



STRATEGIES FOR BEING AN EFFECTIVE ALLY

- Assume that all people want to be allies to people from underrepresented groups.
- Assume that you, in particular, are good enough and smart enough to be an effective ally.
- Assume that you have a right to be concerned with other people's liberation issues – your liberation is dependent on everyone else's liberation.
- Assume that all people from underrepresented groups want members of your group and you in particular as an ally.
- Assume that any apparent rejections of you as an ally are the result of a particular group of peoples; experience of oppression and internalized oppression.
- Assume that people from underrepresented groups are already communicating to you in appropriate ways at the present time. Assume that they can and will learn to communicate with you as you demonstrate your willingness to learn how to communicate with them.
- Assume that people from underrepresented groups are experts on their own experience, and that you have much to learn from them.
- Recognize that as a person with certain privileges, you are an expert on the experience of having been conditioned to take on privileged roles.
- Assume that people from underrepresented groups are survivors and that they have a long history of resistance.
- Become an expert on this history and assist people from underrepresented groups in taking full pride in that history.
- Do your best to become educated on issues of concern to people from underrepresented groups, especially the issues which are most closely tied in to their internalized oppression.
- Assume that making mistakes is part of the learning process of being an effective ally. Acknowledge and apologize for mistakes; learn from them but don't retreat.
- Don't attempt to convince people from underrepresented that you "are on their side;" just be there.
- Do not expect "gratitude" from people from underrepresented groups; remember, being an ally is a matter of your choice. Graciously accept the gratitude that you may get, but don't expect it or demand it.
- Be a 100% ally; no deals; no strings attached.

Source: (Adapted from Ohio University, <http://www.ohio.edu/lgbt/resources/ally.cfm>)