活及心理健康

自我形象低落 害怕被他人發現性別身份 覺得自己不夠好、不值得被愛 • 迴避社交場合 需要在社會上獲得高成就(如:學業 自我否認自己的性別身份 、外貌、財富等) 來證明自己的價值 嘗試改變性向 ,尤其在男同志群**體**3 刻意過着社會期望的異性戀生活,例 覺得自己的身體不好看,對於自己的 如嘗試與異性交往 氣質感到羞愧 容易感到被拒絕 前途感到迷茫及無希望 對於別人的模糊不清的社交訊息容易 濫藥及酗酒 嘗試高風險行為,例如不安全性行為 感到被拒絕、及有敵意 自殘及自殺,尤其在雙性戀群體⁴ 在關係上退縮,難以建立親密關係 在社交場合上不自覺地帶有防衛 內化社會對於性小眾的負面形象 · 覺得自己/其他性小眾噁心 避免與性小眾接觸,甚至公開取笑 反對、攻擊其他性小眾 避開性別議題

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Appendix 3. Psychoeducational worksheet [p.48]:

• Enhance the awareness of how LGB individuals internalize homonegativity from the environment

Appendix 4. CBT worksheet [p.49]: minority stress record

附件4档	小眾壓力記錄表		版權為真光社所有,但輔導用途數迎自行影印 真 光。 社				
時間	情景	想法	情緒	思想陷阱	其他可能性		
例. 5/12 上午	聽到一位朋友取笑新 聞上出現的性小眾	所有人都覺得性小 眾嘔心。我要更加 努力證明自己,令 其他人接納我。	憤怒	非黑即白	社會上總會有不同 人有不同的立場。 即使有人不接納我 也會有愛我的人接 納我。		



財件5. 出權的決定 計劃出櫃前的考慮

世	植象	困難度 (0 - 10)	對方可能 出現的反應	向對方出櫃 的好處	向對方出櫃的 風險	最壞情況下 的應變計劃/ 是否適合 現階段出櫃?

Appendix 5. Psychoeducational worksheet [p.50 – 51]: coming out process

• For systematic planning of coming out according to the client's pacing

A bookmark for last-minute revision

• Our team devised a mnemonic for the affirmative counseling process that summarizes p. 26 – 32 of the handbook

(i.e., rapport building, assessment, and intervention)







"Buy a VASE and a DISH with a VISA"



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