

Actions to Challenge Heterosexism and Homophobia on Campus

Educate Yourself

- ▼ *Read gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered literature and history*
- ▼ *Read newspapers or journals that feature gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered news/issues*
- ▼ *Go through a whole day imagining yourself to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered*
- ▼ *Attend gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered speakers, films, workshops, cultural events*
- ▼ *Attend a meeting of a group such as PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)*
- ▼ *Listen to and learn from gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people*

Model Non-heterosexist or Non-homophobic Behavior and Attitudes

- ▼ *Take pride in your same sex friendships*
- ▼ *Use inclusive language like partner or date rather than boyfriend/girlfriend wife/husband*
- ▼ *Make friends with and get close to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people*
- ▼ *Don't make assumptions about others' sexual orientations or genders*
- ▼ *Don't assume that being gay or lesbian is just about being sexual*
- ▼ *Don't assume gays or lesbians don't have, like, or want children*
- ▼ *Keep confidential information you have about others' sexual orientation or gender presentation*
- ▼ *Use the same standards for same gender affection in public that you use for opposite gender affection*

Create an Inclusive Culture and a Welcoming Environment

- ▼ *Assume that people in your residence hall, classes, groups, and/or campus are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered*
- ▼ *Assume that closeted gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered people in your residence hall, classes, groups, campus are wondering how safe the environment is for them; provide safety by making it clear you accept and support all people*
- ▼ *Put up bulletin board displays that include same sex couples or references to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered lives*
- ▼ *Post flyers announcing events of interest to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people; remember there is a heterosexual assumption so actively advertise gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people are welcome, especially at parties or dances*
- ▼ *Find out about and share resources and information on gay-affirmative service providers, events, bookstores, bars, etc.*
- ▼ *Say the words gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered out loud; be aware that there are potentially people around you that are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered even if none are out.*

Educate Others

- ▼ Sponsor a workshop on homophobia
- ▼ Sponsor a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered speakers bureau program
- ▼ Sponsor films like *Pink Triangles*, *Times of Harvey Milk*, *Before Stonewall*, *Personal Best*, *Parting Glances*, *Desert Hearts*, etc.
- ▼ Set up bulletin board displays on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered issues/culture/people
- ▼ Have informal discussions where you live, go to school, work, groups, and friends
- ▼ Offer alternatives, accurate information, etc. when you hear homophobic stereotypes or myths
- ▼ Write articles for a newspaper on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered issues; write letters to the editor

Confront Overt Incidents

- ▼ Interrupt heterosexual/gender jokes, slurs, comments, or assumptions
- ▼ Actively react to anonymous anti-gay graffiti
- ▼ Get support for yourself when confronting incidents
- ▼ Make clear to all who are involved both relevant policies and your own feelings
- ▼ Provide support to the victim/target of the attack
- ▼ Critically review local media for heterosexual bias and call/write editors with complaints/suggestions

Take a Public Stand

- ▼ Wear a button such as "I support gay rights" or "How dare you presume I'm heterosexual"
- ▼ Attend rally or march supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people; write a letter to the school paper
- ▼ Sign a petition supporting gay rights
- ▼ Promote gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered nondiscrimination policies
- ▼ Campaign to pass gay rights bill
- ▼ Join an organization that promotes gay rights
- ▼ Form a support/activist group for heterosexual allies
- ▼ Organize to get more resources on your campus: an office for GLBT Concerns; lesbian and gay studies courses/program; pro-lesbian/gay counselors; gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered speakers, cultural events, etc.

Adapted from **Diversity Works** 201 N. VALLEY RD. PELHAM, MA 01002 (413)256-1868