

How To Be A Good Queer Ally

Tips on Queer Allyship and what you can do to help the queer community at Iowa State

Thoughts on recent legislation?

Contact your representative!



Some Definitions

What does queer mean?

Queer is not only an umbrella term for LGBTQIA+ people, but is additionally a political identity focused on the liberation of oppressed peoples

What does being an ally mean?

An ally is a non-queer person who acts as an advocate for the queer community. Being an ally requires active and deliberate work in your professional, public, and private life

Allies Have Privilege

What is privilege?

Queer people face discrimination that non-queer people don't resulting in non-queer people having an advantage, or privilege. Non-queer people have access to people, places, and resources that queer people do not and allies can utilize this in their activism.

Using your privilege as an ally can...

- Help build bridges
- Create a sense of belonging and safety
- Challenge stereotypes
- And more!

The Personal is Political

The personal is political is a phrase originating from the second wave of feminism that means that personal experiences shouldn't be analyzed as isolated incidents but rather as symptoms of systematic oppression.

For queer people, we are not granted the privilege of being apolitical. Our very existence is policed, both in public and in private.

Being an good ally means acknowledging this reality and bringing your activism into your everyday life.

Join An Organization

- Campus Organizations
 - The Pride Alliance: community based queer events
 - Ace Aro Alliance: aromantic and asexual centered
 - QT Engineers: engineer centered
 - VOICE: vet med centered
 - QTBIPOC: BIPOC centered
- Off-Campus Organizations
 - Coalition for University Equity: activism group focused on fighting anti-DEI initiatives
 - Planned Parenthood Generation: activism group focused on reproductive health and education on campus
 - Ames Pride: focused on community building and education in Ames
 - LGBTIAmes: focus on community building and queer friendly events in Ames

Educate Yourself!

- Online Resources for Allies**
 - Human Rights Campaign resources for allies
 - PFLAG Resources to Being a Lifelong Ally
 - The Trevor Project resources



- Want to dive deeper? Enroll in a class!**
 - WGS 205: Introduction to Queer Studies
 - WGS 203: Introduction to Lesbian Communities
 - WGS 201: Introduction to Woman and Gender Studies

Simple, Everyday Allyship

Normalize Queerness:

Simple things like introducing yourself with your pronouns can help normalize queerness and open the door for discussion.

Challenge Anti-Queer Rhetoric:

Often queer people can face violence for speaking out against anti-queer remarks, use your privilege and stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves.

Start Conversations:

Talk about queer issues, not just with queer people but non-queer people.