

Resolution SS1112-19

February 22, 2012

DEPARTMENT ON GENDER ISSUES  
KATIE ROSE, DIRECTOR**A RESOLUTION PROPOSING SEXUAL ORIENTATION BE ADDED TO THE  
UNIVERSITY'S NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE**

Whereas, The University of Notre Dame is the only Top-20 university that does not include "sexual orientation" in its non-discrimination clause;

Whereas, Other prominent Catholic universities, including St. Mary's College, have added "sexual orientation" to their non-discrimination clauses while successfully upholding and preaching the Church's teaching on sexuality;

Whereas, The University's mission statement is "to cultivate in its students not only an appreciation for the great achievements of human beings, but also a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice, and oppression that burden the lives of so many. The aim is to create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice;"

Whereas, Not including "sexual orientation" in the non-discrimination clause does not create a sense of human solidarity nor concern for the common good, especially within the University community;

Whereas, Catholic Social Teaching's themes of *Life and Dignity of the Human Person*, *Rights and Responsibilities*, and *Solidarity*, as described by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, prescribe this course of action;

Whereas, The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "[homosexual persons] must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided;"

Whereas, As a community, "the Notre Dame Family," we value a culture of acceptance, openness, and respect for each member for the human being that he/she/ze is, with all of the rights and dignity inherently due, as stated in the University's Spirit of Inclusion statement: "The University of Notre Dame strives for a spirit of inclusion among the members of this community for distinct reasons articulated in our Christian tradition;"

Whereas, The possibility of discrimination creates a culture of fear in students, faculty, and staff – a fear that discourages some from entering the Notre Dame family, a fear that provokes some to leave the Notre Dame family, and a fear that inhibits the ability of some to live openly as created in the image of God;

Whereas, Not including “sexual orientation” in the non-discrimination clause defies moral, theological, psychological, and biological justification, opposes a human right, and diminishes credibility as an academic institution of undergraduate and graduate level schooling;

Whereas, The University has not publicly addressed this issue since 1997;

Whereas, The students of this University have petitioned for over 9 years to reopen discussion on this issue, including past petitions raising over 2,500 signatures and poster campaigns asking Notre Dame to “Stop the Silence”; and

Whereas, Student Senate has passed resolutions expressing similar sentiments over the past decade; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the University’s Administration publicly address why “sexual orientation” is not part of the non-discrimination clause; and

*Resolved*, That the undergraduate student body wishes to see the University of Notre Dame add “sexual orientation” to the non-discrimination clause.