



On inclusion and hard decisions

Inclusion and Care

Inclusion and care for people from any walk of life matters to us. We have given extreme care to the choices and distinctions participants are allowed to make, as well as the specific language used to label and describe those sensitive dealbreaker choices.

Why include those distinctions and choices?

Recent events have shone a harsher light on the deep complexities underlying our identities – be they religious, ethnic, or sexual. Since the inception of Aphrodite, we contemplated disallowing these options for the romantic pool just like the platonic pool (where we have never allowed filters).

Yet, if we neglected to acknowledge those distinctions in a project where participants only receive one match, what if a friend opens up to their match only to be outright rejected? Simply (or partly) for some of those distinctions above? Most of us or our friends will know someone in those very shoes who have walked through deep pain, loss, or hurt. We do not wish for anyone to feel the pain of outright rejection due to any aspect of their own identity – not ever.

For some people or even their families (which would be beyond their control), these are distinctions that do matter for a potential romantic partner – whether consciously or subconsciously. When it comes to considering a potential romantic relationship, there might also be many different reasons why participants pick these options. There are those that for some reasons, might never date a certain group. Some might only date within their own group. Others might wish to explore dating outside of their own group. Some choices might come across as curious, open, and exploratory. Some choices might be harshly criticized when spoken aloud and are hidden behind that subtle left swipe, rejection, or ghost. Us disabling these options does not magically wave away those underlying considerations people might have for their romantic and/or life partner.

What we have settled on is to provide a private environment for these distinctions to arise safely and privately. So that when each participant gets their one match, everyone can come as they are and feel seen, heard, and accepted.

Furthermore, aggregated data from the religious, sexual, ethnic, and cultural exclusionary questions will not be released. This is our current stance as we feel that while the discourse from that information might be generative, we fear that it may be used to perpetuate or justify hateful, prejudicial, or discriminatory behaviours and mindsets.

There's always room for learning and improvement. Should you feel that certain areas are lacking or can be better, we hope that you can [reach out to us](#) for an open conversation. We will take responsibility and improve where possible. Help us better create opportunities for anyone from any walk of life to feel loved and accepted for who they are.

Best,
The Aphrodite Project Team