

Addressing LGBTQI2S Homeless Youth

Egale

Egale Canada Human Rights Trust (Egale) is Canada's only national charity promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) human rights through research, education and community engagement.

The Need

There is a clear and urgent need for a housing facility exclusively dedicated to Toronto's homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning and Two Spirit (LGBTQI2S) youth.

The most recent homeless count completed by the City of Toronto found that 489 youth were homeless. 21% of those youth identify as LGBTQI2S. This means that at any one time there are roughly 112 LGBTQI2S homeless youth on Toronto's streets afraid to access mainstream shelters and transitional housing for fear of physical, psychological and/or sexual violence.

LGBTQI2S youth who have been rejected by their families are 8 times more likely to report an attempted suicide than their peers. Research shows that nearly half of all trans youth have reported seriously considering suicide.

Egale's Response

Egale Centre will be Canada's first and Toronto's only transitional housing facility exclusively dedicated to serving homeless LGBTQI2S youth.

Together with our partners Dixon Hall and Fife House, the team will respond to the unique challenges faced by Toronto's homeless LGBTQI2S youth.

Egale opened a counselling and housing stabilization program in April 2014 in order to immediately begin addressing the needs of Toronto's homeless LGBTQI2S youth. The lessons that Egale has learned from the program have helped shape the core of the Egale Centre approach, design and operating plan.