

Homophobia (also biphobia, transphobia)

- Fear, discomfort, or aversion (disapproval, hatred, other negative attitude) toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgendered people, or toward any person, behavior, or belief that does not conform to rigid sex-role stereotypes;
- Based on ignorance, myths, mis-information, and/or cultural conditioning
- The fear/aversion enforces and is fueled by sexism and heterosexism.
- The extreme form/outcome of homophobia is violence against GLBTQIA people.

Heterosexism

- The assumption or belief that everyone is heterosexual, and if not, they should be;
- The belief that heterosexuality is “normal,” and therefore more “natural” than other forms of sexuality.
- (along with sexism), leads to the systematic invisibility and oppression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons including prejudiced attitudes and/or institutional discriminatory practices against GLBTQIA people.