

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
LGBT RESOURCE CENTER

Trans Situation Exercise (25 min.)

Directions: Clear the room. Participants must imagine the room is a giant opinion scale with one end labeled very safe, the middle unsure, and the other end of the room very unsafe. Ask participants to imagine how safe they think it is for typical transgendered college students to be out in a variety of settings.

Ask for volunteers to tell you how they happened to stand where they are (avoid saying "why" as this can be experienced as judgmental). Summarize their comments, if necessary, so that everyone in the room can hear them. Try to get participants to share from various points on the continuum -- even the neutral participants.

Settings include:

- On campus
- At a gay or lesbian bar
- At the campus gym
- At a movie theater with their partner
- Walking down Trousdale to their class
- At a Pride parade
- At a party on the row
- In a classroom
- At a football game
- At a restaurant
- At a family event
- Living in a residence hall
- Hanging out with friends
- At work
- As a new student at orientation
- Visiting their physician

Discussion:

- Ask participants to discuss how they felt moving their locations for each settings.
- Facilitator should ask how these opinions may be different for a trans person than for a lesbian or gay person. Facilitator should point out transphobia in both heterosexual and gay/lesbian communities and particular difficulties some trans people experience.
- How might reactions differ for trans people of color?
- What have participants learned about being T in common settings or areas?