



QUEER CAFÉ | LGBTQ INFORMATION & TRAINING
SAFE ZONE PROGRAM

SELF-REFLECTION

Heterosexual Privilege

I Have Heterosexual Privilege if...

- I don't have to worry about hiding my friends, partner, and my weekend activities and can talk about it when I come in to work on Monday morning.
- I don't have to feel like a split personality.
- I am able to be fully who I am at work or school without having to worry about what others may say about my partner or friends.
- I don't have to lead a double life.
- I should need to move, I can be pretty sure that my neighbors will be neutral, pleasant, and/or accepting of me.
- I can turn on the TV or radio or open up to the front page of the paper and see people of my orientation widely and positively represented.
- When people talk about our national heritage or civilization, I am shown that people like me did contribute to it in positive and healthy ways.
- I can, at my workplace, talk about my partner or have a picture on my desk, without fearing that people will automatically disapprove or think that I am being "flamboyant," "blatant," or "forcing my beliefs" upon them.
- I can be open about my sexual orientation at work without fear of reprisal in terms of job promotion, loss of job, or be accused of negatively affecting the work climate.
- I can bring my partner to work related parties and events and be seen as promoting a positive familial climate.
- I can get paid leave from work and/or condolences when grieving for the death of a long term partner.
- My friends can be seen with me without being afraid of being labeled by others.
- I can go apartment or house hunting with my partner without fear of reprisal.
- I can, if I wish, arrange to be in the company of people of my sexual orientation most of the time.
- I can avoid spending time with people who look upon my sexual orientation with repulsion, hatred, loathing, or even pity.
- I can publicly hold hands, kiss, or otherwise express affection to my loved one without fear of harassment or attack.
- I can express myself sexually without the fear of being prosecuted for breaking the law.
- My romantic and emotional intimacies have not been reduced to being based upon an act of sex.
- I can go wherever I want and know that I will not be harassed, beaten, mugged, or killed because of my sexual orientation.
- I can talk about my sexual orientation without people thinking that it is abnormal, unnatural, a crime against God or Nature, or that I am a freak.
- I have never been accused of being "disgusting," of flaunting my sexuality, or of being obsessed with sex for sharing romantic experiences.

--I can expect my family to include me and my partner at family events, occasions and gatherings.

--I can be pretty sure I will not be denied the right to marry whomever I choose to.

--I need not fear emotional and financial truncation from my family because of my sexual orientation.

--If I decide to adopt a child, I am perfectly certain that my sexual orientation will not be an issue of concern; or that I will be seen as influencing a child towards a particular sexual orientation.

--I can be pretty sure that I can raise, adopt, and teach children without people believing that I am a child molester or will force them into my sexual orientation.

--I can be sure that my children will be given curricular materials that testify to our familial existence in positive ways.

--I can raise my children without fear of state intervention because of my sexual orientation.

--I can be pretty sure that my children will not be made fun of, ridiculed, or harassed because of who raises them.

--I can approach my medical doctor and be open about my health and illnesses without fear of being judged or denied service.

--I can approach the legal system, social service organizations, and government agencies without fearing discrimination because of my sexual orientation.

--I can join the military and be open about my sexual orientation.

--I can belong to a religious organization or denomination of my choice and know that I will not be condemned or denounced by the religious leaders and the members because of my sexual orientation.

--I can be close friends with people who do not share my sexual orientation.

--I can teach from pre-school through high-school without fear of being fired any day.

--I can teach about lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender or intersex people without being seen as having “a bias” because of my orientation, or of forcing a “homosexual or personal agenda” on students.

--I can easily find academic courses and institutions that give attention to people of my sexual orientation.

--I can go home from most meetings of organizations I belong to feeling tied in and accepted, rather than isolated, outnumbered, held at a distance, or feared.

--I can worry about homophobia without being seen as self-interested or self-seeking.

--I have the right to inherit jointly-owned property when my partner passes away.

--I can receive tax breaks, health and insurance coverage, and spousal legal rights through being in a long term relationship.

--I can get auto and homeowners’ insurance policies at reduced rates with my partner.

--I have the right to visit my partner in the hospital and intensive care and make important medical decisions for him/her.

--I can legally sponsor my partner to live in the United States who is not a US citizen or Permanent Resident.

--I can expect that most social institutions will validate me by social gestures such as nurture, support, and the usual celebratory cards, emails, and phone calls that celebrate who I am and my relationship to another person.

--I don’t have to constantly explain that I am not “a pedophile.”

--I have never been asked if I am heterosexual because I had a bad homosexual experience.

--I have never been accused of hating women because I am married to a man.