

# Out Families Educate Around the Globe – Come Meet Them at URI Symposium

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There's a well-worn PFLAG saying that "when children come out of the closet, their families go in." Well, not these families. In fact, the moms and dads featured in Susan Polis Schutz's documentary *Anyone and Everyone* are heard around the globe – South Africa, Ireland, Spain, all three coasts of the United States, and the heartland too.

Who are these people and what are they up to? As the film's title suggests, they are "anyone and everyone," – a human rainbow embracing a cross-section of racial and religious views, including Hindu, Mormon, Catholic, Jewish, Southern Baptist, and families of Cherokee, Japanese, Caucasian and African-American descent. As for what they're

doing – they're telling loudly and proudly about their gay and lesbian children.

No, they haven't abandoned their jobs to spread their stories globally. Instead, they opened their hearts on film to help others embrace their own LGBT children. Just like life, though, the documentary doesn't pull punches – most of the families depicted initially struggled bitterly with the news that their child is gay. But regardless of background, the strongest families eventually experienced not only healing but an almost sacred growth. Indeed, one of our PFLAG members shared that "I felt we had never discussed how [my son] had come out to me many years ago and my reaction to that news – it hadn't been very positive – and I didn't know how to bring it up to him. I had accepted

his news a long time ago, and we have a very good relationship, but our not discussing my reaction had bothered me for years. We viewed [*Anyone and Everyone*], together, and had a wonderful heart-to-heart discussion."

Rhode Islanders are fortunate to have one of the families from the documentary right here in our own backyard. And, they will be available for questions following a special showing of *Anyone and Everyone* at the University of Rhode Island LGBTQI Symposium held March 26-29. Please consult the PFLAG South/Central Web site ([www.pflagscri.org](http://www.pflagscri.org)) for details regarding the date and time of the showing. More information on the documentary itself is available at [www.anyoneandeveryone.com](http://www.anyoneandeveryone.com).