

What Is Gender-Normative Privilege?

If I am gender normative (or, in some cases, simply perceived as gender normative):

- ▽ My validity as a man/woman/human is not based on how much surgery I have had or how well I “pass” as a non-transgender person.
- ▽ When initiating sex with someone, I do not have to worry that they will not be able to deal with my parts, or that having sex with me will cause my partner to question his or her own sexual orientation.
- ▽ I am not excluded from events which are either explicitly or de facto (because of nudity) for men-born-men or women-born-women only.
- ▽ My politics are not questioned based on the choices I make with regard to my body.
- ▽ I do not have to hear “so have you had *the* surgery?” or “oh, so you’re *really* a [incorrect gender]?” each time I come out to someone.
- ▽ Strangers do not ask me what my “real name” [birth name] is and then assume that they have a right to call me by that name.
- ▽ People do not disrespect me by using incorrect pronouns even after they have been corrected.
- ▽ I do not have to worry about whether I will experience harassment or violence for using a bathroom or whether I will be safe changing in a locker room.
- ▽ I do not have to defend my right to be a part of “queer,” and gay men and lesbians will not try to exclude me from *our* movement in order to gain political legitimacy for themselves.
- ▽ I do not have to choose between being invisible (“passing”) or being “othered” and/or tokenized based on my gender.
- ▽ When I go to the gym or a public pool, I can use the showers.
- ▽ If I go to the emergency room, I do not have to worry that my gender will keep me from receiving appropriate treatment, or that all of my medical issues will be seen as a result of my gender.
- ▽ My health insurance provider (or public health system) does not specifically exclude me from receiving benefits or treatments available to others because of my gender.
- ▽ My identity is not considered “mentally ill” by the medical establishment.
- ▽ The medical establishment does not serve as a “gatekeeper,” determining what happens to my body.

Adapted from: <http://ftmichael.tashari.org/privilege.html>

What Does It Mean to Be Biased Against LGBT People?

Examples of Anti-Bisexual Prejudice:

- Assuming that everyone you meet is either heterosexual or lesbian/gay
- Assuming that two women together are lesbian, that two men together are gay, or that a man and a woman together are heterosexual
- Believing that bisexual people are confused or indecisive about their sexuality
- Thinking that bisexual people are promiscuous or cannot live monogamously
- Assuming that bisexual people need at least one male and one female partner
- Thinking that bisexual people are attracted to everyone
- Assuming that people who identify as bisexual are “really” lesbian or gay, but are in denial
- Believing that people who are bisexual spread HIV/AIDS
- Thinking that people identify as bisexual because it is “trendy”
- Not wanting to date someone who is bisexual because you assume that the person will eventually leave you for someone of another gender

Examples of Anti-Lesbian/Gay Prejudice:

- Harassing or engaging in violence against individuals who are or are perceived as lesbian or gay
- Denying equal treatment to individuals who are or are perceived as lesbian or gay
- Indicating discomfort or disgust toward individuals who are or are perceived as lesbian or gay
- Feeling repulsed by displays of affection between same-sex couples, but accepting affectionate displays between different-sex couples
- Assuming everyone you meet is heterosexual
- Thinking you can “spot one”
- Using a disparaging phrase such as “that’s so gay”
- Being afraid of social or physical interactions with people who are lesbian or gay
- Avoiding social situations or activities where you might be perceived as lesbian or gay
- Not confronting an anti-gay/lesbian remark for fear of being identified as gay/lesbian
- Assuming that lesbians and gay men will be attracted to everyone of the same sex

Examples of Anti-Transgender Prejudice:

- Harassing or engaging in violence against individuals who are or are perceived as transgender
- Denying equal treatment to individuals who are or are perceived as transgender
- Indicating discomfort or disgust toward individuals who are or are perceived as transgender
- Thinking that transsexual people are mentally ill
- Believing that transsexual men and transsexual women are not “real” men and women
- Intentionally using inappropriate gender pronouns to refer to transgender people or calling them “it”
- Believing that crossdressing is a sexual perversion or that people who crossdress do so for sexual gratification
- Thinking that identifying as genderqueer is a phase or fad