



Community and Social Justice Support Nights Unmasking Homophobia

Process:

Please consider the following statements (adapted from Peggy McIntosh, "White Privilege and Male Privilege: a Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies," 1988) and share some of your reflections:

- 1) I can talk about the social events of the weekend without censoring the names, gender, and relational configurations of my friends.
- 2) I can feel welcomed and "normal" in the usual walks of life.
- 3) I can arrange to be around people of my same sexual orientation most of the time.
- 4) I can avoid spending time with people who have been trained to mistrust me.
- 5) If I have to move, I don't have to worry too much about whether a landlord or my new neighbors will approve of me.
- 6) I can see people of my sexual orientation widely and matter-of-factly represented on TV and in books, magazines, and newspapers.
- 7) Stories of national heritage include information about people who share my sexual orientation.
- 8) I can know that my children will be given curricular materials that testify to the life that grounds our family.
- 9) I can be pretty sure of fair treatment from teachers and employers if I fulfill performance objectives.
- 10) I am never asked to speak for all people of my sexual orientation.
- 11) I can easily buy posters, post cards, and greeting cards appropriate for the person I am sharing my life with/dating.
- 12) I can go home from most gatherings I attend feeling tied in rather than isolated, out of place, outnumbered, unheard, or feared.
- 13) If my day, week, or year is going badly, I don't need to ask of each negative episode whether it has undercurrents regarding my sexual orientation.
- 14) I can consider many social, political, religious, and professional options without asking whether a person of my sexual orientation would be accepted or allowed to do what I want to do.
- 15) I can arrange my activities so that I never have to feel rejection on account of my sexual orientation.
- 16) I can expect figurative language and imagery in all of the arts to testify to experiences of people who share my sexual orientation.
- 17) I can expect people to feel comfortable inquiring about or hearing about the person I share my life with/date.
- 18) I am supported by people in my efforts to find/develop/maintain a loving, lifelong sacramental relationship.
- 19) If I am in the hospital, I can be sure that my immediate family, including my life partner, will be informed of my condition and prognosis and consulted on treatment choices.
- 20) I do not have to worry about being verbally harassed or physically assaulted because of my sexual orientation.

- ☉If you are heterosexual, what was it like to read through these statements?
- ☉If you are heterosexual, how comfortable are you when discussing relationships with gay, lesbian, and bisexual people?
- ☉What are/might be the daily experience of gay or lesbian people?
- ☉What personal prejudices affect the lives of gay and lesbian people?
- ☉What systemic marginalization affects gay and lesbian people?
- ☉What special rights and privileges are offered to heterosexuals and not to people who are lesbian or gay?
- ☉If you are heterosexual, how might you be an ally to gay, lesbian, and bisexual people?