

Heteronormativity and Cisnormativity: is the assumption that heterosexual relationships are the “norm” and that everyone is cis-gender (people whose gender identity corresponds with their birth sex).

Heteronormative assumptions that all children have 2 parents, one male and one female.

Assuming someone's gender pronouns – not asking what an individual's preferred pronouns are and continuing to use the wrong pronouns even after the correct ones have been shared.

Making assumptions of someone's marital status based on how old they look.

Expectations of stereotypes; being a gay man you're expected to be flamboyant or a 'butch lesbian'.

People staring or doing a double take in public when they see a same sex family, or someone dressed a certain way.

Refusing to use preferred gender-neutral pronouns because its “too hard” or perceived to be grammatically incorrect.

Being told you're not allowed or don't belong in a certain bathroom based on assumptions about your gender presentation – such as not fitting traditional expectations of what a man or woman should look like.

Mixing up sexual orientation with gender identity.

Assuming someone who identifies as LGBTQIA+ can't relate to heterosexual people.

Gossiping or debating someone's sexuality behind their back based on how they look and who they may live with.

When someone says 'partner', people often assume that the partner is of the opposite sex or gender

Announcing someone's sexual orientation or gender identity for them; just because someone is out to you, doesn't mean they're out to everyone.

Assuming people's interests and passions are based solely on their sexual orientation and gender identity, for example assuming all gay men are interested in fashion or the Eurovision.

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What do sexual orientation and gender identity microaggression look like?

LGBTQIA+ related micro-aggressive behaviours can be verbal, non-verbal or environmental, including:

