

Qualities of a LGBT Ally

A LGBT ally:

1. Has worked to develop an understanding of homosexuality and the needs of the LGBT community.
2. Chooses to align with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and responds to their needs.
3. Believes that it is in her/his self-interest to be an ally.
4. Is committed to the personal growth required (in spite of the probability of discomfort and possible pain).
5. Takes pride in personal success in responding to homophobia and overcoming fears.
6. Expects support from other allies.
7. Is able to acknowledge and articulate how patterns of fear and/or lack of knowledge have operated in his/her life.
8. Expects to make some mistakes but does not use it as an excuse for non-action.
9. Knows that both sides of an ally relationship have a clear responsibility for their own response to the oppression, whether or not persons on the other side choose to respond.
10. Knows that in the most empowered ally relationships, the persons in the non-oppressed role initiate the change toward personal, institutional, and societal justice and equality.
11. Knows that he/she is responsible for humanizing or empowering their role in society, particularly as their role relates to responding to homophobia.
12. Promotes a sense of community with lesbians, gays, bisexual, or transgender people and teaches others about the importance of outreach.
13. Has a good sense of humor.