

Actions to Challenge Heterosexism and Homophobia on Campus

Educate Yourself

- Read gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender literature and history
- Read newspapers or journals that feature LGBT news/issues
- Go through a whole day imagining yourself to be a LGBT person
- Attend LGBT films, workshops, seminars, cultural events, or hear speakers
- Attend a meeting of a group such as PFLAG (Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
- Listen to and learn from LGBT people

Model Non-heterosexist or Non-homophobic Behavior and Attitudes

- Take pride in your same-sex relationship
- Use inclusive language like partner or date rather than boyfriend/girlfriend or husband/wife
- Make friends with and get close to LGBT people
- Don't assume that being gay, lesbian, or bisexual, and transgender people don't have, like, or want children
- Keep information you have about others' sexual orientations/identity confidential
- Use the same standards for same sex affection in public that you use for opposite sex affection

Create an Inclusive Culture and a Welcoming Environment

- Assume that some people in your residence hall, classes, groups, and/or campus community are LGBT
- Assume that closeted LGBT people in your residence hall, classes, groups, and/or campus community are wondering how safe the environment is for them; provide safety by making it clear you accept and support all people
- Put up bulletin board displays that include same sex couples or references to LGBT lives and people
- Post fliers announcing events of interest of LGBT people; remember there is a heterosexual assumption, so actively advertise that LGBT people are welcome (especially at parties and dances)
- Find out about and share resources and information on gay-affirmative service providers, events, bookstores, bars, etc.
- Say the words "gay", "lesbian", "bisexual", and "transgender" out loud; be aware that there may be LGBT people around you, even if none are "out of the closet"

Educate Others

- Sponsor a workshop on homophobia
- Sponsor a LGBT speakers bureau program

- Sponsor films like Pink Triangle, Times of Harvey Milk, Before Stonewall, Personal Best, Parting Glances, Desert of hearths, etc.
- Set up bulletin board displays on LGBT issues/culture/people
- Have informal discussions where you live, to go school, work, and/or with groups of friends
- Offer alternatives, accurate information, etc., when you hear homophobic stereotypes or myths
- Write articles for a newspaper on LGBT issues, write letters to the editor

Confront Over Incidents

- Interrupt heterosexist/gendered jokes, slurs, comments, or assumptions
- Actively react to anonymous anti-gay graffiti
- Make clear to all who are involved both the relevant policies and your own feelings
- Provide support to the victim/target of the attack
- Critically review local media for heterosexual bias and call/write editors with complaints/suggestions

Take a Public Stand

- Wear a button such as “I support gay rights” or “How dare you presume I’m heterosexual?”
- Attend a rally or march supporting LGBT people; write a letter to the school paper
- Sign a petition supporting gay rights
- Promote LGBT nondiscrimination policies
- Campaign to pass gay rights bills
- Form a support/activist group for heterosexual allies
- Organize to get more resources on your campus

