

## **ABSTRACT**

This bachelor's thesis focuses on the experience of parents of transgender children. Its primary aim was to understand this experience more closely. Specifically, the research concentrated on the period after the child's coming out and on how parents cope with the fact that their child is transgender. The theoretical part introduces basic terms, concepts, and existing research in this area, with an emphasis on the context of the parents of transgender children. The empirical part is based on qualitative research conducted using semi-structured interviews with six parents of transgender children. The analysis and interpretation of the collected data was carried out by means of thematic analysis.

The research showed that apart from other reactions (thinking back to the time before coming out, thinking about potential causes), parents experience various emotions (shock, confusion, surprise, regret, or fear) connected to their child's coming out. During the process of coming to terms with the fact that their child is transgender, some parents seek professional help, for example support groups. Parents' other relationships (for instance with the other parent, grandparents, or siblings of the transgender child) can serve both as a source of support and a significant stressor. Having enough time and having access to reliable information seem to be important protective factors for parents. What parents perceive as highly unsettling is the medical form of transition (hormone therapy, surgical changes), which makes them worried about the health of their children. Parents also find it difficult to change the name and gender when addressing their children. After some time, the parents not only got used to using the new name and gender, but all of them also accepted their transgender child, perceiving their child's satisfaction and well-being as most important. The results also suggest that parents' experience with the coming out of their transgender child can have certain developmental potential.

## **KEYWORDS**

gender identity, gender incongruence, transgender, coming out, parental coping