straight FOR equality℠

10 Things You Can Do to Be a Straight Ally

Looking for simple ways to start being a more engaged and active straight ally? Try using a few of these suggestions to build your ally skills and start creating change.

Don't forget to visit www.straightforequality.org and read *the guide to being a straight ally*.

1. Become informed about the realities, challenges and issues affecting the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people's lives through websites, books, documentaries, and educational materials.

2. Be open about having gay friends, family or acquaintances that you value, respect, and are grateful to have in your life. When you talk about them, don't omit the fact that they're GLBT.

3. Speak up when you hear derogatory slurs or jokes and don't tell them yourself.

4. Ask if you are unsure how a GLBT friend, family member or acquaintance would like their significant other to be referred to or introduced, rather than avoiding acknowledgment of the relationship.

5. Help your kids learn about and appreciate all different kinds of families. Be mindful of the day-to-day messages that they are receiving about gay and transgender people and issues in school, from friends, and on TV. Talk about it encounter with them.

6. Quit or don't join organizations that overtly discriminate. Let them know why you are leaving or not joining in the first place.

7. Support gay, lesbian, bi, and/or transgender-owned and -friendly businesses and ally businesses that have policies in place to ensure equal treatment for all.

8. Educate your church on which organizations are inclusive, and which ones aren't.

9. Write letters to the editor of your newspaper to comment as a straight ally on why you support respectful and equal treatment for GLBT people.

10. Call, write, e-mail, or visit public policy makers and let them know that as a straight person who votes, you support laws that extend equal rights and protections to all people.

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