

LGBT Ally Scenarios for Residence Life Staff

- 1) Lucy, a female student in your residence hall who identifies as genderqueer and often dresses in a traditionally masculine manner, is assaulted but not seriously injured by three unidentified men in an anti-transgender hate crime the previous evening. The attack occurs on campus and the perpetrators are thought to be other students. Seeing that you have a “LGBT Ally” placard on your residence hall door, she (Lucy’s preferred pronoun to “she”) comes to you first for support. What steps might you take to help her (Lucy’s preferred pronoun to “her”)? How might Lucy’s needs be different from a non-transgender student who has been assaulted?
- 2) Charlie, a crossdressing male student who lives in your residence hall, has experienced constant harassment ever since his roommate discovered him in traditionally female clothing and told others. Now it seems that everyone on campus knows that he crossdresses in private. He has heard others in his building make negative comments about “that faggot” and, at one point, anti-gay epithets were scrawled on the dry erase board of his door. His roommate has been so hostile that Charlie does not feel safe in the room. How do you help Charlie and address the situation in the hall?
- 3) Anti-gay comments are written on a dry erase board on your floor. One of the students in the room, Linus, is seen as gay, but he has not come out to anyone, to your knowledge. What are the issues involved? How would you address the situation?
- 4) Patty, a student on your floor, confides to you that she identifies as a lesbian. She is concerned about the reactions of some of the other students on the floor if they find out, particularly her conservative Christian roommate. What are the issues involved? How would you respond?
- 5) Sally comes to talk with you about concerns she has involving her roommate, Marcie, who recently came out to her as bisexual. Sally states that she feels uncomfortable sharing a room with someone “like her” and wants an immediate room change. What do you tell her?
- 6) Some female students in your residence hall are upset that Susie, a transsexual woman who lives on the same floor, is using the women’s restroom there. They say that they are made uncomfortable by “that man in the bathroom.” How do you address this conflict?