



Shakness mesh tashkhiss is the slogan of LebMASH's second annual LGBT health week that will take place March 17-19, 2018. The main message of this campaign is not to medicalize homosexuality by trying to frame it as a psychological, hormonal, or genetic disturbance. The slogan also encompasses LebMASH's 3 signature diamond shaped dots that represent: **research, education, and policy**.

In 2013, the Lebanese Psychological Association (LPA) and the Lebanese Psychiatric Society (LPS) asserted the position of modern science that **homosexuality is not a disease** and therefore requires no treatment.

Some celebrities and media personalities, members of the public, and even some health care professionals continue to **medicalize** homosexuality and propagate certain **myths** regarding the origins of homosexuality. They continue to link homosexuality to **psychological disorders, genetic abnormalities or hormonal imbalance**. There are **no scientific studies** to support these claims.

These myths are **dangerous** as they lead to **stigma** and **discrimination** against LGBT people and more importantly they lead to dangerous practices such as (1) sexual orientation change efforts, which are failed attempts to change one's sexual orientation from homosexual to heterosexual and (2) other harmful treatments such as prescribing hormones.

Science has no explanation for what makes one homosexual, the same way science has no explanation for what makes one heterosexual. All major professional organizations consider homosexuality as a **normal variation** of human sexuality.

LebMASH asserts its position that homosexuality is a natural human behavior and that it is a **social phenomenon** and not a medical phenomenon. Medically speaking, it can be seen as any other normal human characteristic, such as eye color. All attempts to medicalize homosexuality diminish LGBT people and puts them at risk of harm. LebMASH calls on everyone, and especially parents of LGBT individuals, school counselors, media personalities and other influential figures to always remember that LGBT people are human beings and equal members of society and must not be medicalized. We strive to a society where LGBT people can live safely and in dignity, achieve their full potential and enjoy complete physical, mental, and social well-being.