

## 13 Qualities of a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Ally

From OutFront Minnesota

An Ally to GLBT individuals is a person who...

1. ...believes that it is in her/his self-interest to be an ally to GLBT individuals.
2. ...has worked to develop an understanding of GLBT issues, and is comfortable with their knowledge of gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation.
3. ...is comfortable saying the words: "Gay," "Lesbian," "Bisexual" and "Transgender."
4. ...understands how homophobia and other patterns of oppression operate, and is willing to identify oppressive and bigoted acts, and challenge these behaviors in self or others.
5. ...discusses GLBT issues with family, friends, co-workers, clergy, media, legislators, teachers - anyone, and encourages them to also be allies.
6. ...is quick to take pride in, and appreciate, successes when combating homophobia and heterosexism.
7. ..."comes out of the closet" with his/her support and ally status.
8. ...chooses to align with GLBT individuals and represent their needs, especially when they are unable to do so for themselves.

9. ...expects to make some mistakes, and does not allow feelings of guilt, or fear of embarrassment make them ineffective.
10. ...promotes a sense of community with GLBT individuals, and teaches others about the importance of these communities.
11. ...is not afraid to be called the same names, or to be harassed in the same ways as those they are being an ally to.
12. ...is able to confront bigotry without becoming defensive, sarcastic, or threatening.
13. ...is willing to tell their family to stop the name calling, or hate speech.

(Some points adopted from Ross Papish 1992)