



## **DSM Revision Project**

NCSF started the DSM Revision Project in 2008 to make our constituents' concerns known to the American Psychiatric Association's revision committee for the Paraphilias in the Diagnostic and Statistic Manual (DSM), the definitive resource on the Diagnostic Criteria for all mental disorders. We are calling on the American Psychiatric Association to remove or drastically restructure the Paraphilias section in the DSM.

Statements currently within the DSM Paraphilias criteria are contradicted by scientific evidence, therefore NCSF must conclude that the interpretation of the Paraphilias criteria has been politically – not scientifically – based. This politically motivated interpretation subjects BDSM practitioners, fetishists and cross-dressers to bias, discrimination and social sanctions without any scientific basis.

NCSF is running an online petition and is interfacing with members of the APA Paraphilias and Gender Identity revision committee to supply information about discrimination that occurs because of the DSM. NCSF is also working with the media to make this issue public, including the New York Times Magazine and other nationally known publications.

The main problem is that the Paraphilias section categorizes distress and dysfunction according to certain sexual behaviors, not psychological syndromes or patterns. Behavior itself is not evidence of psychopathology; compulsive hand washing may be a symptom of obsessive-compulsive disorder, but it is not a hand-washing disorder. There is no data to support the Paraphilias as the cause of the distress and dysfunction in individuals. In addition, discrimination and societal pressure cause significant distress for a great number of people, in which the societal stigma is the cause rather than the sexual behavior itself.

To find out more, read the NCSF's "White Paper on the DSM Revision" at [www.ncsfreedom.org](http://www.ncsfreedom.org). Sign the "DSM Revision Petition" at [www.thepetitionsite.com/1/DSMrevisionpetition](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/DSMrevisionpetition)

You can make your signature anonymous on this secure petition site so it doesn't appear on the Internet. To get updates on the progress of the DSM Revision Project you can visit the DSM Revision Blogspot at <http://dsmrevision.blogspot.com>