

## Charity: Hostility To Gay Adoption 'Damaging'



Children in the care system are losing out because many Britons believe that gay parents will make worse adopters, research shows.

A survey of more than 2,000 adults found one in three (32%) of the public do not think gay couples can parent as well as heterosexual couples.

Barnardo's chief executive Anne Marie Carrie said society's attitude must be changed to increase the chances of the 64,000 children in care finding secure homes.

"The idea that gay parents are second best must be challenged," Ms Carrie said.

"There is no room for prejudice. Children are in desperate need.

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Barnardo's chief executive Anne Marie Carrie

"To continue to discourage potential adopters simply because of their sexual orientation is severely

diminishing the chances of securing loving, stable homes for the children who are waiting," she said.

"This debate needs to be urgently raised and myths surrounding how sexuality, race, marital status and gender can affect your parenting dispelled."

One gay adoptive parent, Marcel, who has two sons aged 17 and 18 with her partner Meryl, said society's attitude was based on "ignorance".

"I feel the result is based in ignorance because nobody knows if they are going to be good parents and no child comes with a manual so everybody does the best they can.

"I don't think a same-sex couple is going to find that any different to a heterosexual couple."

Rob Cole

