

Heterosexism Questionnaire

1. How did you first know you were a heterosexual?
2. When did you first come to realize you were a heterosexual?
3. What do you think caused your heterosexuality?
4. Is it possible that your heterosexuality is just a phase you will grow out of?
5. Wouldn't it be possible for you to just TRY HARDER and 'go for' people of the same sex?
6. Our religion does not approve of 'the heterosexual' lifestyle, so why can't you reject your heterosexuality on that basis?
7. Do you think you're heterosexual because of something your parents did? Were they too strict? Lenient?
8. Did you have a bad experience with a person of the same sex? Were you perhaps abused as a child?
9. Do you hate or distrust others of your own gender? Is THAT what makes you heterosexual?
10. If you've never had a relationship with a person of the same sex, how do you know you wouldn't prefer that?
11. Is it possible that you just haven't met the right person of the same sex?
12. Why do heterosexuals place so much of an emphasis on sex? I mean, you can't turn on a TV show, read a book, or watch a movie without heterosexual relationships being presented or emphasized.
13. Why are heterosexuals so promiscuous?
14. Why do you insist on being so obvious and displaying your heterosexuality in public? MUST heterosexuals hold hands and kiss in public? Can't you just be what you are and keep it private?
15. Your heterosexuality doesn't offend me as long as you don't try to force it on me. Why do you feel compelled to convince others to be heterosexual?
16. Considering the fact that 50% of all heterosexual marriages end in divorce, why is it so few heterosexual relationships are stable?
17. Do you consider it safe to expose your children to heterosexual teachers, considering that statistics indicate that the majority of people found to be guilty of child abuse are heterosexual?



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TWENTY-FIVE PRIVILEGES OF HETEROSEXUALITY

Heterosexuals:

1. have their sexual orientation approved and reinforced from earliest childhood (as when people say to young children, even those they don't know well 'When you get married ...')
2. are not subject to physical attack because of whom they are attracted to.
3. do not have to hide their most basic and natural feelings from family and friends.
4. know their sexuality is accepted in every culture and to every religion in the world.
5. may be legally married - a condition which brings health insurance coverage from a spouse's employment, patient visitation rights when a spouse is severely ill, property inheritance rights, and over 1100 benefits in the federal and state legislation.
6. may have children without being questioned how they got them.
7. may adopt children without having to defend their sexuality.
8. may gain custody of children in a divorce or in the event of a spouse's death.
9. are accepted by teachers and parents at their child's school.
10. may show affection in public without fear of abuse.
11. know their sexuality will not prevent them from being rented to or buying a home.
12. may bring partners to family, work, and other social events without hesitation.
13. may behave 'naturally' without being considered 'unnatural.'
14. may serve in the United States military without hiding their orientation.
15. are viewed as having 'lives' and not 'lifestyles.'
16. are not expected to lie or mislead others in order not to offend them.
17. do not have to explain their sexual orientation or relationships.
18. are seen as whole people who have complex relationships, not just sexual beings.
19. do not risk loss of jobs, careers, promotions, and reputations because of who they are.
20. may openly grieve the loss of a partner.
21. do not have to spend their entire lives explaining why they are entitled to human rights.
22. are not accused of recruiting other people to share their sexual orientation.
23. are not considered ridiculous or repulsive or an abomination because of their sexuality.
24. are not accused of choosing their sexual orientation.
25. are not asked to represent all of their kind.

Adapted from a list by Eugene B. Navias in Weaving the Fabric of Diversity.



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