

Red State Approaches – Robert Minor, University of Kansas

Minor discussed religious addicts and the non-moveable right. He presented ideas for strategies for the moveable middle. He urges us to get people to think about their own problems. He advises that winning is not a value in debate; you have to be willing to lose. He claims the US culture turns men into warriors and women into warrior support personnel. He reasons that oppressors oppress each other.

He argues that the key behind all homophobia is gender roles. He thinks it is all about not wanting people to get close. He thinks our society is sick about sex. Most feel sex is dirty, save we save it for the one we love.

Homophobia is taught from birth and through fear. He advises turning the talk about marriage rights from sex to love. He says we need to stay on task in discussion and remember we don't have to answer everything. The issue of choice is not the issue; avoid that issue. Race is not a choice, but that never helped end racism.

The main message should be simple. Don't get distracted by issues of religion, tradition, disease, and so on. Talk about:

1. Government should not tell people whom they can't love.
2. Freedom, freedom to marry and love who we choose.
3. Equality
 - a. Gay people have the right to every sick institution straight people have.
 - b. About 50% of marriages fail. Any other institution failing on the rate would be considered a failure.

Sue Hazer

Red State Approaches for Countering Homophobia

The main theme of this workshop was to get people to think about the problems. We must stay on task, and not let the opposition frame the debate. We should talk about how everyone is hurt by putting people in boxes. Thirty percent of gay bashing is done to straights who stepped out of the gender role.

And we should change the "frame" to love, away from the idea of sex. Use "gay", not homosexual. Ask if they feel the government should have the ability to tell you who you can love. Don't deal with the question of choice; it does not matter. He feels it shows self-hate to say "I would not have chosen to be gay". I would disagree with this, unless the phrase "in this time and place" were added. He emphasized three points we should remember: equality, freedom, and personal stories.

Sarah Patterson