

# INTO ACCOUNT

SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS + ALLIES

Let's talk about outing. Outing is a term that describes a number of behaviors - some positive and some on the spectrum of violence.

Let's move from positive to violent..

- 1) Outing oneself/coming out! Hooray! You've discovered something about yourself and you're ready to share it with one or more people outside of yourself/yourselves. You are queer, or kinky, or trans, or asexual or aromantic, or poly, or a sex worker, or any of a multitude of queer sexualities and genders, or something else that most mainstream folks would not consider a normative identity.
- 2) Outing a predator. This is something we've seen a lot of in more recent times. It's also something that survivors have practiced for a long time before it's been in the spotlight. It is an accountability and predation harm reduction tool - the more people that have knowledge of someone's harm, the more people that can act together to stop it.
- 3) Outing an abusive, oppressive, discriminatory, or otherwise harmful community leader or organization. This is similar to number two, but involves more folks who may be part of organizations, and/or community leaders who participate in systems of harm. It could be the outing of the group as having a culture of violence, outing a leader as systemically violent or outing a specific behavior/choice of a group or leader. It is possible to out toxic behaviors and cultures without outing individuals.
- 4) Outing a queer, kinky, poly, trans, asexual, any of a multitude of queer sexualities and genders, or a sex worker or something else out of the mainstream against their will. This has been an occasional queer political tactic to bring accountability in very specific high-profile cases, but lands pretty firmly on the spectrum of violence and harm. This kind of outing can have personal consequences for jobs, mental health/suicidality, custody, family support, church support, community respectability, and more.
- 5) Doxxing is a form of outing that provides folks with personal contact details like phone numbers, addresses, jobs, sometimes even bank accounts. Again, it is occasionally done as a political tactic in an attempt at accountability, but lands further along on the spectrum of violence and harm. Just the act itself can cause the doxxed person to fear for their lives simply because they have been named as a target and now are accessible as one, with no ability to know whether someone, when, and who might be coming for them.