

Empowering relationships...

## Redwood Empire Chapter

of California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

VIA EMAIL

May 9, 2023

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Michele Champion, Chapter Relations Manager

CAMFT

7901 Raytheon Rd.

San Diego, CA 92111

Dear CAMFT Team:

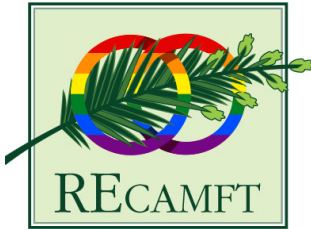
We appreciate CAMFT's apology regarding publishing a harmful "Letter to the Editor" in the most recent edition of *The Therapist*, along with the message "we take this matter seriously and will work fervently to earn the trust of our members". However, the apology as written is for hurting *feelings* of members and fails to assuage the impact of publishing a damaging, uninformed and myth-spreading opinion letter. The impact of Mr. McCarthy's letter could be dire given the misinformation which has led to a grave breach of safety for therapists, clients, and allies in our queer communities and beyond.

Since we all take this matter seriously, and in the spirit of collaboration, we would like to know what CAMFT has already done, what the future plans are, and how those will be implemented in a transparent way. For this process, we would love to also see the following questions addressed:

1.) How did the "Letter to the Editor" by Mr. McCarthy get printed? What was the selection process? Were there other letters submitted in response to the original article published in the November issue called "Bridging the Gender Gap: Guiding Trans Youth on Their Journeys to Themselves"?

2.) What policies and procedures can be changed so deleterious articles or letters which contain misinformation, pseudoscience and/or hate speech do not get published?

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- a. Is there somebody who fact checks for *The Therapist*? For example, GET – Gender Exploratory Therapy, as mentioned in the letter – is starting to be recognized as similarly harmful for transgender clients as Conversion Therapy is for gay and lesbian clients. Publishing a letter that supports GETA gives credence to a dangerous and pseudoscientific therapy model rooted in misinformation. Here is a recent article in Slate [How Therapists Are Trying to Convince Children That They're Not Actually Trans](#). And, please see Map of Influence (GETA on the far right) in [this article](#).
- b. Could it be helpful to have articles and letters be reviewed by CAMFT's DEI Committee, or other experts?
- c. What are *The Therapist* magazine's policies regarding publishing hate speech?

We would like to add the guidelines for an apology for an organization when repair is needed; we find it to be a helpful model to follow:

- Acknowledgement of the harm done - show that you understand why it caused hurt and take ownership.
- Accountability for the hurtful actions. Say what it is you are apologizing for - be specific.
- Apology for the first two items.
- Amends - what action plan will be implemented to prevent future harmful behaviors?
- Policy and procedure review.
- Changes made to policies and procedures.

It would be great to have an apology with answers to the questions appear in the next issue of *The Therapist*. Modeling a meaningful apology would be a gift to CAMFT's members and our communities. Thank you very kindly for all you do for us.

Sincerely,

***The Racial and Social Justice Committee (RSJC), RECAMFT.org***

Linda Block, LMFT, RSJC Co-Chair, RECAMFT Director at Large

Katharina Kienböck, LMFT, RSJC Co-Chair, RECAMFT Director at Large

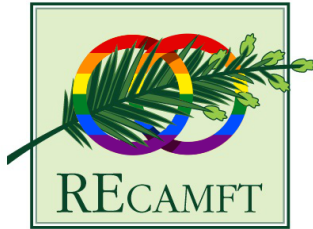
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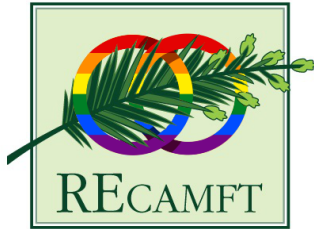
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