Is being gay abnormal or unnatural?
People who are attracted to the opposite sex are the majority and people who are attracted to the same sex are the minority. Being in the majority does not automatically make it normal just as being in the minority does not automatically make it abnormal. In nature, life take on diverse forms; it is natural to have variations, including in the realm of sexuality. For people who are gay, being attracted to the same-sex is natural. Forcing them to feel attracted to the opposite sex is not only unnatural but painful as well.

Is sexual orientation a choice?
No. As human beings, we do not choose our sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is determined by factors beyond anyone's control. Although we can choose to follow or turn our backs on our genuine attractions, no one has been able to demonstrate that sexual orientation can be changed.

Do people who are gay need to see the doctor?
Being gay is not a disease. In the 1970s, American Psychiatric Association and American Psychological Association eliminated being gay as an illness. On the other hand, parents of a gay child who experience self-blame, anger, or other mental disturbance should talk to people they trust or seek professional counseling.

Can people who are gay change their sexual orientation?
If someone asked you, "Can you change your sexual orientation," how would you respond? Did anyone ever ask if being straight is "only a phase?" Doesn't this sound really weird? People fall in love with the person, not that person's sex. There is no "right way" and naturally there is no need to "change."

Do people turn gay because they were molested as a child?
Regardless of sexual orientation, some people have the unfortunate experience of being molested. However, there is no causal relationship between molestation and sexual orientation. This is a typical point of confusion and misinformation about people who are gay.

Can people who are gay raise children?
Is this going to negatively impact the children?
Parents’ ability to raise children has nothing to do with their sexual orientation. However, some people are still worried that children of same-sex parents may be ostracized by others or face discrimination. In reality, studies demonstrate that children of same-sex parents do not develop differently in comparison to those of different-sex parents. Studies also show that children of same-sex parents do not respond negatively to having two father or two mothers.

Are people who are gay going to get AIDS?
No. Being gay is not the same as having AIDS. Regardless of one’s sexual orientation, one increases the chance of being infected with HIV when engaging in unsafe sexual activity. There is not a “dangerous” sexual orientation, just “dangerous” behavior. Heterosexuals who practice unsafe sex also run the risk of being infected.

People who are gay do not have children!
Do they not regret not being parents?
Every person does not need to be married and have biological children in order to have a fulfilling life. To have or not to have children is a personal decision, and different people will arrive at different conclusions. The decision to have children should not be made by third parties.

*Most of the information is derived from “Getting to Know LGBT People Handbook” published by the City of Taipei.*