

TIPS TO BEING A GOOD LGBT ALLY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

It is always important for non-LGBT folks to learn how to be a good ally and to join the LGBT human rights movement, or for LGBT people to further educate themselves. Stand together for human rights!

- Listen to LGBT voices
- Be willing to talk
- Be open-minded
- Confront your own prejudices and challenge your own conceptions about gender-appropriate roles and behaviors
- Don't assume that all your friends and co-workers are straight
- Speak out against statements and jokes that attack LGBT people
- Defend your LGBT friends against discrimination
- Use non-gender specific language
- Don't make assumptions about sexual orientation
- Learn about the diversity of gender and sexuality
- Learn about LGBT inequality and policy issues
- Educate yourself about LGBT histories, cultures, and concerns
- Support Ally programs or LGBT organizations of your university or workplace

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- Write letters to your political representatives asking them to support legislation that positively affects LGBT people
- When discriminatory laws are raised in your communities, express your concern by:
 - Starting a letter writing campaign
 - Calling your representatives
- Support Amnesty LGBT urgent actions and cases
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INFORM YOUR COMMUNITY BY

- Hosting a speaker — invite LGBT advocates to speak
- Hosting a LGBT film night
- Planning a vigil and inviting other groups and organizations
- Tabling at your school, community events, street fairs, shopping centers, etc.

NETWORKING AND BUILDING COMMUNITY

To strengthen your work on LGBT human rights, reach out to the LGBT community and make connections. What resources and skills can you contribute to their work? How can you partner with them?

Build community by listening and showing up. LGBT activists have a long history of hard work, so be thoughtful in your approach and listen carefully to what the LGBT community needs. If you want to jump in and start showing documentaries or hosting panels about transgender rights, but the group you're working with says they need activists and posters at a rally instead, listen. Make posters, bring activists to the rally.