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Good evening. I am a queer person. The HRC sent me an email about the census bureau asking new questions about gender and sexuality. It is my opinion that it is INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT that this information is completely anonymized. Obviously, you know that, but I just want to make it super clear.

Also, please make it a write-in question. As a social worker, I regularly have to ask people to select a race from your list, and creating lists for gender and sexuality would be improper. For instance, let's say you go with the sexuality options: "Heterosexual", "Homosexual", "Bisexual", "Asexual", "Other". I know several demisexual people who would put themselves under heterosexual, asexual, other, or some combination of those. Also, some asexuals are also homosexual, some asexuals are also heterosexual, and some asexuals are neither; it's a different dimension of sexuality, a different graph axis from the Kinsey scale, and yet it doesn't make sense for it to be a different question. That's not even getting into the question of romantic vs. sexual feelings and how they interact with labels, or the massive can of worms of gender. I'm gender-fluid, and I was assigned male at birth. Am I trans? Does it depend on the day? I feel like I know the answer to that for myself, but many gender-fluid people would have different opinions for themselves. Are non-binary people in general trans? It absolutely makes sense to put us under the trans umbrella for policy-making purposes. Is an intersex non-binary person trans? It makes sense to put them under the trans umbrella, but they literally did not transition.

Also, please directly reach out to Faafafine people as part of designing these questions. Faafafine is the name for the third gender in indigenous Samoan culture. It is imperative that we recognize the validity of their culture. Please also talk to some two-spirit Native American people.

Oh, one more thing. Don't take answers on this question from children. I work with new parents all the time, and I ask them what their kids' sexuality is. They say heterosexual. Their kid's two months old. We do not know what the kid's sexuality is. Parents are not a reliable source for sexuality. You ask my parents what their kid's sexuality is, they'd say I'm as straight as a board; they are regularly shocked that I'm still bisexual, and there's no way I'm coming out to them as non-binary/gender-fluid.