

Heteronormative Privilege: Unearned, often unconscious or taken for granted benefits afforded to cisheterosexual folx in a heterosexist society based on their sexual orientation.

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This list represents personal, social, psychological, economic, and legal privileges that accrue to cishet folx. The goal of reading and thinking about the list is to raise awareness about heterosexual privilege. *This is not a complete list.* Check each column that seems true for a cishet person. If you are cishet (at least for right now), consider how many of these questions are TRUE for YOU.

Description of a Heterosexual Privilege	Check this column if this is a privilege of str8 folx.
1. I can assume that my family of origin will welcome or at least accept my partner.	
2. No one questions the “normality” of my sexuality or believes my sexuality was “caused” by psychological trauma, sin, or abuse.	
3. I do not have to fear that my family, friends, or co-workers will find out about my sexual orientation, and that their knowing will have negative consequences for me.	
4. My sexual orientation (if known to others) is not used to exclude me from any profession or organization (coaching, the military, Boy Scouts).	
5. I am not accused of being deviant, warped, perverted, or psychologically confused, or dysfunctional because of my sexual orientation.	
6. I don’t have to hide or lie about the social events I attend when talking to coworkers or classmates.	
7. I did not grow up with games and pejorative terms that ridicule my sexual orientation (“fag tag,” “smear the queer,” “Thursday is queer day. Don’t wear green”).	
8. People don’t ask me why I chose my sexual orientation, and why I choose to be so open about it.	
9. I can walk in public, holding my partner’s hand, hug my partner, and even kiss my partner in front of others without disapproval, comments, laughter, harassment, or the threat of violence.	
10. I can easily find a religious community that will welcome me and my partner.	
11. I can talk openly about my relationship, my family projects, my vacations, my partner’s activities, our family plans in personal and professional settings.	
12. I am guaranteed to find sexuality education materials for couples of my sexual orientation.	
13. I can disclose my pain if my relationship ends and expect that friends, family and co-workers will notice and express their support for me.	
14. I can work with young children and not fear being accused of molesting, corrupting, or recruiting them to my sexual orientation.	
15. I can talk about my sexual orientation in casual conversation and not be accused of flaunting it or pushing it on others.	
16. I can volunteer or give money to organizations that discriminate based on sexual orientation, and not be held accountable for the organization’s stance.	
17. When I rent a movie, watch TV, listen to music, or go to the theater, I can be sure that my sexual orientation will be represented often and accurately.	
18. I can date the person I am attracted to beginning in my teens and throughout my life without fear of being alienated.	
19. I am guaranteed to find people of my sexual orientation represented in the school curriculum.	
20. I can live openly with my partner without the scrutiny, curiosity, or condemnation of others.	
21. People of my sexual orientation are well-represented in the positions of power in my workplace or school.	
22. My relationship receives validation and blessing by my religious community.	
23. My sexual orientation is not used as a synonym for “bad,” “stupid,” or “disgusting.” (“That’s so gay.” “What a fag.” “She’s a lezzy”).	
24. I can raise children without threats of state intervention and without my children having to be worried about which friends might reject them because of their parents’ sexual orientation. I don’t have to prepare my children for the people who may treat them badly because of their parents’ sexual orientation.	
25. People do not assume that I can magically identify all other heterosexuals.	
26. I feel secure that few hate crimes are targeted at people like me because of our sexual orientation.	
27. I benefit from public recognition and celebration of my relationship. I get cards congratulating me on my union, and there is a social expectation that my relationship will be committed, long, and stable (marriage).	

