



10 Things You Can Do to Be an Ally in Your Faith Community

**Looking for simple ways to start being more engaged and active ally in your faith community?
Try using a few of these suggestions to build your ally skills and start creating change.**

1. **Learn.** Research and understand your faith community's position on the issues that affect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Americans such as relationship recognition, non-discrimination, and the ordination of openly LGBTQ clergy.
2. **Become a resource.** Learn more about welcoming and affirming resources for your faith tradition and share them with others. Provide books or movies about the intersection of faith and LGBTQ issues for the congregation library.
3. **Educate others.** Let your faith community know about which companies, community groups, and charitable organizations are inclusive of people who are LGBTQ...and which ones aren't.
4. **Encourage participation.** Personally invite people who are LGBTQ to services and/or events at your place of worship and ask them to share their stories with others in your faith community.
5. **Speak up.** When people speak negatively about people who are LGBTQ be the one who raises an objection. Remind people that everyone should be treated with respect and kindness.
6. **Tell your story.** Do what you can to share with others in your faith tradition why you're an ally. Tell a story about acceptance and love for all people, including people who are LGBTQ.
7. **Have a discussion.** Meet with faith leaders, share why you think your community needs to be more welcoming and affirming for people who are LGBTQ, and provide suggestions on how to achieve that goal.
8. **Host an event.** Show a film, host a panel presentation, or invite a guest speaker to get a new perspective and follow it with a group discussion.
9. **Consider change.** Support organizational policies at the local and institutional level that promote diversity, inclusion, and equality and encourage others to do the same.
10. **Make the ask.** Request that faith leaders of your tradition perform commitment ceremonies and wedding ceremonies for same-sex couples.

Don't forget to visit straightforequality.org and read the *guide to being a straight ally* and the *guide to being a trans ally*. Be sure to follow us on Twitter @S4Equality and Like us on Facebook [facebook.com/S4Equality](https://www.facebook.com/S4Equality).