

Heteronormativity

Gender stereotypes create the impression that masculinity and femininity are two different worlds with impassable boundaries. Everyone is either a man, manifesting the opposite to a woman, longing for "feminine woman" or a woman who is the opposite of man's longing for a "masculine" man. The fact is that in real life, each of us has "male" and "female" skills. In a situation when we realize our plan - a project at work, or furnishing the apartment, rationality, creativity, authority, etc. In partnership relationships we all show emotions, care and tenderness. Similarly, our sex life is not just passive in the case of women or exclusively active in the case of men. Rather, it depends on the circumstances.

Heteronormativity maintains the concept of separate worlds of men and women. It is the stereotypical concept which infers that all people are heterosexual and that our sexual behavior is specifically focused on the "opposite" sex. Given the fact that in reality we see that it may not always be so, heteronormativity in order to maintain the "poles" of masculinity and femininity, admits some sort of "exceptions": men who desire other men (and do not manifest themselves as non-masculine or outright feminine) and women who desire other women (and appear unfeminine or masculine), a central model is also accepted: bisexuality (people who desire both women and men). Such a concept infers the "explanation" that reality is not quite "hetero", but also maintains boundaries between femininity and masculinity. However, even such a concept does not reflect actual human life. We people are different - we live with women, men, or do not live with anyone, we realize our life plans variably. "Masculinity" and "Femininity" is in fact rather a sort of puzzle from which we create a mosaic in correlation with our life circumstances, life wishes and real possibilities. Unfortunately, we do this together with many restrictions, discrimination, or direct violence. Non-heterosexual people especially face rejection in many areas, exclusion and even violence. In order to maintain the impression of an exclusively male-female world, non-heterosexual people are viewed as sick, or as second-class citizens who are denied the right to family life, to privacy and in many cases, access to health care, or equality in employment.