

Rina Bansal, MD
President
Alexandria Hospital

Dear Dr. Bansal,

Thank you for your leadership of the hospital and for your continuing recognition and encouragement of the volunteer chaplains.

I ask you to reconsider the hospital's participation in Gay Pride Month.

It goes beyond treating everyone with respect. It celebrates and promotes certain people's sexual identities.

Coming from a hospital, participation in Gay Pride Month looks like a medical endorsement. AIDS seems irrelevant, and whereas the National Institutes of Health website says that all sex-change medicine entails bioethical issues, the hospital seems to suggest that any sex change is something to be proud of.

Furthermore, while participation in Gay Pride Month may express inclusion of some people, it excludes hospital volunteers, employees, and patients who have serious moral reservations about gay pride. Have you seen news images of gay pride parades with lewd and blasphemous behavior? The gay pride movement may not endorse such behavior, but surely it tolerates the behavior as an expression of gay pride. Even if not intentionally, the hospital is associating itself with that.

Again, please reconsider the hospital's participation in Gay Pride Month.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Dunham
Volunteer chaplain
Alexandria Hospital