Positive representation

For LGBT+ people

In this resource, students will explore the importance of positive media representation for LGBT+ people, have a better understanding of the spectrum of identities in this community and why visibility of those identities matters.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- We will be learning about why positive representation matters and how to be effective advocates.

KEY WORDS

- LGBT+
- Gender identity
- Inclusion
- Discrimination
- Ally

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand what we mean by visibility and positive representation
- Understand the importance of diversity

RESOURCES

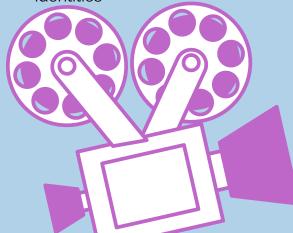- This activity requires an understanding of the term LGBT+ If students require more knowledge of those identities before taking part in this activity head over to theproudtrust.org which has loads of resources for schools regarding lgbt+ identities

RESOURCES REQUIRED

- Pens
- Paper

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In your groups, using the glossary of terms on the next few pages, cut them up and have a go at matching the term to the definition.

Being visible starts by being known

Learning points:
- Understand the terms within the lgbt+ community
- Understand that only by knowing people exist - can stories be written about them

ALLY

A member of the majority or dominant group who works to end oppression by recognising their own privilege and supporting or advocating for the oppressed population. For example, a straight cisgender person who supports and stands up for the equality of LGBT people.

ASEXUAL

A person who does not experience sexual attraction, but may experience other forms of attraction (e.g., intellectual, emotional).

BISEXUAL

A person who is emotionally and/or physically attracted to two genders.

CISGENDER

A person whose gender identity and expression are aligned with the gender they were assigned at birth.

GAY

A person who is emotionally and/or physically attracted to some members of the same gender. The terms often refers to a male- identified person who is emotionally and/or physically attracted to some other males.

GENDER BINARY	A socially constructed system of viewing gender as consisting solely of two categories, "male" and "female". This system is inaccurate because it does not take into account the diversity of gender identities and gender expressions among all people.
GENDER EXPRESSION	The multiple ways (e.g., behaviors, dress) in which a person may choose to communicate gender to oneself and/or to others
GENDER IDENTITY	How an individual identifies in terms of their gender. Identities may include, "male," "female," "androgynous," "trans," "genderqueer" and many others, or a combination.
GENDER QUEER	A person who has a gender identity and/or gender expression that does not align to the gender they were assigned at birth.
HETEROSEXISM	A system of oppression that benefits straight/heterosexual people at the expense of lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

Positive media representation , term matching

HOMOSEXUAL	A person who is emotionally and/or physically attracted to some members of the same gender. Many people prefer the terms "lesbian" or "gay", instead.
INTERSEX	An umbrella term used to describe a variety of conditions in which a person is born with reproductive and/or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the medical definitions of female or male.
LESBIAN	A person who is female- identified and who is emotionally and/or physically attracted to some other females.
LGBTQ+	An umbrella term referring to people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. Sometimes the acronym is written as LGBTQ, with the "Q" referring to those who identify queer and/or questioning.
PANSEXUAL	A person who is emotionally and/or physically attracted to some people, regardless of their gender identity

PRONOUNS

The pronoun or set of pronouns that a person would like others to call them by, when their proper name is not being used. Traditional examples include "she/her/hers" or "he/him/his". Some people prefer gender-neutral pronouns, such as "ze/hir/hirs," "zie/zir/zirs," Some people prefer no pronouns at all.

QUEER

An umbrella term used to describe a sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression that does not conform to dominant societal norms. While it is used as a neutral, or even positive term among many LGBT people today, historically the term was used as a derogatory slur.

HETEROSEXUAL

A person who is emotionally and/or physically attracted to some members of another gender (specifically, a male-identified person who is attracted to some females or a female-identified person who is attracted to some males).

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The inner feelings of who a person is attracted to emotionally and/or physically, in relation to their own gender identity. Some people may identify as "asexual," "bisexual," "gay," "lesbian," "pansexual," "queer," "straight," and many more.

TRANS

A person whose gender identity and/ or expression are not aligned with the gender they were assigned at birth. The term is often used as an umbrella term encompassing a large number of identities.

ACTIVITY 1

Name positive lgbt+ role models that are on tv/ film/radio at the moment

Split into groups and on A3 paper answer:
1. What age groups are they targeted towards?
2. Is there any visibility of LGBT+ people for much younger children?
   (Why is visibility important for all age groups?)
1. How many role models are from the trans community?
   (If this number is low, why do you think this is the case?)

What makes this a positive image?

Learning points:
- Able to identify representation of marginalised groups in the media
- Understand where positive representation is lacking for marginalised groups

ACTIVITY 2

Making school representation positive...

Get into groups and take a short walk around the school building:

- Where can you find examples of LGBT+ representation?
- What kind of message does that representation send?
- Once you have looked around the school, come back together and discuss where there might be gaps in representation and how you can improve LGBT+ representation within your school community to make it more inclusive.

THE LGBT COMMUNITY NEEDS A BOOST!

PROMOTE EQUAL RIGHTS

Show your support by learning more about the cause.

REMEMBER, EQUALITY BENEFITS EVERYBODY!

Everybody has a role to play when it comes to promoting equal rights!

Learning points:
- Able to identify positive representation and gaps in visibility

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WANT TO EXPLORE MORE?

What are you seeing?

Next time you watch tv, or read a magazine think about whether or not these groups are visible...

- LGBT+ parents
- Trans people
- LGBT young people
- People from intersections of society. E.g a black lesbian, or a gay male with a disability

Are the stories written about them positive or are they negative and stereotypical?

Useful links

- Gender diversity
  - Mermaidsuk.org.uk
  - Genderedintelligence.co.uk
- LGBT
  - Theproudtrust.org
  - Stonewall.org.uk
- Human rights
  - Equalityhumanrights.com
  - Eachother.org.uk

Be a strong ally

- Check your privilege (it's not about you)

- Be patient

- Be willing to learn and know your facts

- Be kind and open minded

- Confront your own biases (really hard but so important)

- Correct your mistakes

- Speak up when you see or hear negative comments about marginalised groups

- Lift up marginalised voices!

- Listen to others

- Look around you, do you see diversity? If you don't.... make some changes

- Who do you follow on social media? Do they spread the right messages about diversity? Time to unfollow a few?