10 % Exercise

(Write "10%" in large print on the board or on a piece of newsprint and post in the front of the room.)

Community-wide Discussion: "10%...what does it mean?" "what does 10% represent?"

- number of 1/g out of the closet.
- what % do you think are in the closet?
- _____ of the people in this room will be lesbian/gay in their life time?
- how does that make you feel?
- how many of you would feel okay if someone here were lesbian/gay?
- how many of you would feel comfortable if someone here came out to you personally?
- could someone who is lesbian or gay feel comfortable to come out to us as a community?
- could all the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning people please stand up?
- if you were lesbian or gay, would you feel comfortable coming out to this group?
- what's wrong with this picture?
- How many of you would agree that we are not a safe community to come out to.

Commitment to the process

How many of you feel that we have a community here at ______?...that the last few days has helped establish a sense of community among us?...in fact, has established some community norms and values that challenge the status quo around race, class and gender?

Because, at this point, that sense of community has and may not include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning people, I am requesting that all of you who feel strongly about raising your awareness and confronting your own homophobia/heterosexism, avoid/refrain from verifying or affirming your heterosexuality so that those in our community who are not, can feel safer and supported by those of us who are.

Our assumptions would then have to be that anyone who identifies as l/g/b/t/q might not be and anyone who identifies as straight/heterosexual be allowed the possibility of questioning. Above all, we should not assume that anyone or everyone is straight/heterosexual.