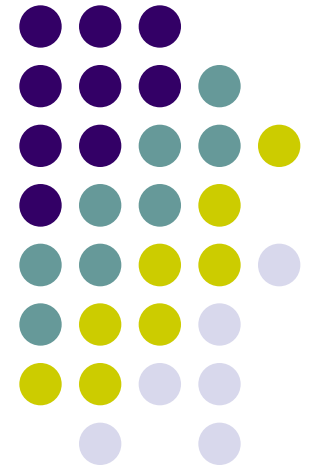


Taking action on LGBT health & social care inequalities

Dr Julie Fish
Reader in Social Work and
Health Inequalities
Social work and social
development conference
Stockholm, July 2012

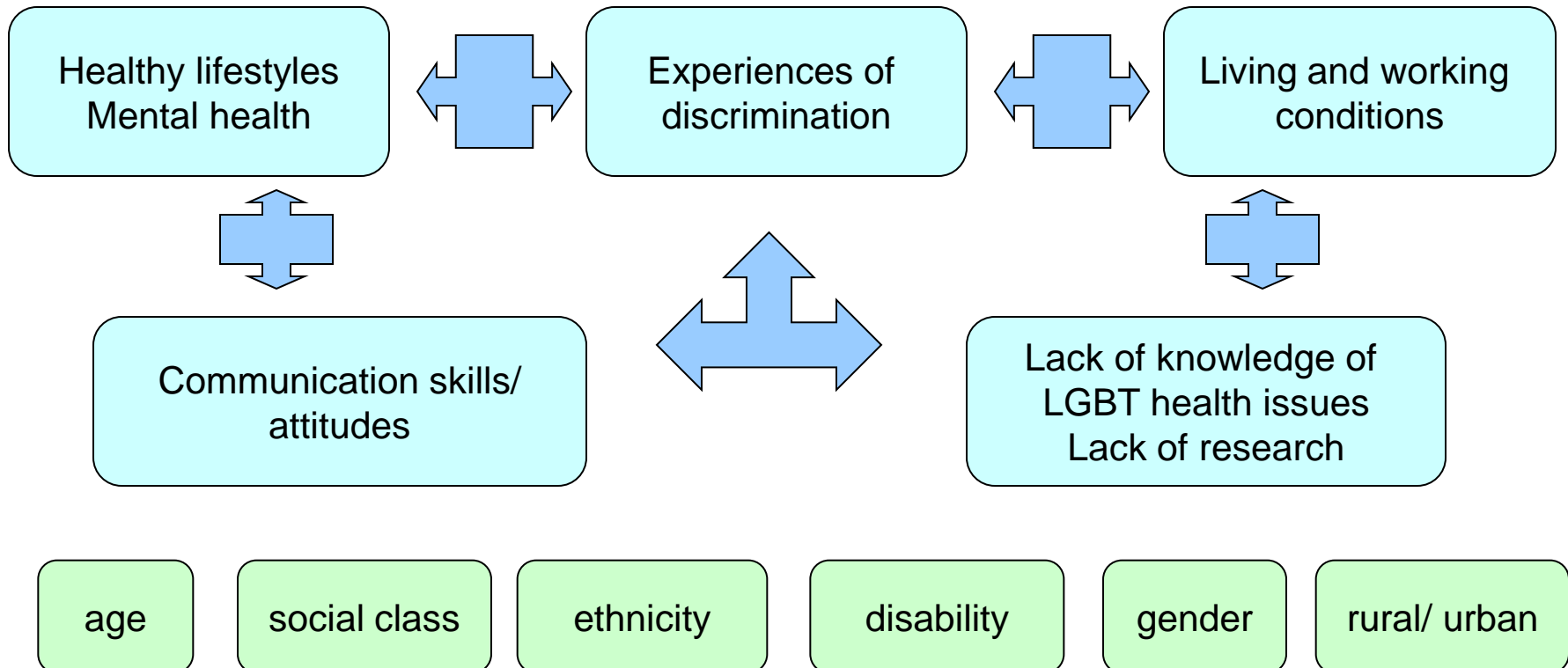
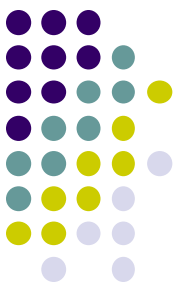


The *right to health* for LGBT people

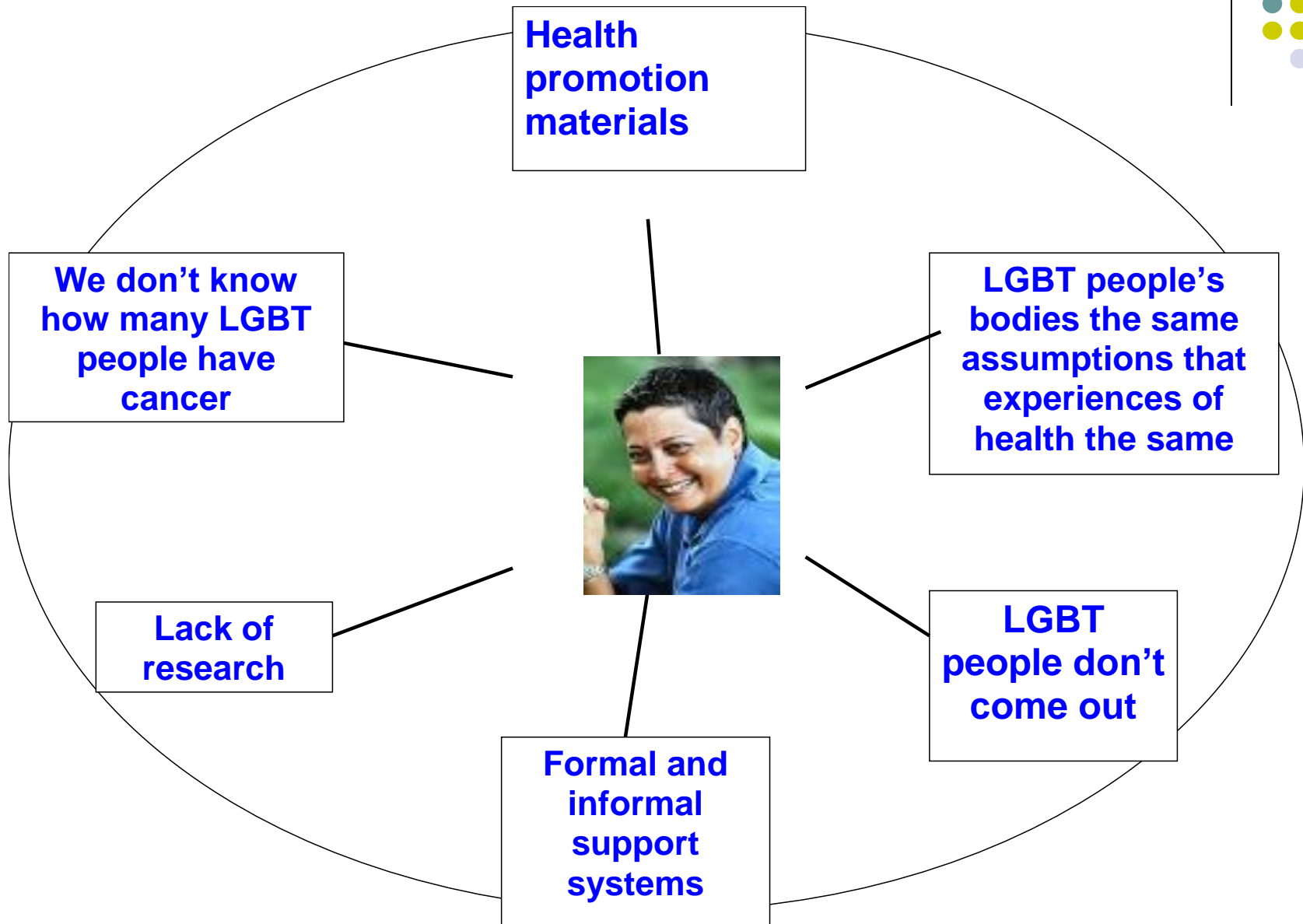


- The Yogyakarta Principles - a universal guide to human rights and sexual orientation and gender identity call for all states to 'develop and implement programmes to address discrimination, prejudice ... which undermine the health of persons because of their sexual orientation or gender identity' (IHSR, 2007: 22).
- International Service for Human Rights. (2007). *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*. Retrieved 4 March 2011 from http://www.yogyakartaprinciples.org/principles_en.pdf

Social determinants of health for LGBT people



The Cycle of Invisibility



Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2010



Doctors never talked
in front of patient as if
they were not there

*Always treated with
respect and dignity
by hospital staff*

*Never felt treated as a
set of cancer
symptoms rather than
as a whole person*

*Hospital staff
always did
everything they
could to control
their pain*

Patient was given information
about support / self help groups
for people with cancer



Coming Out About **Breast Cancer**

Research on lesbian and bisexual women's experiences of breast cancer

Funded by the NCAT as
part of the National
Cancer Equalities
Initiative
Small scale qualitative
study
One of only two UK
studies about breast
cancer in lesbian and
bisexual women

Coming out to professionals



We had never particularly come out to them.. Yes it's fear, it's really a little bit of fear about how are they going to treat you? Are they going to treat you different? Are they going to make things awkward for you?



Edna Campbell



Audre Lorde



Pat Battle

Lesbian women
with breast
cancer

Accessing support

I didn't access any support groups because I had gone along... (to a) weekend.. in the all the bits where we went off and had discussions, all really that was being talked about was their relationships with their husbands. ...And so I just felt very uncomfortable. It was staying away in (a Northern city) so even the kind of social spaces, I already felt quite excluded...

Lesbian
women
with breast
cancer



Wanda Sykes



Martina Navratilova

Involving partners



My partner had breast cancer and although the care she received generally was good, our relationship was never acknowledged and at best I was treated as her 'friend' which at times we found difficult and stressful. I think if I had been a male partner, the health professionals would have included me more in discussions rather than turning their back to me and seeing me as 'irrelevant' when I went with her to the hospital etc”.





**Developing professional knowledge
about breast cancer in lesbian and
bisexual Women**

**Knowledge exchange
programme**

Aims:

- To make an impact on policy and practice
- To translate research findings into practice

**ESRC knowledge exchange
programme RES-192-22-0111**



Lesbian and bisexual women and breast cancer

A policy briefing



Influencing cancer policy

Launched at Breast Cancer
Care, Southwark.

Cancer service users talked
about their experiences to
an audience of service
users, cancer professionals
and voluntary and statutory
organisations.

Briefing presented to NCEI
in April 2011 by Breast
Cancer Care and widely
disseminated



Developing practice - training

- Knowledge of the issues
- Experience
- Environment
- Signposting/referrals
- Training/Support
- Communication skills
- Good practice

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Seminar for cancer and
social care
professionals
Tues 28 February 2012
Service user
involvement
Macmillan GP
Macmillan T & D

Developing practice –guidance for practitioners



- Identifying the issues
- 6 case studies from practice
- Dissemination through Macmillan and to seminar delegates



Group work: Questions for discussion and case studies



- How many of you have learned about LGBT health and social care issues in social work training training?
- Is it important to know about sexual orientation? Why/ Why not?
- Is it the user's responsibility to disclose their sexual orientation/gender identity?

LGBT health inequalities: key readings

- Fish, J. (2009). All things equal? Social work and lesbian, gay and bisexual global health inequalities. In P. Bywaters, L. Napier & E. McLeod (Eds.), *Social work and global health inequalities: Policy and practice developments* (pp. 144-149). Bristol: The Policy Press.
- Fish, J., & Bewley, S. (2010). Using human rights based approaches to conceptualise lesbian and bisexual women's health inequalities. *Health & Social Care in the Community*, 18, 355-362.
- Fish, J., & Wilkinson, S. (2003). Understanding lesbians' healthcare behaviour: the case of breast self-examination. *Social Science & Medicine*, 56(2), 235-245.
- Fish, J. (2010). "It's a mixed up, muddled up, shook up world, except for Lola": transforming health and social care for trans people. *Diversity in Health and Care*, 7, 87-89
- Fish, J. (2010) Coming out about breast cancer in lesbian and bisexual women. Leicester: De Montfort University.
- Kairos in Soho (2010) Sexual orientation, gender identity and health inequality in Westminster. London: Kairos in Soho.
- Scott, S. D., Pringle, A., & Lumsdaine, C. (2004) *Sexual exclusion: homophobia and health inequalities: A review of health inequalities and social exclusion experienced by lesbian, gay and bisexual people*, London: UK Gay Men's Health Network.
- Whittle, S. Turner, L. and Al-almi, M. (2007) Engendered Penalties: Transgender and Transsexual People's Experiences of Inequality and Discrimination. Press For Change.



Social work and lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people Making a difference

JULIE FISH

SOCIAL WORK IN PRACTICE series