Heterosexual Privilege Checklist

This self-checking exercise helps gain better awareness of the privileges attached to heterosexuality in our society. Can you reply positively to all or most of these statements?

1. I can talk freely about my sexual orientation or gender identity to colleagues at work, fellow students, co-parishioners, etc.

2. I can be confident that I will not be harassed in the washroom that I choose to use.

3. I can kiss my partner farewell at the airport, confident that onlookers will either ignore us or smile understandingly.

4. I can be pretty sure that the neighbors where I live will be friendly, or at least neutral.

5. Our families and church community are delighted to celebrate with us the gift of love and commitment.

6. I can be sure that the name and sex marked on my identification matches my expressed gender.

7. When my partner is seriously ill, I know I will be admitted to the intensive-care unit to visit her/him.

8. The books that my children read in school contain stories and pictures of families much like ours.

9. I can find appropriate cards for my partner, to celebrate special occasion like anniversaries.

10. I grew up feeling that my loves and friendships were healthy and normal.

11. If I experience violence on the street, it will not be because I am holding hands with my partner.

12. If I am traveling with my partner, we can choose public accommodations without having to worry about whether we are acceptable as a couple.

13. When I fill out a form, I can always check off a box that represents my gender identity.

14. My partner and I can go shopping together; pretty well assured that we would not be harassed.

15. I have always known that there are other people like me in the world.