

# Qualities of an Ally

Being an ally on LGBT issues is the process of working to develop individual attitudes, helping institutions to evolve, and transforming society into one in which gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people matter. This work is motivated by an enlightened self-interest to end homophobia and heterosexism.

## An Ally

1. has worked to develop an understanding of homosexuality and the needs and the strengths of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons.
2. chooses to align with LGBT persons, responds to their needs and gains from their strengths.
3. believes that it is in her/his self-interest to be an ally.
4. is committed to the personal growth required.
5. is quick to take pride and appreciate successes.
6. expects support from other allies.
7. is able to acknowledge and articulate how patterns of oppression 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 change whether or not persons on the other side choose to respond.
10. knows that in the most empowered ally relationships, the person in the non-homosexual role initiates the change toward personal, institutional, and societal justice and equality.
11. knows that he/she is responsible for humanizing or empowering his/her role in society, particularly as his/her role relates to responding to LGBT persons.
12. promotes a sense of community with the LGBT community and teaches others about the importance of outreach.
13. does not expect that he or she will automatically bond with or even like every LGBT person they meet, thus allowing for the fact that people are people, with their own unique characteristics, regardless of their sexual orientation.
14. has a good sense of humor.