

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10/17/05

Contact:

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Seattle, Washington and National Groups Condemn Conference preaching that gay youth can & should change

Exodus International's "therapy" for LGBT youth is unproven, unsafe and abusive

WHAT: Organizations from Seattle and around the country will explain their concerns about a local "Groundswell" conference organized by Exodus International. Exodus advocates what they call "freedom from homosexuality" through religious ministry and lay counseling. Our local and national organizations believe in the health and resilience of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth and don't believe they have to change to be healthy and whole.

WHO: This response by the Safe Schools Coalition is endorsed by the Washington Association of Churches; the Bellevue, Seattle and national offices of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), the Puget Sound and national offices of The Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

Speakers include:

- Christopher Martell, Ph.D., A.B.P.P., psychologist and Clinical Associate Professor at U.W.
- Rev. David Strong, Christian Community Church of Joy
- Carol Waymack, M.D., physician and mother
- Rev. Monica Corsaro, Ecumenical Campus Ministry at U.W.
- Bryce McKibben, University of Washington student

Also available for interviews: several other teachers, mental health professionals, clergy, parents, students and survivors of anti-gay ministries and therapies.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 26th, at 11 a.m.

WHERE: Hildebrand Hall, Plymouth Congregational Church, 1217 6th Ave., Seattle.

Parking is available on University between Fifth and Sixth Streets.