



## Privileges Held by Straight People

- 1) I don't have to worry about experiencing violence from a stranger, co-worker, fellow student, or acquaintance because they found out I was, or perceived me to be, heterosexual.
- 2) If I turn on the TV, the radio, or see a movie, I can expect to see or hear about relationships like mine.
- 3) I can show affection to my partner in public without having to evaluate my surroundings and determine if it is safe for me to do so.
- 4) If I choose to display my partner's photo at work or mention my partner casually in conversation, I don't have to worry about losing my job.
- 5) I am not asked problematic questions like "whose the man in the relationship?" or "can I watch?"
- 6) Neither my outward gender presentation (ie. clothes, hair, body language, etc) nor my public displays of affection are seen as me "flaunting my sexuality" or "shoving it down peoples' throats."
- 7) If I fail to mention to someone that I am heterosexual, I won't be labeled as deceitful, closeted, or ashamed of who I am.
- 8) When people make assumptions about my sexual orientation, they generally will be correct.
- 9) I am not told by religious institutions, psychiatric institutions, my family, or the media, that my relationships are sinful and/or unhealthy. I am not constantly bombarded by negative messages about people of my sexual orientation, nor is my sexuality ever exoticized or seen as trendy.
- 10) I am not told that my sexuality is a phase. If I identify as straight at a young age, I won't be told that I need to have sex with somebody before I truly know that I am heterosexual.
- 11) If my partner becomes violent or abusive, I don't have to worry about people around me blaming it on my sexual orientation.
- 12) I never have to answer the question or even think about what caused my heterosexuality.
- 13) I don't have to seek out specific community spaces where it is safe to be heterosexual. I can expect to be safe as a heterosexual everywhere I go.

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- 14) Violence against me and other people who share my sexual orientation is not condoned by society.
- 15) I don't have to worry about losing custody of my children because of my sexual orientation. Whether or not my children are biologically related to me, I can have both myself and my partner on the adoption certificate. I cannot be denied parental rights because of my partner's gender.
- 16) If I move into a new neighborhood, I will not be ostracized or treated badly because of my sexual orientation.
- 17) If I become ill, my sickness will not be attributed to or assumed to be caused by, my sexual orientation.
- 18) I do not have to worry about losing emotional or financial support from my family because of my sexual orientation.
- 19) If I am ever the victim of sexual violence, my sexual orientation will not be seen as the cause of the violence I experienced. Similarly, the violence will not be seen as the cause of my heterosexuality.
- 20) Despite the fact that most child molesters are people of my sexual orientation, people do not assume that I am one when they hear that I am heterosexual.
- 21) When accessing healthcare, particularly reproductive healthcare, I do not have to worry about mistreatment or discrimination when having to answer personal questions about my sexual behavior.
- 22) I can choose to have my relationship acknowledged by my community, my government, and my faith community. I can access literally thousands of rights and legal protections based solely on my sexual orientation.
- 23) If I am serving in the military, I do not have to fear violence from others in my unit nor discharge because of my sexual orientation.
- 24) People do not assume I am attracted to every single person of the opposite sex when I tell them I am heterosexual.
- 25) I am not stereotyped as overly sexual, nor am I stereotyped as asexual, when people find out about my sexual orientation.