Author Full Name: Evren Wiech-Barnes Received Date: 05/08/2024 10:15 AM

Comments Received:

As an LGBTQ person, I feel the questions regarding identity and orientation are inaccurate depictions of our community. Firstly, nonbinary is usually viewed as under the transgender spectrum. It is a black and white question that is missing other options that are significant to this community. For example, Autgender that is directly correlated to one's identity as an autistic person. Thinking of this group as "irrelevant" is exactly the same mentality that views queer people as irrelevant as a population on a whole. "Other" is othering. Secondly, the orientation question is frankly bizarre. Everyone knows what a straight person is. You don't need to add a definition in the negative. They know who they are. Bisexuality is not the only other option between a binary of gay or straight. Why are you not including pansexual or asexual? Also, as a lesbian, I take issue with the format "Gay or lesbian" since women, and specifically lesbians, have habitually taken a backseat in all areas of society. It should read "Gay or Lesbian" as these are both equal and should not be diminished, even for the sake of "continuity". This is about clarity. Further, what people do in the bedroom is not all that defines who we are. Some are pansexual, but aromantic which means they may have sexual interest without gender consideration and yet have no emotional connection to any gender. Conversely, one might be asexual, but gay romantic which means they are able to love members of the same gender but have zero sexual interest. It's really important that y'all work to educate yourselves on these terms because this does say you are prepared to discuss this with the public in a meaningful fashion.