

Heterosexism and Heteronormativity

CSUN Positive Space Program's
ALLY PROJECT
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Heterosexism – the belief that heterosexuality is normal and the norm.
Heteronormativity – the social setting that normalizes heterosexuality.

Heterosexuality in Perspective

If we turn around questions commonly asked of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual people, we can see a whole different perspective on sexual orientation.

- What do you think caused your heterosexuality?
- When and where did you first decide that you were a heterosexual?
- Is it possible that your heterosexuality is just a phase you might grow out of?
- Is it possible that your heterosexuality stems from a neurotic fear of others of the same sex?
- If you have never slept with someone of the same sex and enjoyed it, is it possible that all you need is a good gay lover?
- To whom have you disclosed your heterosexual tendencies? How did they react?
- Why do heterosexuals seem so compelled to seduce others into their lifestyle?
- Why do you insist on flaunting your heterosexuality? Can't you just be who you are and keep it quiet?
- With so many child molesters being heterosexual, do you feel safe exposing your child to heterosexual teachers?
- Why do heterosexuals place so much emphasis on sex?
- With the menace of overpopulation, could the world survive if everyone were a heterosexual?

Heterosexual Privileges

- As a heterosexual, I am privileged to be able to be free of fear and walk across campus holding my girlfriend's or boyfriend's hand.
- As a heterosexual, I am privileged that I can be a member of ROTC without fear of being "found out" and losing my scholarship as well as my career plans.
- As a heterosexual, I am privileged to join a fraternity or sorority without fear of being rejected based on my sexual identity.
- As a heterosexual, I am privileged to be able to talk freely about my "relationships" with roommates, friends, and family.
- As a heterosexual, I am privileged to play varsity sports without the fear of being removed from the team because of my sexual identity.
- As a heterosexual, I am privileged to walk into any bar or dance with my partner without fear of being verbally or physically abused.
- As a heterosexual, I am privileged to interview for jobs and be able to discuss my plans for marriage without fear of being discriminated against.
- As a heterosexual, I am privileged to run for a student leadership position without students focusing only on my sexual identity.
- As a heterosexual, I am privileged to walk this campus without fear of physical or verbal harm based solely on my sexual identity.
- As a heterosexual, I am privileged that I am a member of the dominant culture and I MAY CHOOSE TO BE AN ALLY for gay/ lesbian/ bisexual students.

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