



Racism and Heterosexism Similarities & Differences

Similarities

- Dominant/Subordinate Dynamics.
- Internalized Oppression.
- Lack of Recognized Marriage/Relationships.
- History of Religious Support.
- History of Military Resistance.
- Laws Don't Change Attitudes.
- The Facts Don't Matter.
- Based on Misinformation and Biased History.
- Have Separated Families and Religious Communities.
- Addressing only one, helps to keep the other alive and well.
- People often use children as the excuse not to support your relationships.
- There have been National Marches on Washington for rights.
- History of police brutality and lack of response to communities.
- Historical lack of support in the legal system.
- At greater risk for substance abuse, depression and other health related issues.
- Health issues ignored when impacting community.
- Scholarship in the area is questioned as not legitimate.
- If one person in the community does a bad thing it reflects on the entire population.
- The worst stereotypes of the community get highlighted in the media.
- Others

Differences

- Race is Often Visible and Sexual Orientation is not.
- There is not a current debate over how one comes to ones Race.
- Religious messages are rarely overtly supportive of racism, but they often still support heterosexism.
- It is not "politically correct" to support racism.
- You don't generally get pulled over for "driving while Gay".
- You don't generally get followed around in the store because of sexual orientation.
- People seldom assume that you are not competent because of your sexual orientation or that you were an "affirmative action hire" because of sexual orientation.
- You don't generally lose your parents because of your race.
- You are seldom told you are sick and perverted and should not be around children because of race.
- Children don't have to change who they are to get "God's" love based on their race.

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