

FOR USE IN TEACHING HETEROSEXUAL STUDENTS ABOUT HOMOPHOBIA AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION. FROM THE 1990 NWSA MEETINGS IN AKRON, OHIO.

WHAT IS HETEROSEXUAL PRIVILEGE?

- Living without ever having to think twice, face, confront, engage, or cope with anything on this page. Heterosexuals can address these phenomena but social/political forces do not require you to do so.
- Marrying... which includes the following privileges:
  - Public recognition and support for an intimate relationship (e.g. receiving cards or phone calls celebrating your commitments to another person; supporting activities and social expectations of longevity and stability for your committed relationships).
  - Paid leave from employment and condolences when grieving the death of your partner/lover (i.e. legal family members defined by marriage and descendants from marriages).
  - Inheriting from your partner/lover/companion automatically under probate laws.
  - Sharing health, auto, and homeowners' insurance policies at reduced rates.
  - Immediate access to your loved ones in cases of accident or emergency.
  - Family-of-origin support for a life with a partner/lover/companion.
  - Increased possibilities for getting a job, receiving on the job training and promotion.
- Kissing/hugging/being affectionate in public without threat or punishment.
- Talking about your relationship or what projects, vacations, family planning you and your lover/partner are creating.
- Not questioning your normalcy, sexually and culturally.
- Expressing pain when a relationship ends and having other people notice and attend to your pain.
- Adopting children, foster-parenting children.
- Being employed as a teacher in pre-school through high school without fear of being fired any day because you are assumed to corrupt children.
- Raising children without threats of state intervention, without children having to be worried which of their friends might reject them because of their mother's or father's sexuality and culture.
- Dating the person of your desire in your teen years.
- Living with your partner and doing so openly to all.
- Receiving validation from your religious community.
- Receiving social acceptance by neighbors, colleagues, new friends.
- Not having to hide and lie about women-only, or men-only social activities.
- Working without always being identified by your sexuality/culture.