**LGBT Parents’ Use of Social Media**

**Interview Protocol**

*Thank you for agreeing to do this interview with me today. I am interested in learning about how you and your family use the Internet and social media. If there are any questions you don’t want to answer, you are welcome to skip them. If there is any terminology that you dislike or that you prefer we use to refer to you and your child, please let me know so that we can continue the conversation in a way that is comfortable for you.*

**Background and Warm-up Questions**

1. Tell me about your family. Who is in your family?
   * 1. Do you have a partner or partners? What are their name(s)?

*For each person named, ask:*

* + - 1. How long have you been together?
      2. Have you had a formal commitment ceremony or a wedding? If so, when?
    1. Do you have children? If so, how many? When did you become a parent?
    2. Who lives with you?

*For child not living with you:*

* + - 1. What is your relationship with [child]?
    1. Is anyone in your home currently employed full time/part time? If so, who?

1. How do you identify your gender?
   * 1. How do you identify your sexual identity or orientation?
     2. When did you begin to identify as \_\_\_\_?
     3. Who in your life knows that you identify as \_\_\_\_? When did you tell [name]?
     4. Is there anyone in your life who does not know that you identify as \_\_\_\_? Who? Have you made a deliberate decision not to tell them? If so, why?
2. What happened yesterday in your family life? What happened in the morning? In the daytime? In the evening?
   * 1. How typical was yesterday in your family’s life?
3. Could you tell me about your personal experience with using the Internet?
   * 1. Could you tell me about how other members of your family use the Internet?   
        *(Prompt:* *By “the Internet”, I mean websites, mobile phone applications, texting, YouTube, online video games, and social media sites like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.)*
     2. Right now, what are your favorite places to go on the Internet? What do you like about [X]?
     3. How do you access social media websites/apps? *(Examples: mobile phone, my laptop computer, a friend’s laptop computer, desktop computer at home or at the library, etc.)*
     4. Where are you (physically) when you go online? *(Examples: at home, at a coffee shop, at work, when I am out and about, at the library, at a friend’s house)*
4. Has your use of the Internet changed since you became a parent?
   * 1. Are there any sites, apps or games that you started/stopped using? Which ones? Why?
     2. Has the way that you use or post on sites changed?

**Parents’ Identity and Disclosure on Social Media**

1. Tell me about what you did online yesterday.  If you didn’t go online yesterday, tell me about the last time you went online.
2. Which apps/websites did you use?
3. What did you do?
4. Why did you [xxxx]?
5. Tell me about a recent time that you posted a comment online.
   * 1. What did you say?
     2. Did anyone respond?
     3. Why did you decide to post this comment where you did?
6. Tell me about a recent time that you posted a photo or video online.
   * 1. What did you post?
     2. Did anyone respond?
     3. Why did you decide to post this photo or video where you did?
7. Have you talked about your (LGBT) identity online? If so, tell me about a time when you did so.
8. Do you present your identity differently depending on who you are interacting with or where you are interacting with them? If so, how and why?
9. *[If not addressed above]* Are there differences in how you interact online with different groups of people based on your identity as an (LGBT) person?
   1. Have any offline experiences influenced these differences?
10. Do you participate in online spaces for LGBT people? *(Examples: listservs, parenting sites, Meetups, Instagram)*
11. Have you met anyone from these sites offline?
12. You mentioned you like to use [*list sites/apps mentioned above*]. Can you tell me about how you use each of these sites and applications?
    * 1. Why do you use these particular sites and applications?
      2. Who do you interact with on each of these sites and applications?
      3. Are people on each of these sites/applications aware of your identity as a parent?
         1. Can you tell me about your identity as a parent on [*X sites/applications*]?
         2. Can you tell me about not identifying as a parent on [*Y sites/applications*]?
      4. Are people on each of these sites/applications aware of your identity as (LGBT)?
         1. Can you tell me about your identity as (LGBT) on [*X sites/applications*]?
         2. Can you tell me about not identifying as (LGBT) on [*Y sites/applications*]?
      5. Do you think your identities as a parent or as (LGBT) are similar or different across these sites/applications?
13. When you decide to post something online, do you have particular audiences in mind that you *think* will see your post?
    * 1. When you decide to post something online, do you have particular audiences in mind that you *hope* will see your post?
14. Is there anything that has happened when you have been online in relation to your LGBT identity or LGBT people in general that you liked, or that made you happy?
    * 1. What happened?
      2. Where did this happen?
      3. Why do you think that happened then and there?
      4. Why do you think it happened with those people in particular?
      5. Did you do anything different as a result?

*[If not about family]* Is there anything that has happened when you have been online in relation to your family members or family structure that you liked, or that made you happy?

1. What happened?
2. Where did this happen?
3. Why do you think that happened then and there?
4. Why do you think it happened with those people in particular?
5. Did you do anything different as a result?
6. Is there anything that has happened when you have been online in relation to your LGBT identity or LGBT people in general that you didn’t like, or that made you mad?
   * 1. What happened?
     2. Where did this happen?
     3. Why do you think that happened then and there?
     4. Why do you think it happened with those people in particular?
     5. Did you do anything different as a result?

*[If not about family]* Is there anything that has happened when you have been online in relation to your family members or family structure that you didn’t like, or that made you mad?

* + 1. What happened?
    2. Where did this happen?
    3. Why do you think that happened then and there?
    4. Why do you think it happened with those people in particular?
    5. Did you do anything different as a result?

1. Is there anything that has happened when you have been online in relation to your LGBT identity or LGBT people in general that scared you or that made you want to protect yourself?
   * 1. What happened?
     2. Where did this happen?
     3. Why do you think that happened then and there?
     4. Why do you think it happened with those people in particular?
     5. Did you do anything different as a result?

*[If not about family]* Is there anything that has happened when you have been online in relation to your family members or family structure that scared you, or made you want to protect yourself or members of your family?

* + 1. What happened?
    2. Where did this happen?
    3. Why do you think that happened then and there?
    4. Why do you think it happened with those people in particular?
    5. Did you do anything different as a result?

**Family Relationships and Social Media Use**

1. What devices does your child like to use *(Examples: iPad/iPod, phone, laptop)*?
2. Does your child use social media? Which ones?
3. Are you friends with your child on social media sites? Which ones?
4. Are there other ways that you interact with your child online?
5. Have you discussed social media use with your child?
6. What kind of topics have you discussed?
7. Have you discussed your (LGBT) identity with your child?
8. What kind of topics have you discussed?
9. Have you talked with your child about social media use related to your identities as an LGBT family?
10. Have you talked with your partner about social media use related to your identities as an LGBT family?
11. Have people been mean to your child on social media? If so, describe what happened.
12. Has your child been judged or bullied on social media? If so, describe what happened.

**Aspirations and Policy Changes**

1. Have you met other advocates for (LGBT) issues online?
2. How did you meet them?
3. How often do you talk with other advocates?
   1. What do you talk about?
4. Do you feel particularly close to any of the advocates you have interacted with online?
   1. How did that relationship develop?
5. Are any of these people also parents?
6. Have you ever made a comment, or shared a link or image online, in order to try to promote positive attitudes towards, or acceptance of, LGBT families?
7. What happened? What made you decide to do that?
8. Did others respond, and if so, how? What was the impact on you?
9. Who did you hope to influence by sharing?
10. Are there any non-profits (other organizations/ advocates) that you follow on social media? If so, which ones?
    * 1. Why did you decide to follow?
      2. When did you start to follow?
      3. Have you ever engaged with this organization or people affiliated with it? If so, how and why?
11. Have you discussed topics related to LGBT policies, laws, or rights on social media?
    * 1. What did you discuss and on what sites?
12. Have you ever done anything offline as a result of your online activities?
13. If major Internet companies like Google, Facebook, and Twitter got together and decided they wanted to make things better online for families like yours, what kinds of things should they do?
14. If the President of the United States wanted to make things better for families like yours, what kinds of things should he do?

**Wrapping up**

1. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?