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Caribbean Social Work Professionals & the LGBTQ Community: An Examination of Attitudes and Behaviours

This study examines the attitudes and behaviours of Caribbean social work professionals towards Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and queer (LGBTq) individuals. Findings from the survey revealed that although 69% of the 55 respondents felt that homosexuality was a sin, 75% believed homosexuals should have equal civil rights. Regarding association with homosexual clients, 90% stated that they were willing to work with them, yet only 72% stated that they would be comfortable doing so. The incongruence in these findings imply that Caribbean social work professionals, through their unconscious biases and actions, are at risk of perpetuating oppressive practices. This underscores the need for administrators, educators and practitioners within the helping professions to deliberately address discriminatory and prejudicial attitudes and behaviours towards homosexuals in the course of their work.