

Bisexual Visibility Day: 22 Reasons Why We're Celebrating

By Alex Berg

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Today is Bisexual Visibility Day, a time for bisexual people and our allies around the world to celebrate our attraction to more than one gender. And, the word "visibility" is key. Bisexual people make up more than fifty percent of the LGBT community, yet are often invisible because we're perceived as straight or gay, depending on the gender of our partners.

Sometimes it's tempting to blend in. Bisexuals regularly encounter the attitude that we're "greedy" or that our orientation is just a rest stop on the way to gay town. We face disproportionate levels of substance abuse, suicide and eating disorders compared with our gay and straight counterparts. Advice columnists even encourage us stay in the closet (thanks, Prudence).

But, being bisexual can be wonderful.

We're a community that includes people of all different gender identities, from cis to trans, and envelope other sexual orientations, such as queer and pansexual. We've empowered ourselves to define bisexuality on our own terms, and evolved the term "bisexual" to encapsulate more than just male and female identities. Most wonderfully of all, we are a community that has the capacity to love beyond the limits of sex and gender.

I celebrate today because of the freedom to define myself as both bisexual and queer, and to honor the bisexual community's rich history of activism on behalf of all LGBT people.

Don't just take it from me. In honor of 2014's Bisexual Visibility Day (also referred to as Celebrate Bisexuality Day and Bisexual Pride Day), I asked fellow bisexuals why they're celebrating. Here's what they said:

16. "When we have the courage to come together in community as ourselves with all the others whom society would also reject, we become not only an irresistible force, but, we become, in fact, the majority. It is only by being fully myself, an out and proud bisexual woman, that I stop worrying what others think of me. When I step out of my closet, those who would oppress me and others like me, cower back into their closets. And, as we know all too well, it's hard to hard to change the world from a closet."

- Heidi Bruins Green, Chair, Bisexual Advisory Committee, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates

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