

Red River Rainbow Seniors Possible Oral History **Ally** Interview Questions

Please introduce each recording by saying something like, "This is [YOUR NAME] with the Red River Rainbow Seniors Oral History Project, "Breaking Barriers: Harvesting LGBTQ Stories from the Northern Plains." Today is [DATE] and I am interviewing [INTERVIEWEE'S NAME] at [PLACE OF INTERVIEW, INCLUDING CITY].

Part One: Background

1. Where were you born?
 - a. What year were you born?
2. Where have you lived?
3. Tell me about your family.
 - a. Where was your family from originally?
 - i. How would you describe your ethnic background?
 - b. What was your father's/mother's occupation?
 - c. Did you have any siblings?
 - d. What is your relationship with your family like now?
4. Who would you say was the most influential person in your life while you were growing up?
 - a. In what way?
5. What, if any, was your religious affiliation when you were growing up?
 - a. Did you attend religious services?
 - b. If so, what was your place of worship?
 - c. If so, what was that like?
6. What is your educational background?
 - a. What high school did you attend?
 - i. Did you graduate?
 - b. Did you attend college?
 - i. Which college or colleges?
 - ii. Did you graduate?
7. What is your current occupation?
 - a. Are you retired or unemployed?
 - b. What types of work have you done?
8. What do you like to do in your leisure time?
9. When you were growing up, do you recall hearing things (stories, claims, warnings, or jokes) about LGBTQ people?
 - a. In what context, e.g., in church, school, from family, from friends?
10. Did you have any LGBTQ friends or relatives?
11. When did you first become aware that wanted to be an LGBTQ ally?
 - a. How did you feel about this?
 - b. Did you talk with anyone about this?
 - i. Who?
 - ii. What was that like?
12. Describe your process of coming out as an ally.

13. Did you ever experience discrimination as an ally of the LGBTQ community?
 - a. Have you experienced discrimination in your work because you are an ally?
 - b. Have you experienced discrimination in the community because you are an ally?
 - c. Have you experienced discrimination from your family because you are an ally?

Part Two: Relationships

1. Were you ever in a long-term opposite sex relationship?
 - a. Was your spouse/partner also an ally?
 - b. Did you have children?
 - c. If so,
 - i. Do your children know you are an ally?
 - ii. How do your children feel about your being an ally?
2. Do you socialize with people in the LGBTQ community?
 - a. If so, in what manner?

Part Three: Living in Fargo-Moorhead (or elsewhere)

1. Did you belong to any LGBTQ or LGBTQ Ally organizations and what did they mean to you?
 - a. How did you find out about these organizations?
 - b. Do you presently belong to any LGBTQ or LGBTQ Ally organizations and what do they mean to you?
2. What do you think are some challenges facing LGBTQ people in Fargo-Moorhead (or elsewhere)?
3. Are you politically active?
 - a. If so, what motivated you?
 - b. If so, can you pinpoint a moment when you became political?
 - c. If you are not political, why not?

Part Four: The Big Picture

1. How has being an LGBTQ ally changed over your lifetime, in terms of
 - a. How people treat you,
 - b. How you see yourself, and
 - c. How you interact with others?
2. Would you be a different person if you were not an LGBTQ ally?
 - a. If yes, how so?
3. At this point in your life, what is important to you?
4. Can you suggest other people we should interview?
5. Is there anything else you would like to say?

Thank you for your participation.

Did you remember to take a photo of the interviewee?

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Adapted from the Gay & Lesbian Archives of Mid-America (GLAMA), which were adapted from the Ozarks Gay and Lesbian Archive, Missouri State University, Springfield, Mo.