

Ten Ways Homophobia Hurts Everyone

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*LGBTQ = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer

1. Homophobia forces us to act 'macho' if we are male, or 'feminine' if we are female.
2. Homophobia puts pressure on straight people to act aggressively and angrily towards LGBTQ people so no one thinks they, too, are LGBTQ.
3. Homophobia makes it hard for straight people and LGBTQ people to be friends.
4. Homophobia makes it hard to be close friends with someone of the same sex.
5. Homophobia often strains family and community relationships.
6. Homophobia can cause youth to become sexually active before they are ready in order to prove they are 'normal.' This can lead to an increase in unwanted pregnancies and STDs.
7. Homophobia prevents vital information on sex and sexuality to be taught in schools. Without this information, youth are putting themselves at a greater risk for HIV and other STDs.
8. Homophobia can be used to hurt a straight person if the person 'appears to be gay.'
9. Homophobia, along with racism, sexism, classism, etc., makes it hard to put an end to AIDS.
10. Homophobia makes it hard to appreciate true diversity and people's unique traits that are not mainstream or 'normal.'