

Repulsion

Homosexuality is seen as a “crime against nature.” Gays/lesbians (LBGTT2Q) are sick, mentally ill, crazy, immoral, sinful, wicked, etc. Anything is justified to change them: prison, hospitalization, negative behaviour therapy, surgery, electroshock, therapy, etc.

Pity

Heterosexual chauvinism. Heterosexuality is more mature and certainly to be preferred. Any possibility of “becoming straight” should be reinforced, and those who seem to be born “that way” should be pitied, “the poor dears.”

Tolerance

Homosexuality is just an adolescent phase that many people go through and most people “grow out of.” Thus, lesbians/gays (LBGTT2Q) are less mature than “straights” and should be treated with the protectiveness and indulgence one uses with a child. Lesbians/gays should not be given positions of authority because they are still working through their adolescent behaviour.

Acceptance

Still implies there is something to accept. Characterized by such statements as “You’re not lesbian to me, you’re a person!”, or “What you do in bed is your own business,” or “That’s fine with me as long as you don’t flaunt it.”

Support

Work to safeguard the rights of lesbians and gays (LBGTT2Q). People at the support level may be uncomfortable themselves, but they are aware of the homophobic climate and the irrational unfairness.

Admiration

Acknowledges that being lesbian/gay (LBGTT2Q) in our society takes strength. People at this level are willing to truly examine their homophobic attitudes, values and behaviours.

Appreciation

Value the diversity of people and see lesbians/gays (LBGTT2Q) as a valid part of that diversity. These people are willing to combat homophobia in themselves and others.

Nurturance

Assumes that gay/lesbian (LBGTT2Q) people are indispensable in our society. They view lesbian/gays with genuine affection and delight, and are willing to be allies and advocates.