

LGBTQ+ & PREJUDICE - HOW CAN I RESPOND?

People often tell us they want to respond to prejudice when they see it - but they don't feel quite confident enough or 'know what to say'. So we've created a website called www.NottinghamTogether.com to help offer some ideas and guidance. We've worked with people with lived experience of responding to prejudice. Together we have identified the comments they hear most often, and the potential responses they would suggest using to reply. Experience tells us that arguing doesn't work, but by talking and listening, we can help to change perspectives and attitudes.



Remember, you don't have to engage in conversation if you don't feel physically and emotionally safe to do so, and all hate crime should be reported to Nottinghamshire Police by calling 101 (999 in an emergency) or online through True Vision at www.report-it.org.uk

! Warning: Please be aware the content of these comments and responses may be offensive or distressing and is intended for educational purposes !

Prejudiced comment	Potential responses
<p>I don't mind so long as LGBT+ people aren't pushing it in our face.</p> <p>Gay people are forcing it down our throats and putting it on to make a scene.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you would find it acceptable between straight people then it's only fair that it should be acceptable between LGBT+ people. If you feel it should be private then this should be the same for heterosexual people as well. • How do you think it would be if you couldn't ever show affection for your partner in public, regardless of sexual orientation? Would that be a happy and fair way to live? • Do you mean that being gay should be concealed? What do you think the implications could be of telling groups of people they have to hide their identity? • You only notice it more because it's not what you're used to seeing, but it's not being 'shoved' in your face any more than heterosexuality is.
<p>Using insults such as...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gay boy. - Battyman. - You're so gay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you think it would feel for someone gay to hear these comments? • Why are you using that that as an insult? Do you think there's something wrong with being gay? • What do you think the implications of using that insult are? Do you realise it could encourage hostility to LGBT+ people or scare them from coming out and living openly?
<p>People just want to sleep with whoever they want and do what they want.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of gay people would like to be in a single monogamous relationship - polyamory is not the same as sexuality. • Promiscuity is completely separate to someone's sexuality. Gay and straight people can all be promiscuous.
<p>Being gay is a...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - choice. - fashionable. - phase. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many people have to put up with persecution and violence because of being gay and many are killed for it - there are many asylum seekers that are here because being gay isn't legal where they're from. If being gay was a choice then these issues wouldn't exist.
<p>When is straight Pride?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride came about to respond to homophobia and give a voice to gay people who felt victimised and ostracised by mainstream society being straight-focussed. Its purpose is to raise awareness that there are gay people and that not everyone fits the heterosexual 'norm'. • Straight pride is the other 364 days a year - we live in a society that promotes heterosexual relationships as a norm. • Do you feel straight people need a day to celebrate being straight? Why is this?

Prejudiced comment	Potential responses
<p>My religion says being gay is a sin.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No religion gives people the right to spread hate or act in an aggressive or disrespectful manner. • Most religions also say many other things are a sin such as adultery, theft, killing or drinking alcohol. Many people drink alcohol and are treated as equals with respect. • Even when we believe something is wrong, we have no individual right to take the law into our own hands.
<p>It's unnatural.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many animals who practice homosexual activity. • Many people are born gay, are you saying they are born unnaturally? What does that mean? • What do you think it feels like to be gay and hear someone say that?
<p>(To a lesbian) You've just not met the right man.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many women have tried being with men and found it dissatisfying at best, or worse, deeply traumatic. Do you realise how harmful this could be for a woman to hear that they should keep trying when it is not right for them? • Do you not think women are able to make their own decisions and that we should respect that?
<p>Bisexual people should make up their mind and stop being greedy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being bisexual is not the same as being polyamorous - it doesn't mean that people want to have more relationships, just that they are attracted to both genders. • Why would someone being attracted to both men and women be a problem? Is it threatening?
<p>I don't want my child being taught how to have anal sex.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RSE lessons do not teach people how to have anal sex, there are age-appropriate lessons to help children navigate the world, including information about different cultures, religions and lifestyles. • Many kids learn about gay sex online or from friends without their parents having any idea. RSE teaches them how to navigate the world safely in terms of avoiding emotional or sexual harm.
<p>Children should be brought up by a mum and a dad, not two mums or two dads.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many children aren't brought up by both parents for all sorts of reasons. There are plenty of types of families and all are equally valid. • Having parents who love a child, regardless of their gender, puts them in a better position than someone with parents who might be neglecting them. • For a gay couple to adopt or get pregnant is a very involved process - this means they are much more likely to be very committed to the decision to have a child and therefore may be in a better position to care for a child compared to couples or single parents who fall pregnant accidentally, for example.
<p>If everyone is gay, how will we reproduce - humans will die out.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not everyone is gay. There is a small proportion of the population who are gay or bisexual. • We have a population crisis from there being too many people in the world and it's only increasing - the problem is the opposite way around! • Gay people can still find ways of reproducing, they just have to have help through adoption, sperm donation or surrogate mothers, for example.