

HRC Asexual + Aromantic Caucus Notes

28/02/2023

Discussion and notes about ways in which World Pride 2025 can make our communities feel welcomed and included. Brainstormed about what makes us feel unwelcome and unsafe, what specifically can be done to make us feel welcome, and what made us want to participate in SWP and in the HRC specifically.

Why You Participated in the HRC?:

Attending HRC to interact/connect with other people doing similar work

Wanted to learn from others

- Feel out of place because I'm so young but wanted to participate and just learn

Discuss issues I'm passionate about

Affordability/Scholarship made it possible to attend

An opportunity to raise the issue of asexual rights

"Once in a lifetime experience"

What Makes You Feel Unsafe/Unwelcome?

Heavy alcohol consumption by others

- Most queer social events are very dating/sexual focused and/or alcohol/nightlife
- Where are the afternoon teas and crafternoons!?

Sanist trope in media that lack of sexual attraction and/or mental illness equals evil

"Been in Sydney for a night and have already been non-consensually touched by multiple people at pride, EVEN AFTER moving back/flinching"

Other forms of connection being deemed "lesser-than". Relationship anarchy, QPR, live-in best friends, etc are not less than committed monogamous romantic/sexual partner.

Inappropriate questions/microaggressions

- "Are you really ace?"
- "You'll find someone one day"
- "You have to expect your partner will cheat"

How can WP2025 Make Us Feel Welcome?

Explicitly Endorse/Acknowledge International Asexuality Day (April 6th)

- And Asexuality Awareness Week (last full week in October)

Having at least one asexual speaker

- Asexual-led workshop?

Not making assumptions about what we want/like/are interested in/care about

Always including the A

- But also only including the A if you are actually offering content that is for us
- Asking presenters to remember the A and following through with them when they forget. It shouldn't be voluntary, it should be non-negotiable.

Encouraging asexuals to speak up and to apply

Have MULTIPLE ace/aro keynote speakers

Have asexual people prominently at events outside of HRC too

"The Durex ads everywhere are a bit uncomfortable! I'd love to see it balanced out with some Ace Awareness Ads"