

Interview schedule – bisexual fathers

**[Don't start recording audio]**

ID number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of interview: \_\_\_\_\_

**Demographic information**

Age?

Gender?

Ethnicity?

Partner status?

Partner: age                      gender                      ethnicity

**Household structure**

*I'd like to begin by getting a few details about your family and who lives with you.*

**Adults**

Name	Gender	DOB	Age	Relationship to child	Relationship to father

**Children**

Name	Gender	DOB	Age	Method of conception – adoption, donation, surrogacy etc? <i>(to be completed at end of interview)</i>

What does [child] call you?

What do they call your partner?

### **Occupation**

*So, this next section is just a few short questions about whether you are working.*

Are you currently working/employed?

**If yes:** is that full-time or part-time?

Have you taken time off work for caregiving reasons?

What about your partner?

**If no:** have you worked in the past?

Do you plan to return to work at all?

What is your occupation?

Are you experiencing any financial problems at the moment?

### **Working status**

Not working .....

Working part-time .....

Working full-time.....

### **Time off work**

..... Months

### **Partner time off work**

..... Months

### **Plan to return to work**

No.....

Undecided.....

Yes.....

N/a.....

**Job title**.....

### **Financial difficulties**

None.....1

Some/minor difficulties.....2

Definite difficulties.....3

Major problems/hardship.....4

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*So in a minute I'm going to ask you some questions about your experiences as a parent, including how you became a parent, what your everyday family life is like, and what sorts of communities you're involved in. There will also be a few questions about your LGBT+ identity and how you think about this.*

*Some of these questions you might not have been asked to think about before, so take your time and don't worry if you don't have an answer straight away, and let me know if a question just isn't relevant to you or your family.*

### **Bi identity**

*So firstly, I'd like to ask you some questions about your personal identity, if that's okay. This might go into a bit more detail than you usually think about day-to-day, so if there's anything you don't want to answer, that's fine.*

- So firstly, when you think about your personal identity, what sort of things come up first in your mind?
- Can you just tell me a bit about your sexual orientation?
  - How do you identify?
  - What does being [bisexual+] mean to you?
  - Which genders are you attracted to?
- When did you come out as [bisexual+]?
- Have you always identified this way?
- Can you talk me very briefly through your relationship history, if that's okay?
  - Genders of sexual/romantic/long-term relationships
- Current relationship - *so you mentioned your partner [name]*
  - How does [partner] identify, in terms of their gender and sexuality?
  - Do people ever make assumptions about your sexual orientation based on your partner's gender?
    - How often does this happen?
    - How does this make you feel?
    - Do you correct them? Why/why not?

### Becoming a parent

*So this next set of questions is about becoming a parent, how this happened for you, and your feelings and expectations around this.*

- So have you always wanted children?
  - When did you start thinking about being a parent?
  - Did this change across your life course?
- Could you tell me the story of how you became a parent?
- What method did you use to have your child(ren)? [ART, adoption, unassisted etc]
  - If unassisted – skip to \*\*
  - If assisted -
    - How did you make the decision to become a parent this way?
    - Could you tell me a bit more about how this process went for you?
      - Did you use the same method for all of your children?
      - So just to clarify, was that using [donor egg, sperm, partner's etc]?
  - \*\* Did you ever consider using other methods? \*\* [like IVF, adoption etc]
- How important do you feel it is to be genetically/biologically related to your family members?
- As you prepared to become a parent, did you find your [bisexual] identity to be relevant at all?
  - Did you feel this was recognised by others?
  - Did you talk about this with anyone?
- Can you tell me a bit about what it was like to be a new parent?
- Can you tell me a bit about how your life has changed or stayed the same since becoming a parent?
  - E.g. daily routine, social life, career etc
- What sort of expectations do you feel you have to meet as a parent, if any?
  - From your family and friends?
  - From society as a whole?
- To what extent has being a parent matched your own expectations?
- Can you tell me about any changes in your personal identity since becoming a parent, or has it been pretty stable?

## Bi parenting

*So next I'd like to hear a bit about what it's like for you being a bi parent specifically, again these might not be things you often think about so don't worry about answering in any particular way.*

- Do you feel there are any expectations of what a bi parent should be like?
  - [e.g. from friends, family, wider society]
  - o What sorts of things?
- How would you describe your experiences of parenting generally as a [bisexual+] father?
  - o e.g. Experiences of interacting with child's school, socialising with other parents etc, or more generally when you're at home with your family, looking after children etc
- Would you say your role as a father is related at all to your sexuality, or are they totally separate in your mind?
- Have you ever talked to your child about being bi?
  - o Can you tell me a bit about those conversations and how they come up?
  - o Do you think your child ever thinks about your sexual orientation or is it something that doesn't really occur to them?
- Do you think there are any specific parenting challenges faced by bi parents?
- What about any strengths that bi parents bring to parenting?

## Family life

*These next questions are about your everyday family life and the kind of roles and relationships you have in your family.*

- Can you tell me about your relationship with your partner?
    - Has becoming parents affected your relationship in any way?
    - Do you take on different roles within your relationship since becoming a parent?
  
  - What sort of everyday roles do you take on as a parent? e.g. childcare, housework, discipline etc
    - How are these shared with your partner?
    - Do you think your gender affects the type of parenting roles you take on?
    - Do you think your sexual orientation affects the type of parenting roles you take on?
    - Do you take on any parenting roles that you feel are not typically associated with fatherhood?
      - As a bi person, do you think you would have different roles as a parent if your partner was a different gender? Why/why not?
  - Are you generally satisfied with the types of roles/responsibilities you have in your family?
  
  - Can you tell me a little bit about your relationship with your child? ( - each child individually)
  
  - What does being a father mean to you?
    - How much do you identify with the typical concept of fatherhood?
- Prompt: so I was wondering how you would define a typical father and whether you think you fit into that description – there's no right or wrong answer here, some people talk about things like the types of ways they play with their children, or how they balance time at work and home etc*

## Community

*Now I'd like to ask a bit about the wider communities you might be a part of, and how you feel you belong in these kinds of communities.*

- Generally (- pre parenthood)
  - Can you tell me a bit about how you feel as a bi person in society?
  - How do you feel bi people are perceived by wider society?
  - How do you feel bi people are perceived by the LGBT community?
- As a parent (- since parenthood)
  - How do you feel you're perceived in general heteronormative spaces since becoming a parent? – e.g. work, school
  - How do you feel you're perceived in LGBT+ specific spaces since becoming a parent?
- Do you feel like you get enough support as a parent?
  - Where does this support come from?
  - Are there any areas/spaces in which you do not feel supported?
- Do you see yourself as part of a parenting community?
  - Have you ever been involved in any parenting groups?
    - How do you feel in these spaces?
  - Have you ever been involved in any LGBT-specific parenting groups?
    - How do you feel in these spaces?
- Do you see yourself as part of the LGBT community?
  - Do you take part in any LGBT activism?
  - Do you feel any expectations from the LGBT community in terms of being a parent?
- Do you see yourself as involved specifically in a bi community?
  - Do you know any other bisexual parents?
  - Are there any role models of bi parenting that you are aware of?
- Do you ever have to make decisions about telling other parents that you're bi?
  - How do people respond to this?
- Do you ever find yourself having to tell others that you are a father?
  - How do people respond to this?

- Have you ever experienced negative reactions from others in relation to your family or personal identity?
  - Are you comfortable telling me a bit about what happened?
  - How did this make you feel?
  - Do these types of experiences affect how you live your life?
  
- Do you ever feel like there are situations or spaces where you have to highlight or hide certain parts of your identity? - examples?
  
- If you were to offer advice to other bisexual people/men considering becoming parents, what would you say?

#### Finishing up questions

- Are there any other aspects of your identity that I haven't mentioned that you feel are important to you as a parent?
  - Can you tell me about your happiest times as a parent?
  - What are you most looking forward to as a parent?
  
- Is there anything else you'd like to add that you think is important, or that you haven't had the chance to mention yet?

**[stop recording audio]**