

tional resources relevant to people of color will be found in the resource sections of other chapters in this book.

CONCLUSION

Although this chapter describes only a limited number of barriers and suggestions for empowerment, the reader is invited to extrapolate from his or her own experience to identify other barriers and other interventions supportive of empowerment. The rich diversity within the cultural and historical heritage of people of color is perhaps one of our nation's greatest, and least cherished, resources. We cannot claim to celebrate diversity and to be sensitive to multicultural issues without simultaneously working for social change within our profession and throughout our society. To return to the verse that opens this chapter, passive acceptance of structural injustice and Eurocentric values condemns us all—and our children—to being *children of the lie*.

Chapter Six

PEOPLE WHO ARE GAY, LESBIAN, OR BISEXUAL

I'm not homophobic

*I'm just not that comfortable around
it's only when I try to picture it that I get
whatever, I mean, if that's what you want
are you sure it's not just about your father
well I don't think we should hug but it's not
have you talked with someone about it, really
so what do you people do besides wave banners and
I figured you must have signals for each other
it's just that no one I've ever known has been
as long as you aren't one of the kind that
gee I'm glad you told me keep in touch
er, I mean, see you around*

E.H.M.

INTRODUCTION

Gay, lesbian, and bisexual people have been persecuted and marginalized for centuries. Still often viewed with fear and hatred, many gays, lesbians, and bisexuals live with a very realistic fear of harassment, assault, job dismissal, and other discriminatory acts. In this chapter, some of the barriers experienced by gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons will be described, and suggestions for empowerment provided.

An empowered gay, lesbian, or bisexual individual might have the following characteristics: a critical awareness of the discrimination and injustices experienced by gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in the past