

Resources to help you create positive spaces:

The Positive Spaces Initiative
Resources, training, and events to support LGBTQIA+ newcomers in Ontario.
positivespaces.ca

Rainbow Railroad
An organization that provides support to LGBTQIA+ people outside of Canada seeking asylum.
rainbowrailroad.ca

Settlement.Org
A collection of resources for immigrants, refugees, and newcomers in Ontario.
settlement.org

The African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario (ACCHO)
Education, advocacy, support, and leadership in response to HIV/AIDS in African, Caribbean, and Black communities.
accho.ca

211 Ontario
Programs, resources, and services for people who identify as LGBTQIA+
211ontario.ca/211-topics/lgbtq/

LGBT Youth Line
A youth-led support line for LGBTQIA+ youth (29 and under) across Ontario.
youthline.ca

Trans PULSE
A community based research project with information and resources to support trans people in Ontario.
transpulsesproject.ca

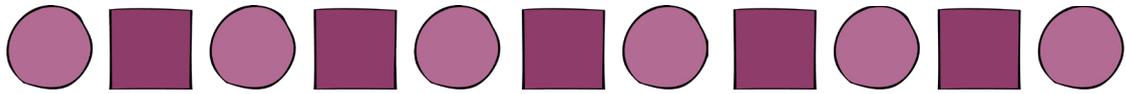
It's Pronounced Metrossexual
A free online resource for learning about gender, sexuality, and social justice.
itspronouncedmetrossexual.com/

Rainbow Health Ontario
A province-wide program that promotes the health of LGBTQIA+ communities
rainbowhealthontario.ca/

What side of the table are you on?



Choose to be a positive space.



What is a positive space?

Positive Spaces are welcoming environments where LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, etc.) folks are able to access culturally inclusive services with dignity and respect, and where service providers can work free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Everyone can work to create Positive Spaces by challenging homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, heterosexism, monosexism, and cissexism.

What does intersectionality have to do with positive spaces?

It is important for us to understand the barriers facing LGBTQIA+ immigrants and refugees, and actively take steps to remove those barriers. Positive spaces are not possible unless we collectively practice **intentional empathy** in how we provide service. This means that we have a responsibility to try and understand the people on the otherside of the door, and to welcome and make space for them. A positive space is one that adopts an **open-door approach** to service provision.

How can I build intersectionality into my practice

Expand your knowledge. **Do your research** in order to gain an understanding of the issues facing LGBTQIA+ immigrants and refugees. A commonly held belief is that LGBTQIA+ identities originate from “white” or “western” cultures. In fact, various communities across the world express their gender identity and sexual orientation in many different ways. Positive spaces depend on your commitment to lifelong learning.

Serve the whole person. Intersectional identities come with **intersectional needs**. If a person's gender identity or sexual orientation is the sole focus of your service provision, then you risk erasing other needs they might have as a result of their immigration status, race, religion, etc. A positive space is one in which no one has to leave a piece of themselves at the door in order to access to **equitable services**.

Use your power to advocate for the community you serve. Understanding the privilege that comes with your social location as a service provider is necessary in order to provide equitable service. Your power and privilege can act as a barrier to others who are seeking services, unless you are actively using it to **combat oppression**. A positive space requires you to stand in solidarity with LGBTQIA+ immigrants and refugees.